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Facts Belie Ron's Tale on Braceros

"California voters are being subjected to a snow-job on the farm labor issue by GOP gubernatorial candidate Ronald Reagan," state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts charged yesterday.

"Reagan's recent statements supporting the thoroughly discredited bracero program and opposing free collective bargaining for farm workers again indicate his contempt not only for domestic farm workers but for the intelligence of California voters in general," Pitts declared.

"And his claim that the end of the bracero program is to blame for food price increases is directly contrary to the facts," he added.

"The latest responsible data—the government's Wholesale Food Price Index for August—directly contradicts Reagan's claims," he asserted. "In a report issued this week it found that prices on fresh fruits and vegetables dropped 8.7 percent and prices on canned fruits and vegetables dropped 2.2 percent," he pointed out.

"These were the crops that formerly used large numbers of braceros

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Employment Climbs to 7,253,000

Employment in California reached a record new high in August and unemployment was at its lowest point in a decade, Governor Edmund G. Brown announced at a Labor Day picnic in Alameda County.

"The state's booming economy," he said, produced 65,000 jobs in one month and now has lifted employment to a total of 7,253,000 jobs.

Reeling off a list of statistics that showed new records in profits, personal income, sales and farm income, Governor Brown said the state's economy is accelerating personal income at a rate 20 percent faster than the rest of the nation.

Nearly 300,000 new jobs have been created in the last year and the unemployment rate of 5.2 percent compares with 6.5 a year ago, the governor said.

"How does the professional hand-wringing of my opponent stand up under that?" the Governor asked.

California's economy was larger than "all but four or five of the largest nations in the entire world," he noted.

"Our economy is booming. Business profits have increased more than one-third in just

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Brown Hails LBJ's Action To Spur Housing Industry

Presidential action aimed at easing the impact of the tight money situation on California's housing industry and thereby creating jobs for building tradesmen has been hailed by Governor Edmund G. Brown as an important "partial" step but the Governor emphasized that additional federal action will be necessary to guarantee the health of the homebuilding industry.

In sharp contrast to GOP gubernatorial candidate Ronald Reagan who opposes federal aid programs and hues to the line that states should go it alone, Governor Brown said that the President's action last Saturday in signing legislation to increase funds for the Federal National Mortgage Association, popularly known as "Fannie May," by $4.76 billion, will mean increased employment and other activity in the home building, construction materials, and related industries.

"Up to $1 billion may be made available for California housing as a result of the President's action," the Governor, who had urged such federal action, said.

He estimated that 20,000 additional new home starts and financing for the purchase of 50,000 existing homes could be generated in California by the President's action.

But the Governor said that it is also "essential" that Housing

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Elderly Still Can Get Doctor Bill Coverage

The senior citizens who failed to take advantage of the voluntary $3 a month doctor bill insurance under Medicare before the May 31 deadline are not out in the cold yet.

The Social Security Administration disclosed this week that they may be enrolled up to October 1 if their failure to enroll earlier was due to physical or mental condition, misunderstanding or misinformation.

The Social Security officials made it clear that they are prepared to give a very liberal interpretation to these terms to accommodate elderly citizens who have decided belatedly that they made a mistake in passing up the bargain rate insurance for doctor bill coverage which totals only $36 a year.

While the basic hospitaliza-

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Historic Pay Floor Hike Gets Final OK

An historic forward step in the nation's minimum wage structure that extends coverage to 8 million more workers and, for the first time, provides coverage for farm workers, was taken this week when the U.S. Senate completed Congressional action on a bill to boost the minimum wage from $1.25 to $1.60 by February 1, 1968, for presently covered workers.

The measure, one of the AFL-CIO's top legislative goals, was approved on a 55-38 Senate Roll Call vote only after a last-ditch GOP-Dixiecrat attempt to weaken the bill was defeated.

California's Junior Senator George Murphy, a strong supporter of fellow actor Ronald Reagan's try-out for the Governor's role in California, opposed the bill. The state's senior Senator, moderate Thomas H. Kuchel, supported it.

In earlier Senate votes on various amendments to the bill, Senator Kuchel was one of 7 Republicans to join 34 Democrats in defeating a conservative move aimed at denying Fair Labor Standards Act coverage for one million workers while Senator Murphy was recorded as announced in favor of denying such coverage.

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Employment Climbs to 7,253,000

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the 7½ years since I took office. Retail sales have risen by more than 60 percent. We have built more than a million and a half new homes and almost $5 billion in commercial and industrial buildings.

"Farm income is a record $3.7 billion. And employment is up nearly 300,000 in this state from a year ago," he said.

The Governor also announced that he would propose a "comprehensive program of tax reform" which will be meaningful to working people "in terms of your pocketbooks."

PLAN SPELLED OUT

"It will include, among other things," the Governor said, "a significant reduction in property taxes, elimination of the nuisance tax on household furnishings, special relief for the low income elderly home owner, and elimination of abuses in tax exemptions.

Later in the week, at a breakfast meeting in Los Angeles on Wednesday, the Governor spelled out his tax program in greater detail. He said he would call on the federal government to relieve the "unbearable pressure" on local taxpayers by turning back to California a $500 million share of income tax revenue.

USE EXPLAINED

Asserting that he intends to ask Michigan's Governor George Romney to join him in a bipartisan effort to get Washington to implement the federal tax rebate plan, Governor Brown said the money would be used to bring about:

- A $200 million reduction in property taxes.
- Elimination of $40 million in taxes on household property such as TV sets.
- $30 million in tax relief to impoverished elderly home owners.
- Reduction of business inventory taxes by $30 million.

Another $100 million could be used to improve local programs and the remainder to balance the budgets of local and state agencies, he said.

"Right-To-Work" Is Powerful Weapon For Anti-Unionists

Proof positive of why anti-union, reactionary forces in American life want to keep "right-to-work" on the statute books is contained in the lastest statistics on the proportion of union members in "right-to-work" and "non-right-to-work" states.

These show that almost all of the 19 "right-to-work" states have proportionately fewer union workers than the rest of the country. Most of these anti-union, low-wage states are in the South. And all but one is below the national average of 29.5 percent.

Here is the lineup, state by state (asterisk indicates "right-to-work" state):

Rank	State	Number of Union Members	Percent Union Members Non-Farm Work Force
1.	Washington	367,000	43.1
2.	West Virginia	192,000	42.0
3.	New York	2,507,000	39.4
4.	Michigan	962,000	38.9
5.	Missouri	546,000	38.8
6.	Pennsylvania	1,450,000	38.4
7.	Illinois	1,349,000	37.9
8.	New Jersey	814,000	37.7
9.	Montana	63,000	36.2
10.	Ohio	1,148,000	35.7
11.	Oregon	198,000	34.8
12.	Indiana	522,000	34.1
13.	California	1,888,000	38.8
14.	Minnesota	339,000	33.0
15.	*Nevada	49,000	32.8
16.	Alaska	21,000	32.2
17.	Wisconsin	400,000	31.5
18.	Rhode Island	89,000	29.6
19.	Massachusetts	572,000	29.1
20.	*Arkansas	112,000	26.2
21.	Kentucky	187,000	25.7
22.	Connecticut	244,000	24.6
23.	Hawaii	50,000	24.2
24.	Maryland-D.C.	352,000	21.8
25.	Colorado	124,000	21.6
26.	New Hampshire	44,000	20.9
27.	*Iowa	150,000	20.8
28.	*Arizona	81,000	20.8
29.	Delaware	36,000	21.5
30.	Maine	57,000	20.3
31.	*Utah	58,000	19.7
32.	*Nebraska	78,000	19.3
33.	Vermont	22,000	19.3
34.	Idaho	32,000	19.2
35.	*Wyoming	19,000	19.2
36.	*Kansas	109,000	18.8
37.	*Alabama	151,000	18.0
38.	Louisiana	147,000	17.1
39.	*Tennessee	184,000	17.6
40.	*Virginia	179,000	15.5
41.	*North Dakota	21,000	14.8
42.	Oklahoma	86,000	13.7
43.	New Mexico	34,000	13.4
44.	*Texas	370,000	13.3
45.	*Florida	201,000	13.1
46.	*Georgia	150,000	12.7
47.	*Mississippi	53,000	11.6
48.	*South Dakota	14,000	9.5
49.	*South Carolina	52,000	7.9
50.	*North Carolina	89,000	6.7
	All 50 States	16,962,000	29.5

Brown Hails Action To Spur Housing Jobs

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and Urban Development Secretary Robert C. Weaver "promptly restore the ceiling on Fannie May loan purchases to at least $25,000. Weaver cut the ceiling to $15,000 nationally earlier this year, provoking a series of protests from California and touching off the campaign for additional Fannie May funds.

The cut in Fannie May's secondary mortgage ceiling, the Governor explained, made it especially difficult for the California housing industry because the average California loan is well above that limit.

In other efforts to spur employment opportunities in the building trades field, the Governor said he would recommend, among other things, that Fannie May adopt realistic pricing policies in its secondary mortgage operations in the light of current economic conditions and get back to the principle of maintaining an orderly and healthy mortgage market at all times. He said he would also seek effective federal action to stimulate the flow of funds in the hands of California lending institutions that normally provide the bulk of home financing needs.

"Such steps should restore an adequate flow of funds in the home financing sector and avoid forcing up the already high cost of money to the home buyer," the Governor said.

Negroes in the West

A new Labor Department publication shows that the proportion of non-white western families living in poverty is about half as high as that of all non-white American families.

Entitled "The Negroes in the U.S.: Their Economic and Social Situation," the study reports that 21 percent of all non-white families in the West are poor. Nationally the figure is 43 percent. Copies of the publication may be obtained for $1.25 from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 10450, Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco 94102.

Court Rejects Move To Block Vote On Prop. 16

The State Supreme Court this week rejected without comment a move to prevent Secretary of State Frank Jordan from placing Proposition 16, a radical, ill-conceived and vaguely worded anti-obscenity measure, on the November 8 election ballot.

The action, initiated by author Ray Bradbury and six others and supported by the American Civil Liberties Union, had appealed directly to the State Supreme Court for a writ of mandate to bar the Proposition from the ballot on the grounds that the measure is vague, indefinite, in violation of freedom of expression, and "patently unconstitutional."

Delegates to the California Labor Federation's recent convention in San Diego recommended a "No" vote on the issue and it has been opposed by Governor Brown, and practically everybody except GOP gubernatorial candidate Ronald Reagan and a number of ultra-conservative and extremist groups.

Even Reagan's running mate, the GOP candidate for Lieutenant Governor, has parted company with Reagan on the Prop. 16 issue, stating that the measure "would produce consequences repugnant . . . to the people of California. Conservative in intent, it is radical in effect," Reagan's running mate declared.

He also said that Proposition 16 was a "radical" law that "plunges into the murky waters of censorship" and warned that it would wipe out all local anti-pornography laws.

The other six citizens who joined in the appeal to the state's high court were: Kenneth Rexroth, a noted California poet and columnist; Mark Schorer, an author and professor of English at the University of California at Berkeley; Rabbi Leonard I. Beerman, of Les Baeck Temple, Los Angeles; Dr. Martha Boaz, Dean of the School of Library Sciences at the University of Southern California; Richard D. Lewis, a partner in a printing firm; and James K. Hakes, a bookstore owner.

The Facts Belie Ron's Tale On Braceros and Food Price Hikes

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"The big increases in the Wholesale Food Price Index, such as the 10.3 percent in egg prices and the 12.4 percent boost in crude vegetable oils, were in activities that never involved braceros," Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Council on Political Education, explained.

FACTS CITED

"The facts are," he declared, that:

- "Consumers are paying less this year for fruits and vegetables than in 1964 when foreign labor was available.
- "The wages of field workers, who before the end of the bracero program were far and away the lowest paid workers in the state and earned less than 40 percent of the average weekly wage of a California factory worker, have risen 15 to 20 percent since 1964.
- "The number of seasonal domestic farm workers climbed from 128,300 in mid-August in 1964 to 162,800 three weeks ago.
- "The fact that only one percent—only 19 of the 1,343 farm workers voting in the recent DiGiorgio election—voted against any kind of union representation, tore asunder the corporate growers' long nurtured myth that farm workers oppose union representation."

THE CLINCHER

As a clincher, Pitts pointed out that the Food Price Index shows that fresh fruits and vegetables, the heretofore bracero-intensive crop, recorded an overall price drop of about one percent between 1964 and 1966.

He also noted that William Keenan, head of the Labor Department's Food Price Division in the West, has reported that the higher prices for meats and dairy products are primarily responsible for overall increases in the cost of food to consumers.

"Neither of these products involved the use of Mexican braceros," Pitts pointed out.

"Despite his repeated claim that he is not anti-labor, Reagan's recent utterances put him squarely at odds with the needs and aspirations of California's more than 300,000 domestic farm workers in their struggle to organize into unions of their own choosing," the state AFL-CIO leader said.

"The efforts of California's domestic farm workers to improve their economic well-being, as typified by the current battle to achieve collective bargaining with grape growers in Delano, is well known throughout the state.

PARROTS OLD CLICHES

Yet Reagan, while claiming to be for the working man, has blithely turned his back on this state's farm workers and instead parrots the old cliches of California's most backward group of employers—the corporate growers. His posture on this issue, as on many others, lays bare the utter hypocrisy of Reagan's current attempt to paint himself as a friend of the housewife, worker, and grower," Pitts charged.

Turning to a claim made by Reagan at Yuba City Tuesday (Sept. 13), that Governor Brown's farm program "has cost the state thousands of jobs," Pitts urged the Republican nominee to look at the statistics of employment growth in agriculture last year.

JOBS EXPANDED

"What Reagan somehow fails to comprehend is that in 1965—the first full year after the end of the bracero program — the statistics prove that domestic farm worker employment in California rose by the tens of thousands.

Moreover, earnings of Mexican nationals employed in California agriculture fell from $78 million in 1964 to only $10 million in 1965—thereby aiding the nation's "balance of payments" by reducing the dollar drain out of the United States.

The earnings of California's domestic farm workers, over the same span, rose by $114 million, greatly aiding the state's economy while reducing welfare costs," Pitts pointed out.

"Reagan's callous distortion of the facts regarding the many benefits to the California economy resulting from the end of the bracero program—facts readily available to everyone—simply indicates again that Reagan and his extremist friends are willing to say anything if they feel it will aid them in their attempt to capture control of California government."

Pitts urged Californians "not to be fooled and taken in by this 20th Century pitchman of 19th Century thinking."

House Bars Maritime Unit Shift

A labor - supported amendment to keep the Maritime Administration independent of a new Dept. of Transportation won by a 260 to 117 vote as the House passed and sent to the Senate a bill creating the new cabinet - level department.

The House bill would create a 12th department in the federal government to consolidate transport promotion and safety functions of agencies dealing with air, rail and highway transportation. The Maritime Administration was specifically excluded from the new department's functions.

The House Merchant Marine Committee has approved a bill to make the Maritime Administration, which handles all water transport policies, an independent agency. It is currently part of the Commerce Dept. The bill is expected to come up later in the session.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council, at its recent meeting in Chicago, called for an independent maritime agency free from control by any government department to meet the "essential needs" of the maritime industry which are "being continually ignored and submerged."

The amendment to exclude the Maritime Administration from the Administration's transportation agency bill was sponsored by Rep. Edward A. Garmatz (D-Md.) chairman of the House Merchant Marine Committee, and carried first on a teller vote of 190 to 63 before the 260 to 117 rollcall vote. A majority of both Democrats and Republicans supported the amendment on rollcall.

The regulatory functions on rate and route determinations would be left in the hands of the independent agencies now handling these matters.

Board Calls Jobless Pay Rule 'Ambiguous'

A 1965 amendment to the unemployment insurance code which has been attacked by the California Labor Federation as unfair has been rapped by the State Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board as "ambiguous."

The amendment imposed strict new penalties against those who quit jobs for reasons unacceptable to the state or who are discharged for misconduct.

The appeals board indicated that, in its opinion, literal interpretation of the amendment would result in "absurdity, injustice and unfair consequences."

It suggested the Legislature consider clarification of the code section.

But, the appeals board attacked the provision for a different reason than unions did.

It said a literal interpretation might mean that a claimant who earns more than five times his weekly benefit following his first disqualification could apply any excess amount to future disqualifications.

But its opinion in the case of Jane B. Aiken of Carmichael held that a disqualified person must earn five times his or her weekly benefit amount each time to re-qualify. The board said that, despite the confusing language, this is what the Legislature meant.

Labor, on the other hand, has charged that the entire new section discriminates against and unfairly penalizes those who quit their jobs, often for perfectly valid reasons.

D.I.A. Aide Appointed

Malcolm M. Peattie, who served as assistant to the chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Study Commission, has been appointed assistant administrative director of the Division of Industrial Accidents. Prior to his appointment, Peattie served as a referee in the Sacramento office of the Workmen's Compensation Appeals Board. He is 39, a graduate of Stanford Law School, and lives in Sacramento.

Historic Minimum Pay Hike Bill Clears Its Last Hurdle

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Murphy was also paired in favor of delaying the effective date of the $1.60 minimum to February 1, 1969, while Senator Kuchel joined 6 other Republicans to vote with 35 Democrats against the year's delay.

As finally approved, the first major labor bill passed this year was in almost exactly the form the President had sought.

Here's what it does:

• Boosts the federal wage floor to $1.40 on February 1, 1967, and to $1.60 a year later for 29.6 million workers now covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act. It is estimated that about 12 percent of the presently covered workers will benefit from the $1.40 rate next February.

• Brings some 380,000 farm workers under FLSA coverage for the first time with a $1.00 minimum effective next February 1 and provision for two 15-cent increases to raise this floor to $1.30 by February 1, 1969. However, it applies only to farms using 500 or more man-days of employment in a three-month period—an average of 7 full-time hands, and does not cover family members and workers commuting daily to the fields to pick crops at peak seasons.

• Extends coverage for the first time also to employees of hotels, motels, restaurants, laundries, colleges, universities, grade and high schools other than teachers, and transit systems as well as non-civil service workers in the federal government. These workers will start with $1.00 minimum on February 1, 1967, with provisions for four annual 15-cent increases to a floor of $1.60 by 1971.

• Extends coverage effective February 1, also to retail stores, hotels and restaurants and other businesses doing $500,000 or more in annual business. On February 1, 1969, the extension will apply to firms doing $250,000 or more a year. Present law covered only employees of firms doing $1 million or more in business a year. These improvements are estimated to benefit 1.5 million workers who heretofore have been excluded from coverage.

Profits Soar 13% Despite No Rise in Labor Costs

It was the same old story as the economic data was added up for the second quarter of this year — profits zoomed because of price increases while labor costs practically stood still.

Profits hit a seasonally adjusted annual rate of more than $8,000,000,000 before taxes, or about 13 per cent higher than for the same period in 1965, according to the quarterly survey of Business Week magazine.

The rise was despite lower profits than last year in two industry bellwethers, steel and autos.

The reports "reveal a clear-cut case of profit inflation," AFL-CIO Research Director Nat Goldfinger charged.

"Prices have been rising while the cost of labor per unit has barely moved," he said.

"The growing spread between the prices of industrial goods and unit labor costs is now greater than at any time since mid-1951, according to government figures. As a result, profit margins have continued to widen and the total volume of profits has been soaring, while improvements in wages and salaries lag far behind."

The Census Bureau's unit labor cost index for June, Business Week said, was 99.3 per cent of the 1957-1959 base of 100, in contract to 99 per cent in June 1965. It adds that the bureau's index showing ratio of price to unit labor costs was 106.4 per cent of the 1957-1959 base, compared to 103.9 per cent in June 1965 and 106 per cent in December.

"In the first half of 1966, it looks like profits were up 11 per cent or more than a year ago, while dividend payments to stockholders were up 14 per cent," Goldfinger said.

Elderly Still Can Get Doctor Bill Coverage

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tion insurance provided by Medicare is available free to everyone over 65—and has already benefited more than one million persons in the first 90 days of its enactment—the doctor bill insurance coverage is voluntary and affords coverage only for those who sign up for it.

The $3 monthly premium is exactly half of the actual cost of the insurance since the government pays the other half.

More than 90 percent of eligible senior citizens have already signed up for the additional doctor bill insurance coverage.

New Pension Plan Study Now Available

An important new study, "Private Pension Plan Benefits," has been published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor.

The study's major findings, based on plans covering more than 15 million workers in 1962-63, are that:

• 65 years of age was the standard minimum age requirement for normal retirement. But 10 percent of the workers were in plans with a normal retirement age of 60.

• About 7 out of 10 workers were covered by plans containing disability provisions, with manufacturing leading other major industry groups.

• About 3 out of 4 workers were covered by pension plans that provide for early retirement. Almost 95 percent of these plans permitted early retirement at age 55 or 60.

The study deals basically with the types and levels of benefits available for normal, disability and early retirement. It also covers vesting provisions, supplementary pension plans and death benefits.

Max D. Kossoris, western regional director of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, said it soon will be available at 55¢ a copy at Room 10450, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.