



# California AFL-CIO News

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THOS. L. PITTS 151

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## Meany Names Chavez to Head UFWOC

Cesar Chavez, founder and director of the National Farm Workers Association which was merged with the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee last August, has been appointed Director of the new United Farm Workers Organizing Committee by AFL-CIO President George Meany.

Larry Itliong, an AWO leader during the historic Delano grape strike, was appointed Assistant Director.

The appointments were announced at the conclusion of the first meeting of a newly created Special Committee of the AFL-CIO Executive Council charged with aiding the organization of farm workers throughout the nation.

Serving on the Committee, in addition to Meany, are AFL-CIO Vice Presidents James A.

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## Candidate's Labor Plan Draws Fire

State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts took issue today with GOP gubernatorial candidate Ronald Reagan's call for a so-called Labor-Management Resources Act and charged that the actor's call for legislation to require all union policy matters to be submitted to a secret ballot was "a union-busting move" aimed at crippling "the unions' capability for action by promoting harassment tactics."

The actor's proposed Labor-Management Resources Act which would set up a three-man State Labor Board to act as referee in labor disputes not covered by Federal law, Pitts said, "just provides another ex-

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## Pitts Charges Actor With Hoax on Labor Issues

"Ronald Reagan is trying to perpetrate a hoax on California's voters—particularly union members — by posing as pro-labor when every aspect in his life indicates he turned turtle for employer interests at least six years ago," state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts charged today.

Citing the actor's assertion at Pepperdine College in Los Angeles Tuesday that school teachers should not have the right to strike as a case in point, Pitts said:

"Nothing more blatantly exposes the actor's masquerade as a friend of labor for the sham that it is than his statement that he doesn't want 'to see the day when teachers are organized (and) on strike'.

"We don't want to see the teachers on strike either but Reagan's statement is the same sort of anti-union double talk that trade unionists have heard ever since workers started fighting for organizational and bargaining rights against the conspiracy

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## Trade Unionists Gear Up To Rally The Vote on Nov. 8

Trade unionists from throughout Northern California met at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel in San Francisco today to gear up for an all-out get-out-the-vote effort on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8.

The meeting, held to coordinate and finalize plans for labor's drive for votes in behalf of Governor Edmund G. Brown and other State and Congressional candidates, is the first of two such regional workshops. The second will open in the International Hotel opposite the Los Angeles Airport, at 10 a.m., Monday.

State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts underscored the urgent necessity for an all-out effort on Election Day in advance of the meeting by noting that:

"All wage and salary earners in our state have everything to lose and nothing to gain if they let the administrative and appointive powers of the Governor of the nation's most populous state fall into the hands of such a Birch-backed candidate as Governor Brown's opponent."

National COPE Director Al Barkan flew out from Washington to participate in both meetings which were conducted

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## Labeling Bill Wins Approval

A truth-in-packaging measure shorn of a Senate provision that would have permitted the government to impose mandatory standards as to quantity and the way in which products could be packaged won final congressional approval this

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## About Those Propositions On Taxes...

Five of the propositions on the November 8 ballot deal with taxes and tax assessments, and the California Labor Federation recommends a "Yes" vote on each.

Proposition 3 is a "green belt" proposal which would authorize the legislature to define "open space land." It provides restrictions on the use of property for recreation, natural resources or agricultural production. It would enable assessors to value such land on the basis of its current use rather than on the basis of more developed nearby property.

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## Fairer Shake Urged for Labor in All School Texts

Action to bring about fair and adequate treatment of the role of organized labor in textbooks for all primary and secondary school grades and support for uniform textbook adoption in all grades is urged by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

In a statement submitted to

an Assembly Education Committee Subcommittee on Curriculum meeting in Santa Barbara last Friday, the Federation spelled out ten specific areas in need of improvement. It called for:

1.—Adequate portrayal of the history and development of or-

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# Candidate's Labor Plan Draws Fire

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ample of his ignorance of state agencies.

"California's State Mediation Service already substantially fills this function but neither it nor Reagan's proposed State Labor Board—so far as he has detailed it—can be effective unless full collective bargaining rights are extended to farm workers, teachers, hospital workers and other workers presently partially or wholly denied labor law coverage.

"If the GOP nominee wants to try to play a pro-labor role, let's hear him issue a pledge to fight for legislation to give California's 300,000 farm workers full collective bargaining rights and unemployment insurance instead of parroting, as he did last Sunday, the discredited and selfishly motivated agribusiness claims that 'California agriculture would be better off if braceros were readily available'.

"Let's hear him stand up manfully and admit he was wrong when he tried to attribute food price increases to the end of the bracero program," Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Council on Political Education, the political arm of the State AFL-CIO, declared.

"The facts clearly prove that, although food prices rose over the last two years, the prices on fruits and vegetables—the crops that used to be harvested by braceros but which are now harvested by California workers—have declined. All Reagan has to do to prove this to himself is to look at the U. S. wholesale food price index," Pitts said.

On the secret ballot issue, Pitts pointed out as he had earlier in the campaign, that this was a subterfuge designed more for the general public than for union members because practically all unions have provisions for special elections any time a significant minority group demands them.

"Reagan's proposal to let any disgruntled member demand a secret ballot on all union policy

# About Those Propositions On Taxes and Assessment

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As the law now stands, holders of timberlands or farm property are being forced to convert to urban and suburban development in order to meet rising tax bills. Every day more than half a square mile of California's finest agricultural land is being converted to residential or commercial property, in part at least to help accommodate the 900 new people arriving in the state daily.

The legislation proposed would erect strong safeguards against land speculation. The "green belt" concept has demonstrated its effectiveness for orderly planning of California's growth.

Governor Brown has strongly endorsed passage of Proposition 3, commenting that the tax law as it now stands "is a hardship to us all." The vote for

matters — an area he hasn't bothered to define — is basically a union-busting move designed by the extremists and right-to-workers in his camp to cripple the unions' capability for action by promoting harassment tactics and prolonged delays," Pitts said.

"Reagan should, but evidently doesn't, know that the original Taft-Hartley Act initially required a special ballot before union contracts would be allowed. But this provision was amended out of the Act because more than 96 percent of the workers polled in thousands of elections throughout the nation voted for the union shop. This thoroughly discredited the right-to-workers' claim that right-to-work laws were popular among the workers.

"Moreover, contrary to the implications of Reagan's subterfuge on this issue, union leaders do not oppose referendums on key issues confronting their membership. On the contrary, as a matter of policy and political reality, they call for such referendums themselves, knowing full well that they can't hope to retain office against the will of an aroused membership," the State AFL-CIO leader pointed out.

this amendment was 58 to 7 in the Assembly and members of the State Board of Equalization have also recommended its passage.

## PROP. 5

Proposition 5 would permit the Legislature to authorize the assessment or reassessment of property damaged or destroyed by major misfortune or calamity after the lien date if the property is located in a disaster area so proclaimed by the Governor.

This is aimed at providing further economic relief to home owners and business concerns hit by a major flood, fire, earthquake or similar disaster. A "Yes" vote on Proposition 5 is sound business and provides for more realistic assessment in emergency situations.

## PROP. 9

Proposition No. 9 would authorize a \$5,000 tax exemption on the home of a veteran who is blind through a service-connected disability. The exemption will apply to the current tax year if approved.

Assemblyman Edwin L. Z'berg, D-Sacramento, notes passage of No. 9 would correct a "glaring inequity" in our property tax laws. Other totally disabled veterans have, for years, enjoyed such an exemption. Inadvertently, the law did not cover the totally disabled blind veteran. The California Labor Federation agrees with Assemblyman Z'berg when he declares that "equity and justice" will be served by a "Yes" vote, even though the group affected throughout the state would presently number less than one hundred persons.

## PROP. 12

Proposition 12 authorizes county boards of supervisors to create assessment appeals boards to act as boards of equalization on taxable property in the counties.

Presently the supervisors themselves must act as the appeals board. The complexities of these judgments, placed beside the overall job the supervisors are required to do, means that local taxpayers are necessarily getting less than adequate service in this area.

# Population Of U.S. Nears 200 Million

The nation's total population is expected to reach 200 million by the end of next year, the U. S. Census Bureau disclosed this week.

As of September 1, the total resident population of the United States was 196,226,000 — 9.4 percent above the 1960 census tally and 1.1 percent higher than September 1, 1965.

Including servicemen overseas, the population was 197,223,000 as of September 1 this year, the Bureau estimated.

Los Angeles County has used the proposed system since 1962 with marked success.

The law now restricts creation of such appeals boards to counties of over 400,000. Proposition 12 would permit any county to set up this more efficient system of hearing assessment appeals and the California Labor Federation favors the extension.

## PROP. 14

Proposition 14 would permit the Legislature to provide for reporting and collecting California personal income taxes in reasonable conformity to the federal income tax procedures. It also prescribes exemptions and modifications to allow sufficient flexibility so California taxpayers could take advantage of the best in both systems.

There are now 54 major differences between state and federal law on the subject. The taxpayer must file both returns at the same time and presently must figure them entirely separately. Improved administration authorized under Proposition 14 would make it easier to check and verify personal income tax returns.

Proposition 14 is the result of a two-year study by the State Assembly. New York has successfully adopted the system. Committees of the California State Bar have endorsed the measure. The California Labor Federation urges a "Yes" vote on Prop. No. 14 November 8.

## Fairer Shake Urged for Labor In School Texts

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ganized labor.

2.—Recognition of the historic supporting role organized labor has played in developing the nation's free public schools.

3.—More thorough and factual coverage of such areas as labor-management relations, labor legislation and collective bargaining.

4.—Better coverage of such basic programs as unemployment insurance, disability insurance and workmen's compensation.

5.—Some introduction to labor law.

6.—More recognition of the fact that some 80 percent of all pupils starting in public schools will enter the labor market as wage earners or as small businessmen.

7.—Presentation of basic concepts of economics.

8.—Presentation of labor's role in international affairs.

9.—Coverage of organized labor's contributions to social welfare legislation and its contributions to the nation's health through the negotiation of health and welfare benefits.

10.—More adequate definition of terms involved in labor-management relations.

### PROGRESS CITED

While noting that "significant progress has been made" during the past two years in grade school social science textbooks through the cooperative program of the State AFL-CIO and the California Curriculum Commission, the Federation's statement submitted in behalf of State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts, emphasized that the program "needs to be extended to all grade levels, including high school."

In voicing support for uniform textbook adoptions, the Federation emphasized that such uniformity was desirable not only because it resulted in an estimated 30 percent saving in textbook costs and facilitated continuity of study by the thousands of pupils who moved from one school district to another during the school year, but also because it minimized the im-

## Trade Unionists Gear Up To Rally The Vote on Nov. 8

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by the California Labor Council on Political Education.

### SOME CLIFFHANGERS

The importance of the get-out-the-vote campaign was also underlined when the participants were reminded that in 1960 one more Republican vote per precinct would have made Richard M. Nixon President of the United States.

The cliffhanging victory of Governor Karl Rolvaag in Minnesota in 1962 was also recalled. He won by a majority of just 91 votes, or less than one-tenth of a vote per precinct. And the current gubernatorial campaign in California looks like it could be every bit as close.

Materials distributed and discussed at the meeting included check lists for such get-out-the-vote operations as phone banks and underscored the need to concentrate on precincts in which support for COPE-endorsed candidates is strongest.

### RECRUITING TIPS

Immediate action on the urgent task of recruiting precinct workers was especially stressed. In this connection it was suggested that local COPEs should be sure to call on all union members in the following categories to ask them to pitch in to help:

- All full-time employees of local unions.
- Retired members.
- Unemployed members.
- Wives.

**Impact of the economic and political pressures exerted on local school boards by extremist groups trying to promote biased textbooks.**

In addition, the statement noted, the uniform adoption program permitted the textbooks to be evaluated by hundreds of classroom teachers and other specialists coordinated by the State Curriculum Commission, a procedure that helps assure high quality textbooks for all school districts in the state.

### DUPLICATION HIT

The duplication of effort currently expended by the state's 132 high school districts and 228 unified school districts in 360 separate programs of text-

● Members whose work-shift permits them to help for a few hours before the polls close.

Also distributed at the meeting was a brief summary of California Election Laws related to challenging voters and soliciting votes in the vicinity of the Polls. The principal points cited included:

● No person within a hundred feet of a polling place may place a sign relating to voters' qualifications or speak to a voter on the subject of his qualifications.

● Only a member of the Precinct Board may challenge a voter on his qualifications to vote within the polling place.

● Soliciting votes or speaking to a voter on the subject of marking his ballot is prohibited within 100 feet of a polling place.

● Any person may inspect the Voters' Roster at any time voting is in progress and votes are being counted but no person other than Precinct Board members and persons signing up to vote are permitted to sit at the desk or table used by the Precinct Board while voting is in progress.

All union members were also urged to take their endorsement pamphlets or SLATE cards with them to the polling place and to be sure to vote on every office and issue.

book adoption is clearly wasteful of both time and money, the statement indicated.

It called the Committee's attention to a resolution adopted at the California Labor Federation's Sixth Convention in San Diego last August which called for uniform adoption of textbooks by the State Board of Education in all grades from kindergarten through 12. The resolution suggested that the state-adopted textbooks should be provided free in grades kindergarten through 8 and that they be purchased by the local school boards from the state at the cost of manufacture and shipping for grades 9 through 12.

## Poll Stresses Experience but Not the Actor's

The State Poll, released last Monday by the L.A. Times syndicate, emphasized the issue of experience in the Governor's race, although it dealt with the contests for lieutenant governor and attorney general.

Don M. Muchmore, director of the poll, noted that these two races "are being watched with special interest as both offices are traditional springboards to the governorship."

But the report failed to mention the fact that the GOP nominee for governor this year has never held a public office in his life.

Muchmore pointed out that for 30 years, with one exception, all California governors have had previous service in one or the other. Incumbent Democrat Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown and Earl Warren moved up from the attorney general position while Frank F. Merriam and Goodwin J. Knight had been lieutenant governors before becoming governor.

## Insurance Workers Win Three More

Three more victories were racked up last Friday by the Insurance Workers International Union when Metropolitan Life Insurance agents at the firm's Lakewood, Long Beach, and Norwalk offices chose the IWIU as their bargaining agent by an overwhelming 7 to 1 margin in representational elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

The victories were a follow-up to the breakthrough scored by the IWIU last month when workers at Metropolitan Life's Covina office voted 2 to 1 for IWIU representation. The Covina election marked the first among Metropolitan agents west of Iowa and capped a 16-year fight by the workers for union representation.

To advance the AFL-CIO's basic goal of organizing the unorganized, the union urges all trade unionists to "ask your insurance agent to show his IWIU membership card."

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## LBJ Vetoes Right to Work Issue on Guam

Consistent with his stand for repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, President Johnson has killed a "right-to-work" bill which was the center of controversy between the territorial legislature of Guam and Territorial Governor Manuel Guerrero.

The legislators passed the anti-union bill and it was promptly vetoed by the governor. Four days later, in a 14 to 6 vote, the legislature overrode the veto. Under the Guam Organic Act of 1950, it was then up to the President to sign the bill, let it become law without his signature or veto it.

Without comment, he formally upheld the veto of the Guam governor this week, ending the union-busting threat on the U.S. outpost in the Pacific.

A spokesman for the AFL-CIO in Washington declared that labor was "gratified but not surprised" by the President's action. President Johnson has pledged another effort to win repeal of 14(b) at the next session of Congress.

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## Meany Names Chavez to Head UFWOC

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Suffridge, president of the Retail Clerks; I. W. Abel, president of the United Steelworkers; Ralph Helstein, president of the Packinghouse Workers; and Paul L. Phillips, president of the United Papermakers and Paperworkers Union.

In a report to the Committee, AFL-CIO Organization Director William L. Kircher said that contract negotiations for farm workers at DiGiorgio properties at Delano in Kern County and Borrego Springs in San Diego County are under way and that the UFWOC is currently seeking another election for workers on DiGiorgio's giant ranch in Arvin.

# Pitts Charges Actor With Hoax on Labor Issues

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laws more than a century ago.

"It seeks to play on the public's fears and gloss over the fact that nobody—least of all the workers who live from paycheck to paycheck—wants to go on strike.

"Yet literally thousands of school teachers in New York, Cleveland, Detroit and other major cities have found it necessary in recent years to do just this to protect their own economic life," Pitts pointed out.

"Reagan knows this well. He also knows that organized labor has been fighting for bargaining rights for all workers—especially farm workers who have

been short-changed for their labor for years.

"But now, with less than three weeks remaining in the campaign he has let it slip that he is opposed to full collective bargaining rights for teachers, even though he once maintained that the workers' right to strike was 'an inalienable right'.

"What else is he opposed to?" Pitts asked.

"He claims he still opposes the deceptively titled right-to-work legislation yet every right-to-worker in the state supports his candidacy and Reagan himself is on record against repeal of Section 14(b) which permits such laws to exist to

the disadvantages of workers in the first place," Pitts declared.

"Reagan made it clear early in the 1960s when he turned to as a propagandist for the American Medical Association's abortive attempt to deny Medicare to the nation's senior citizens that he had abandoned the trade union movement.

"Since then, his support of Goldwater in 1964, and, more recently, his opposition to federal aid to education, consumer protections and any number of other public interest goals backed by the AFL-CIO amply prove that he basically opposes programs vital to the welfare and prosperity of California's wage earners," Pitts concluded.

## Why Brown Opposes GOP \$1,000 School Tuition Plan

Three-quarters of a million California students are working for degrees today in California's tuition-free public schools of higher education, more than double the enrollment just eight years ago when Governor Edmund G. Brown took office.

There are 516,000 students in junior colleges, 130,000 in state colleges, and 85,000 on campuses of the University of California.

In underscoring his opposition to plans expressed by the GOP gubernatorial ticket to impose a prohibitive tuition fee of up to \$1,000 a year on these students, Governor Brown points out that these students "are the leaders of tomorrow—in industry, in agriculture, in government" and declares:

**"To reduce this pool of future leaders by charging tuition would be extremely short-sighted. We must continue to base our school planning on the long-range needs of our state, not the short-range needs of a political year."**

The type of industry that

California is attracting, and the type it wants, the Governor said, is that which requires a high degree of education because these industries, "such as space and research firms, pay higher salaries and make important contributions to the communities in which they locate. They form a sturdy tax base in their localities," he pointed out.

**"Tuition at these institutions would cripple the ability of future Californians to meet the problems of the next century. As technology improves, the importance of higher education grows," Brown emphasized.**

During Brown's administration California has built 15 junior colleges, doubled the number of state colleges from 12 to 18 and the number of University of California campuses from 6 to 9. In the same period enrollment in the junior colleges has zoomed from 250,000 to 516,000; in the state colleges from 56,000 to 130,000; and on the University campuses from 42,000 to 85,000.

## Labeling Bill Wins Approval By Congress

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week and was sent to President Johnson for signature.

The measure, approved by the House Monday on a 242 to 6 vote, won final Senate approval on a voice vote.

While hailing the action as "a significant victory for American consumers," Senator Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.), chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, expressed regret that the House had rejected the Senate provision for mandatory standards and noted that in its final form the measure is essentially a labeling bill rather than a packaging measure.

But, he noted, its labeling features will provide consumers with information useful in comparing the value of competing products.

It also contains provisions aimed at encouraging the adoption of voluntary standards for the labeling and packaging of foods, drugs, cosmetics and household supplies.