

# California AFL-CIO News

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
THOS. L. PITTS

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## Cal. Farmers' \$35 Million Handout

A "guaranteed annual income" may still be somewhere off in the future for most wage and salary earners but it is already here for California's big corporate farm operators.

Just last year four California "farmers" got between \$1 million and \$2.8 million each in federal subsidies for keeping some of their vast landholdings out of production—in short, for doing nothing.

This is a result of the topsy-like growth of payments under the government's soil bank and acreage diversion

programs. Congressional efforts to place a limit on the amount to be paid to any one individual or corporation have thus far come to naught.

Another four California "farmers," including the Kern County Land Company, raked in sums ranging from \$500,000 to \$999,999; 76 others got sums ranging between \$100,000 and \$499,999; and another 167 corporate farms or individuals received sums ranging between \$50,000 and \$99,999.

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## NLRB Finds KPOL Guilty of Unfair Practices

The National Labor Relations Board has found Los Angeles Radio Station KPOL guilty of unfair labor practices and ordered the station to make up all wages lost by five workers discharged after a strike called by the AFL-CIO American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 45 began more than two years ago.

The strike, the longest in AFTRA's history, began April 2, 1965, when the station's management attempted to force both unions to give up their right to union security, union-established non-contributory pension and welfare plans and

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## Cancer Society Boycott Still On

The California Division of the American Cancer Society has remained "adamant" in "refusing to bargain in good faith" with Local 3 of the AFL-CIO Office and Professional Employees International Union in San Francisco, the union repeated this week.

"Contrary to statements made by some representatives of the Cancer Society, there have been no negotiating meetings held

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## Jobless and Disability Pay Bills May Glitter--But for Whom?

Two social insurance bills — one on unemployment insurance and the other on disability insurance—emerged from two Assembly subcommittees Wednesday with "do pass" recommendations to the Assembly Finance and Insurance Committee. The measures, both opposed by the

California Labor Federation, served to prove the old adage that "all that glitters is not gold."

On the surface, the unemployment insurance bill (AB 2396) boosts the percentage of base-period earnings to be paid as unemployment insurance benefits from approximately 50 percent to 60 percent.

But by changing the formula on which base-period earnings are figured from a high quarter basis to an annual earnings basis it would cut benefits by

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## John Burton Wins State COPE Nod For S.F. Senate Seat

"Ever since John Burton won election to the legislature, he has championed the public interest, fought steadfastly with integrity and compassion for the people of San Francisco and he merits their active support in his bid for the State Senate seat vacated by the untimely death of Senator McAteer," State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts said this week in announcing that Burton had won the endorsement of the California Labor Council on Political Education.

"With control of the State Senate swinging in the balance of this election and with only 298,248 voters—the lowest city-wide registration in 24 years—eligible to vote on July 18, it is absolutely essential for all trade unionists to pitch in to

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## Signed Up for Labor School at U.C. Yet?

If you haven't signed up yet for the state AFL-CIO's week-long summer school to be held on the University of California campus at Berkeley July 30 through August 4, do it now.

The school, whose faculty will include state and national experts including Leon Keyser-

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## Reagan Budget Calls For Biggest Tax Hike Ever

Despite Governor Ronald Reagan's campaign claim that any budget can be cut 10 percent, the \$5.083 billion budget signed shortly before the June 30 deadline was 11 percent higher than the \$4.5 billion budget for the preceding year and will require a tax boost of nearly \$1 billion, making it the biggest budget and the biggest tax boost ever imposed by any state in the nation's history.

And contrary to Reagan's campaign pledge to provide relief for the state's property tax payers, none is in sight.

Prior to signing the budget measure last Friday, the Governor blue penciled:

- \$11,460,759 for mental institutional care and welfare positions. This, coupled with previous staff cuts initiated by the

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## Court Upholds FCC Fairness Doctrine

Radio and TV stations must give individuals and organizations the free opportunity to reply without cost when attacked, a federal appeals court ruled in the first legal test of the Federal Communications Commission's "fairness doctrine."

The landmark decision up-

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## Union Boycott Of Cancer Society Still On

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since April 19, 1967, nor are there any meetings scheduled at this time," the union said.

As a consequence the union is urging all union members, their families and friends to refrain from volunteering their time to assist the Cancer Society until the dispute over union working conditions is resolved.

The union is fighting for the rights of 21 office employees to receive union wages and fringe benefits. The union's salary proposal would cost the Society only some \$30,000 a year more than it now pays.

The fact that the Cancer Society's California Division has been accumulating reserves at a rate of about \$1 million a year for the past several years and that its reserve fund now exceeds \$8 million is currently the subject of an investigation.

The union has also called on AFL-CIO President George Meany to institute a nationwide boycott against the Society.

## IWIU Wins Again In Oakland Vote

The AFL-CIO Insurance Workers International Union was chosen as bargaining agent by insurance agents in the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's District Office in Oakland last Friday by a 14 to 8 vote.

The election boosted the union's string of victories to five straight in Northern California and to 28 out of 28 in California since last October.

More than 50 Met life agents in three Santa Clara County district offices are scheduled to vote today in similar representation elections involving the IWIU.

The union also has a petition for an election among Met agents in San Gabriel in Orange County currently pending before the National Labor Relations Board.

Trade unionists can help the current IWIU organizing drive by asking their insurance agents to show their IWIU membership card.

## Jobless and Disability Pay Bills May Glitter--But for Whom?

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more than \$12 million a year in a year like 1966.

In any prolonged recession the slash in benefits would be much higher because of reduced earnings.

In short, the bill abandons the key function of an unemployment insurance program which is to assure that purchasing power will be bolstered during hard times.

The measure sounds good on its face because it suggests that the jobless worker's unemployment insurance benefits would amount to 60 percent of his base period wages but several stories carried in the daily press failed to mention that this was up to a ceiling of only \$65.

The bill also fails to provide any extension of the 26-week period in which jobless benefits may be obtained.

The disability insurance bill would raise the maximum disability benefit to \$89 a week, an increase of \$9, as well as boost hospital benefits from \$12 a day for 20 days to \$15 a day for 25 days.

But, since it also calls for use of an annual wage formula instead of a high quarter earnings formula it would result in an increase in benefits of only \$300,000 a year at most and sharply reduce benefits to

workers employed on a seasonal basis such as those in the agricultural, cannery, construction and lumber industries.

Although superficially the disability insurance bill appears to represent some progress toward improving benefits under this employee-financed program to protect workers suffering off-the-job injuries or illnesses, the appearance is illusory.

Here's why:

The measure (AB 1702) would reduce weekly benefits paid under the program by an estimated \$10 million.

On the surface, however, \$10.3 million would be restored to injured workers by the \$3 a day increase in hospital benefits and the 5-day extension in the maximum hospital benefit period.

But in reality, a major chunk of the \$10.3 million would simply provide windfall profits for insurance companies and integrated health and welfare plans that already assure covered employees of equal or better benefits.

Both measures will be taken up next Monday by the full Committee on Finance and Insurance.

## Resolutions Due Soon for Next Year's Session

Resolutions calling for legislation to be introduced in the 1968 regular session must be submitted to the California Labor Federation by Federation affiliates by August 15, 1967.

This is the deadline set by the Federation's Executive Council at its meeting in Sacramento last April in recognition of the fact that since the passage of Proposition 1-A last November the State Constitution now provides for annual general sessions of the legislature.

In adopting the new policy, the Executive Council explained that in view of the annual legislative sessions, the Executive Council, its Legislative Committee and the Federation's Advisory Committee on Legislation need sufficient time to consider resolutions submitted by affiliates prior to the start of the 1968 general session.

Any resolutions calling for legislation that were presented to the Federation between the adjournment of the Federation's last convention in San Diego on August 12, 1966 and June 1, 1967 must be resubmitted if consideration is desired, the Council said.

## Signed Up for Labor School at U.C. Yet?

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ling, who headed President Truman's Council of Economic Advisors, will focus on "The Role of Government in Our Economy and Welfare—Challenges and Issues."

It will delineate organized labor's philosophy and goals on such basic issues as public spending, taxes, education, and the needs and costs of social insurance and social welfare programs.

Additional details may be obtained by writing to:

Department of Education,  
California Labor Federation,  
AFL-CIO, 995 Market Street,  
Room 310, San Francisco, California 94103 or by phoning area code 415 986-3585.

## REGISTRATION FORM

California Labor Federation, AFL - CIO, Summer School to be held July 30 through Aug. 4, 1967, at the University of California Campus at Berkeley.

Name .....

Union .....

Union Position .....

Duties .....

Address .....

☐ On Campus accommodations: \$81.75 single; \$71.75 each in a double, including room, meals and instructional materials;

☐ Off Campus: \$45.75 covers only lunches, dinners and instructional materials.

Send check to California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, 995 Market St., Suite 310, San Francisco, California 94103, Attn.: Summer School.

# Cal. Farmers' \$35 Million Handout

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In fact, just 251 California "farmers"—for the most part corporate farms owning vast acreages of land in just 18 of California's 58 counties—received more than \$35 million for doing nothing. The average cash payment to each was more than \$140,000.

And, ironically, a number of representatives of these same corporate farm operations are believed to be among those who screamed the loudest at hearings on a proposed increase in the state's minimum wage in Los Angeles, Fresno and San Francisco last week.

## SEE FOR YOURSELF

The complete details of these payments are spelled out on Page S8412 of the Congressional Record for June 19, 1967, by Senator John Williams of Delaware who emphasized that:

"These subsidy payments . . . represent payments under the soil bank and acreage diversion programs. . . . They are direct cash payments and are in addition to and not a part of any subsidy which the government may be making under the price-support program to these same individuals."

Among the "more interesting situations" disclosed by the article in the Congressional Record were that two states and penal agencies in three other states, including two state penitentiaries, have been classified as "farmers" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and received hundreds of thousands of dollars in 1966 "to curtail their farming operations."

## FIGURES CITED

Montana collected \$337,345.

Washington State collected \$125,552.

The Louisiana State Penitentiary collected \$92,135.

The Arkansas Penitentiary collected \$122,090.

And, the Texas State Department of Corrections was declared eligible for \$288,911.

"Based upon these large payments," Rep. Williams said, "it is obvious that the small family-type farmer is

not the real beneficiary of our present farm program, but rather the government through these large payments is in reality subsidizing the expansion of the corporate type of farming operation.

"The time is long past due when this program should be curtailed and these payments restricted to an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for any one farming operation," he declared.

While space doesn't permit reprinting of the entire list of firms and individuals in California benefitting from this government handout, it is noteworthy that four out of the five firms receiving \$1 million

or more are California firms. The fifth is the Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company of Honolulu which last year received \$1,236,355.

The four California firms receiving more than \$1 million are:

Griffen, Inc., Huron (Fresno Co.) \$2,397,073.

South Lake Farms, Five Points (Fresno Co.) \$1,468,696.

J. G. Boswell Co., Corcoran (Kings Co.) \$2,807,633.

Salyer Land Co., Corcoran (Kings Co.) \$1,014,860.

Another four California firms received sums ranging between

\$500,000 and \$999,999. They were:

Vista Del Llano, Firebaugh (Fresno Co.) \$622,840.

Boston Ranch Co., Lemoore (Fresno Co.) \$506,061.

Kern County Land Co., Bakersfield (Kern Co.) \$506,061.

Westlake Farms, Stratford (Kings Co.) \$622,569.

Another noteworthy recipient of these funds is the W. B. Camp and Sons firm of Bakersfield in Kern County which received \$192,080 last year. The president of this firm, W. B. Camp, has just been reappointed chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Committee on "Voluntary Unionism," a euphemistic term used by reactionary business interests seeking to cripple unions by imposing compulsory open shop laws on American workers.

And the S. A. Camp Farms Co. of Shafter, which is also in Kern County, received \$426,922. Whether the S. A. Camp Farms Co. is an offshoot of the W. B. Camp and Sons empire was not immediately determinable.

## Court Upholds FCC's Fairness Doctrine

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holds the constitutionality of the doctrine, which had been challenged by a Pennsylvania radio station.

Judge Edward Allen Tamm overruled the station's claim that the doctrine interfered with its freedom of speech, saying that it is not prohibited from broadcasting any program which it thinks suitable.

The doctrine, rather than limiting the station's right of free speech, the judge said, "recognizes and enforces the free speech right of the victim of any personal attack made during the broadcast. 'Such an attack,' he declared, 'necessitates the petitioners' affording the maligned victim an opportunity to respond.' The doctrine also provides that time be given for recognized groups or individuals to present alternative views on controversial issues of public importance that a station has chosen to broadcast.

The judge reminded the station that "the American people own the broadcast frequencies." The broadcasters, he declared, "are authorized to use them for the service of the public interest, convenience, or necessity."

WGCB AM-FM of Red Lion, Pa., had instituted the lawsuit as the outgrowth of a broadcast made in 1964 over its facilities by radical right preacher Billy

James Hargis. Hargis attacked Fred J. Cook, author of a book critical of Barry Goldwater.

Cook asked the station for the opportunity to reply and was told he would have to pay for the time or sign a statement that he was unable to pay.

Cook refused and complained to the FCC, which ordered that free time be given without any demonstration of inability to pay. The station filed suit.

The court also rejected the argument that the FCC should determine the truth or falsity of charges made against an individual before ordering that answering time be given.

"The basic concept of free speech is unfettered by any requirement that it be expressed only by those with a 'right' viewpoint," Judge Tamm said.

"I find in the fairness doctrine," he concluded, "a vehicle completely legal in its origin which implements by the use of modern technology the 'free and general discussion of public matters (which) seems absolutely essential for an intelligent exercise of their rights as citizens.'"

The fairness doctrine has been used with increasing frequency in recent years by liberal, labor, church and consumer groups in reaction to station editorials and radical right broadcasters.

## LEGISLATIVE NOTES

### Law Bans Bias in Apprenticeship Programs Now

AB 490, Ralph, which makes willful discrimination in recruitment or apprenticeship programs on the basis of race, sex, creed, or national origin a misdemeanor, has been signed by the Governor.

Violators may be punished by a fine of up to \$1,000 or six months imprisonment or both.

SB 1470, Harmer, a measure which would have prevented the state Fair Employment Practices Commission from bringing its own complaints of job discrimination has been defeated in the Senate.

The Senate has concurred in Assembly amendments to a bill (SB 394) to permit retired teachers to earn up to \$2,200 in outside work each year instead of only \$1,800.



# Reagan Budget Calls For Biggest Tax Hike Ever

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Reagan Administration, means that patients at the DeWitt State Hospital near Auburn, for example, will now only get two hot meals a day.

- \$5,964,243 more from the University of California budget, reducing the UC budget to \$251.5 million including a one-year windfall of \$20.7 million in special regents' funds which previously had been collected one year and spent the next on various research and development efforts.

This leaves the UC budget \$12.5 million below the \$264 million revised budget the regents had sought and \$26.5 million below the regents' original budget request of \$278 million.

The impact of the Governor's attack on the state's free higher education system was reflected this week with the disclosure that full-time student registration for the 1967 Fall term is now estimated at 85,250, two percent less than this year's 87,000 and far below the 97,000 anticipated earlier for the 1967 Fall term.

This will mark the first decline in UC enrollment in 10 years.

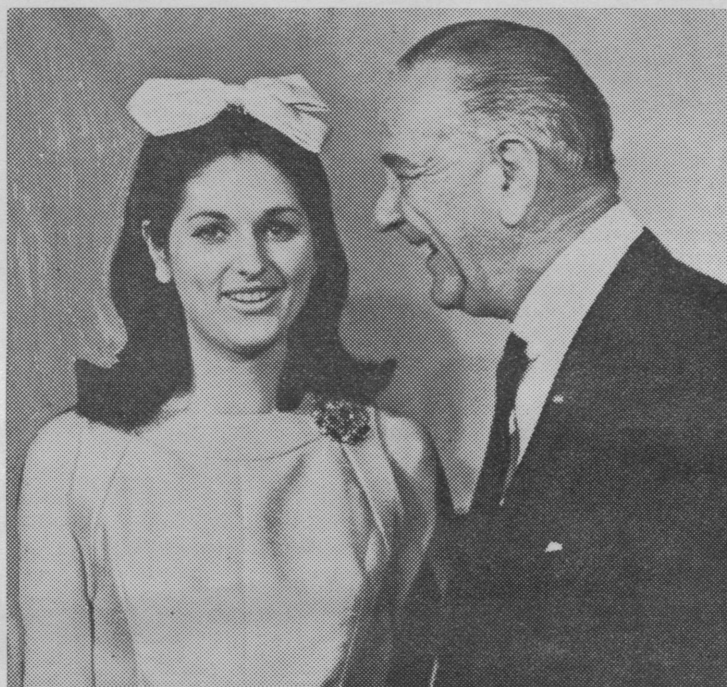
The Governor also blue penciled \$3,388,435 from the state college budget and deleted \$65,000 from the state Department of Agriculture's milk inspection program and \$18,373 from the State Public Utilities Commission's budget.

The office of Consumer Counsel, while not totally obliterated, was reduced from a budget level of about \$111,000 to \$31,000, a sum that merely permits the office to exist in name only.

Governor Reagan also cut out \$750,000 budgeted for a Governor's mansion saying:

"I think the people of California would rather do this on a voluntary basis."

Does this suggest that we ought to have a Governor's mansion made of building blocks reading: "Contributed by Such and Such Corporation" instead of one "Built by the People of the State of California"?



**PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR**—Louise M. Pescetta of 4230 Terrace Street, Oakland, is congratulated by President Johnson at a White House ceremony on being chosen one of the nation's 1967 Presidential Scholars—an honor bestowed on only two of the outstanding graduates of secondary schools in each state. The President urged the scholars to "get involved" and pointed out that their generation will have to help determine if "we live or die, whether we have peace or war." Miss Pescetta is the daughter of Francesco B. Pescetta, who has been a member of Sheetmetal Workers Local 216 since 1940. She was first in her class of 600 at Technical High and plans to become a linguist. She is the fourth Presidential Scholar from a family in which the father is a member of the AFL-CIO Sheetmetal Workers' union. Each winner received a special medalion in recognition of their scholastic accomplishments.

## John Burton Wins State COPE Backing for S.F. Senate Seat

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help assure John Burton's election," Pitts said.

Assemblyman Burton has consistently supported the workers' interests, been in the forefront of the fight for consumer interests, and co-authored legislation subsequently enacted to protect car owners from arbitrary cancellation of their insurance policies," Pitts noted.

Moreover, he added, Assemblyman Burton has:

- Saved the city's taxpayers \$3 million by a foresighted amendment to the state's Medicare Act;
- Protected the senior citizen's right to the full boost recently authorized in social security benefits; and,
- Fought successfully to as-

sure that workers hurt on the job get the full benefits they're entitled to promptly.

"This is the kind of public interest representation voters must demand of a candidate for the California State Senate and it is why it's in the best interests of San Francisco voters to elect John Burton," Pitts said.

Burton's endorsement by the 35-member State COPE Executive Council, which represents more than a million AFL-CIO union members in the state, was taken on the recommendation of the San Francisco Labor Council's Committee on Political Education whose delegates recently voted by an overwhelming 86 percent margin for Burton's endorsement. A 66 2/3 percent margin is required for endorsement.

# NLRB Finds KPOL Guilty of Unfair Practices

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their right to respect picket lines.

The NLRB also directed the station to offer the five discharged employees — four announcers and one newsman — their jobs back.

The Board's decision means that AFTRA will again be certified as bargaining agent for the station's employees. A final ballot count has been delayed for over a year pending the NLRB's ruling on the eligibility of the discharged men.

In announcing its decision in Washington, the NLRB said:

"This case provides a glaring illustration of the impact of (discharging striking workers) who exercised their protected right to strike."

Prior to commencement of the strike, KPOL's station manager Frederick Custer told the union that although substantial automation was planned at the station there would be no loss of jobs.

After the strike began and the station discharged the five employees, the company had argued that the strike was costly to the company and that economic conditions had made it necessary to discharge them.

Pointing out that "it is in the nature of a strike to threaten disruption of business, and to produce adverse publicity, all potentially costly to an employer," the Board declared:

"To permit employers to plead economic justification for discharging strikers because the strike removed the incentive for withholding the discharges would permit, in practical effect, out-and-out retaliatory discharges.

"Employers could promptly discharge striking employees, even informing them they lost their jobs because they went on strike, and still not violate" the law if such were the case, the Board observed.

Delegates to the national AFL-CIO's convention in San Francisco in 1965 adopted a resolution denouncing KPOL's management and pledging the labor movement's full support to the strike.