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Executive Secretary-Treasurer
151 THOS. L. PITTS

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Medi-Cal Bills Die But Solons OK Redistricting

Acting just prior to the State Supreme Court's midnight Dec. 6 deadline, the state legislature this week narrowly approved a compromise bill reapportioning California's 38 congressional districts to bring them in line with the U.S. Supreme Court's historic "one-man, one-vote" decision.

But the lawmakers rejected two Republican-sponsored measures sought by the state administration to give Governor Reagan a free hand in slashing Medi-Cal services.

The Medi-Cal bills, both introduced by Senator Clair W. Burgener (R-San Diego), were

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Board to Police Job Agencies Is Appointed

Governor Reagan's concept of government by businessmen moved a step further toward realization this week when he named the seven members of the newly created California Advisory Board of the Bureau of Employment Agencies.

The Board, created by a bill authored by Assemblyman Robert E. Badham (R-Newport Beach) in the 1967 legislature, consists of four employment agency industry representatives and three public members.

The bill, AB 466, which was opposed by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, stripped

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Protest Reagan's Raid On Aged, Blind, Pitts Urges

Protests to a so-called technical amendment to the 1967 Social Security bill requested by Governor Ronald Reagan that would totally exclude hundreds of thousands of California's aged and blind public assistance recipients from any part of the \$7.50 a month increase currently on the verge of congressional approval and permit the state's general fund to pocket \$34 million of the more than \$37 million the state

would receive were urged by State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts this week.

"The Reagan-requested amendment boils down to a heartless attempt to fatten the state's coffers at the expense of more than 304,000 aged and blind citizens and would slash the increase in benefits to another 115,000 disabled citizens from \$4.50 per month to just \$2.50 a month," Pitts said.

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Fed Hits Meat Chain's Effort To Use Schools To Break Strike

An attempt by Alpha-Beta Markets and possibly other stores in Southern California to recruit college students to break the strike of 10,000 meat cutters who are fighting merely for a voice in the implementation of automotive techniques that vitally affect their jobs was denounced as

"morally reprehensible" by State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts today.

Pitts said he had learned the management of the chain market had sent a list of the names, addresses and phone numbers of the placement directors of 25 colleges and universities in the region to each of its store managers urging

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Cancer Society Unit Called Anti-Union

"Despite the fact that the American Cancer Society (California Division) has thousands of dollars of surplus," it has failed to pay prevailing union wage rates in the San Francisco

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Building Trades in Stand Against Bias

Bal Harbour, Fla.—Delegates from AFL-CIO Building Trades unions throughout the nation voted unanimously here that "we wholeheartedly support apprenticeship programs and selection procedures which are

nondiscriminatory, uniform and fair."

Members of 18 unions representing 3.5 million tradesmen in the U.S. and Canada made it clear that "we oppose and will not tolerate discrimina-

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PROBE SOUGHT

Unionists Asked To Back Striking Copper Workers

Strong support for 22 unions representing striking copper workers is being urged by the AFL-CIO Executive Council.

At a conference of representatives of the unions involved called by Meany in Washington recently, the AFL-CIO President said that the strike was "provoked and perpetuated by major employers whose aims have little to do with the terms of the labor contract."

Meeting as the strike against eight copper firms entered its fifth month without any meaningful resumption of negotiations, the union conferees voted unanimously to urge the U.S. Department of Justice to "launch an immediate investigation of the domestic and international manipulations of these companies that are the root cause of their refusal to bargain."

This week the Executive Council adopted a statement saying:

"... We hereby establish a special Non-Ferrous Metals Strike Fund in the headquarters of the AFL-CIO and ap-

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Yule Shopping?
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Is This Economy Move Real or Just a Ploy?

Two regional offices of the Governor that were opened by Governor Reagan on an experimental basis last January in San Diego and Fresno are to be closed Dec. 31, 1967 "as an economy measure" the Reagan administration announced this week.

Bravely asserting that "no agency, department, board, or commission has been or will be exempt from the economies that Governor Reagan has sought," the state administration release said that the action "will save \$31,325 this year."

Of course, the other side of the coin, is that the state lost about twice that much by opening the apparently unnecessary offices in the first place since the offices were opened last January and will have been in operation nearly a full year before they are closed.

Meany Hails Better Voice for Unions in New Wage Board Setup

Unions will have a bigger voice in setting the wages of the federal government's 800,000 blue collar workers under a new procedure announced by the Civil Service Commission with the approval of President Johnson.

The new coordinated federal wage system was developed in close consultation with a special AFL-CIO committee and Federation Pres. George Meany gave it a strong endorsement.

"Most of the inequities that occurred in the past in the establishment of prevailing wage rates for federal wage board workers will be eliminated by the new program," Meany said.

Salaries of federal white collar, professional and postal employees are set by Congress. But blue collar workers are paid the prevailing rates for their craft in the localities where they work.

Under the present wage board system, each agency determines the prevailing rate on the basis of local wage surveys and its own job grading system—sometimes resulting in different pay scales for employees of

Reagan Names New Board To Oversee Job Agencies

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the State Labor Commissioner's office of the authority to license and police private employment agencies and transferred it to the newly created board which operates under the employer-oriented State Department of Professional and Vocational Standards.

Just what effect the new board will have on the fees private employer agencies charge workers for finding jobs remains to be seen. But the make-up of the board offers scant hope even to eternal optimists that it is likely to improve the services afforded to job seeking workers by private employment agencies or to result in reduction of the sometimes exorbitant fees charged by some of them.

Whether it is another case of foxes being assigned to guard

the henhouse is yet to be determined.

Named as public members were: Charles N. Canning, a Maywood hardware store operator and a Democrat; Mary A. La Cava, a Republican of Encino; and William L. Lyon, a Sacramento Republican who heads a real estate and insurance firm.

The four industry representatives appointed are all Republicans and all operators of private employment agencies. They are: Marguerite D. Young of North Hollywood; Harry A. Prophet of Los Gatos; Harry G. Feil of Sacramento; and William A. Ystad of Newport Beach.

However, in all fairness, it must be pointed out that workers utilizing private employment agencies probably wouldn't be any better off if the authority to police such agencies had remained with the state Labor Commissioner's office.

This is because little more than two months ago, William Hern, whom Governor Reagan named as state Labor Commissioner, announced that he was determined to reverse what he said was a philosophy in his department that has been "pro-workers and anti-employer" for 84 years.

Workers who have been gypped out of their wages should "exhaust their own remedies before asking his office to help," he said.

This indicates that even if the authority to police private employment agencies had remained in Hern's jurisdiction workers who felt they were gypped or misled by private employment agencies would, in all likelihood, have had to hire their own attorney to fight their case instead of being able call on the state agency for protection as they have in the past.

What Kind of Liberty?

"I am not for a return to that definition of liberty under which for many years a free people were being gradually regimented into the service of the privileged few." — Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Credibility Gap?

In commenting on Governor Reagan's Medi-Cal figures at a press conference on Tuesday, December 6, Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh (D-Los Angeles) said:

"On August 16 his (Reagan's) administration came out with a blustering, threatening statement that there was a \$210 million deficit in that program. A little while later that deficit was pared down to \$185 million; and a little later on they said it would be \$71 million. And then finally that dropped to \$51 million. And yesterday one of the administration officials testifying before an Assembly Committee in response to a question by a Republican Chairman said that the program this year actually had a \$30 million surplus in it. Now these are their figures, not ours. Which one are we supposed to believe? Which one would you believe? I think the fact of the matter is that you can't believe any of them."

New Family Budget Seen As Bargaining Goal

The U.S. Labor Dept.'s updated city worker's family budget will be a new collective bargaining target, the AFL-CIO's chief economist predicted in a network radio interview this week.

Only 25 percent of America's families now earn what the Labor Dept. said is needed for a "moderate standard of living" in urban areas, Nathaniel Goldfinger, federation director of research, reported on Labor News Conference. Even then, he asserted, many are able to do so only because they have more than one wage earner in the family or rely heavily on installment buying.

Goldfinger pointed out that the budget, pegged at nearly \$9,200 per year, provides "very few luxuries and amenities," but is still "quite a bit higher" than the average worker's income and national median family income. Unions won't expect to reach the target figure in a single jump, but will build toward it, he said.

Medi-Cal Bills Die But Solons OK Redistricting

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designed, at the Governor's request, to give him more discretion in limiting the scope and effect of Medi-Cal services. They died in the Senate Finance Committee when they failed to receive the seven votes needed to win a "do pass" recommendation.

The Senate committee's action came shortly after Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh (D-Los Angeles) charged that Medi-Cal is "threatened with destruction by an indifferent and unsympathetic administration which has done nothing but criticize and threaten the program even though raising taxes a billion dollars at the same time."

Senate Finance Committee Chairman George Miller, Jr. (D-Martinez) said the Medi-Cal problem would be reconsidered by the committee at 10:00 a.m. January 9, the day after the 1968 regular legislative session is scheduled to begin.

Another measure related to the Medi-Cal controversy authored by Assemblyman John L. Burton (D-San Francisco) that would have authorized an audit of Medi-Cal finances and called on the Governor to restore all Medi-Cal cutbacks already made died in the Republican-controlled Senate Social Welfare Committee.

The congressional reapportionment measure won Senate passage on a 21 to 15 vote and Assembly approval later on Tuesday by a vote of 42 to 35.

The compromise measure, a revision of a bill originally introduced by Assemblyman Jack R. Fenton (D-Montebello) redraws congressional district boundaries so that all but one of the state's 38 congressional districts are within a five percent maximum variation from the "ideal" population average of 413,610.

The only exception is the sprawling 2nd Congressional District which stretches from the Oregon border to the San Bernardino County line. This district would exceed the average by 8.1 percent.

Bldg. Trades Take Solid Stand Against Discrimination

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Delegates to the 54th convention of the AFL-CIO Building & Construction Trades Dept. acted on the subject of hiring practices and apprentice training regulations in two resolutions affirming that:

- The department endorses generally the "principle of affirmative action to assist Negroes and other minority group persons in finding suitable employment" and invites Labor Dept. officials to discuss the matter in depth" with B&CTD representatives "in the hope that sources of conflict may be diminished and a higher degree of cooperation obtained."

- Delegates condemn the use by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance, a Labor Dept. agency, of such a formula as "minority representation in every craft in every phase of the work" on every federal building project. Such formulas are "often impossible of fulfillment and destructive of working conditions and performance standards."

- The construction unions call on contractors to join in opposing such "unrealistic approaches and unsound formulas which could destroy the efficiency and flexibility of an industry which historically has met the needs of the country in war and peace" and "can continue to meet those needs totally and without discrimination."

LABOR OBJECTIONS

A convention committee drafted a resolution detailing labor's objections to proposed regulations for federal apprentice training programs which find the unions "guilty before trial" of discriminatory practices, and destroy the voluntary character of training programs supported by Building Trades unions and the contractors who hire their members.

Labor Sec. W. Willard Wirtz, a convention speaker, said he had read the resolution on the proposed changes and "while I don't go along with everything" in the department's list of objections, "I think it is an error" to talk in terms of "one or more Negroes or whites or anybody else as being required" on every single construction job.

AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany,

noting that the federation has a policy against racial discrimination "to which I completely subscribe," said he was "quite sure" the Building Trades Dept. adheres to that policy.

New four-year terms in office were voted without contest for Dept. Pres. C. J. Haggerty and Sec.-Treas. Frank Bonadio, and two-year terms for the department's 10 vice presidents, all top officers of affiliated unions.

In other actions, the convention voted to support the present Administration policy on

Viet Nam but strongly condemned the activities of two government departments—that of the comptroller general for assertedly advising the Atomic Energy Commission and other federal agencies that they need not observe prevailing wage rates set by Wirtz for contractors on federal construction jobs, and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance, which was accused of trying to force hiring quotas for a specified number of minority-group members on contractors and unions.

Pitts Hits Meat Chain's Effort To Use Schools To Break Strike

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them to try to recruit students to work as "amateur meat cutters."

The memorandum to store managers, titled "Operating Under Strike Conditions," clearly pointed out management's total unwillingness to bargain in good faith, he said. It said:

"We may be in for a long strike!

"If you have not already done so, you should plan now to recruit, train and organize a staff on the assumption that it will be a long one. Your District Manager and your Meat Supervisor will work with you to get the job done.

"One good source of manpower is our colleges and junior colleges. Yesterday, the placement people at a representative group of colleges were contacted by your Personnel Department. Attached is a list of the colleges contacted, along with telephone numbers and names of the placement officers who have agreed to cooperate with you.

"School is still in session, necessitating part-time schedules for the time being, but we are rapidly approaching the holiday recess. There are already scores of people in our business who have become good amateur meat cutters since the beginning of the strike two weeks ago.

"Upon your request, the

placement officers will refer young men to you, some of whom may be available in the mornings."

"Such action is clearly in violation of this nation's commitment to free collective bargain," Pitts said.

Pitts said he had called on both Max Rafferty, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Glenn Dumke, Chancellor of California's state colleges, to urge them to advise college personnel directors "to reject out of hand this gross strikebreaking technique."

"What kind of a Christmas present would it be to the families of 10,000 Southern California meat cutters to discover that the very institutions they pay taxes to support may be suddenly utilized by selfish special interests as recruiting agencies for short-term personnel to help destroy their jobs?" he asked.

"The meat cutters are fighting merely for a voice in the implementation of automated techniques that vitally affect their jobs.

"Moreover, all consumers who prefer their meats freshly cut instead of pre-packaged and preserved in nitrogen have a vital stake in the meat cutters' strike," Pitts added.

The labor dispute, which began November 5, involves six locals of the AFL-CIO Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union of North America in southern California, namely, Locals 229, 421, 439, 551, 556 and 587.

Protest Reagan's Raid On Aged, Blind, Pitts Urges

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In view of the mail logjam created by the Christmas season, Pitts urged all local unions and central bodies to wire or phone Rep. Cecil R. King (D-Los Angeles), a member of the House-Senate Conference Committee currently considering the bill, to urge deletion of the amendment immediately.

"Essentially," Pitts explained, "the Reagan-requested amendment rolls back the date on which the bill's \$7.50 per month federal increase in public assistance benefits could be offset by benefit increases granted in the interim by the state."

Prior to its adoption, the Senate version of the Social Security bill had set the date at December 31, 1966.

But the Reagan-requested amendment which was introduced by Senators Thomas H. Kuchel and George Murphy moved that date back to June 30, 1966, just one day before California's 420,200 aged, blind and disabled aid recipients became eligible for automatic cost-of-living and budgetary benefit increases enacted by the state in 1963 in recognition of the higher cost-of-living in California.

"It has become increasingly apparent that Governor

Reagan or his advisors seem intent on furthering the Governor's personal political ambitions, particularly at the expense of those segments of our citizenry least able to protect themselves, — the poor, the medically indigent, the mentally ill, crippled children and the state's largely unorganized farm workers," Pitts said.

"Most citizens are aware," he added, "that social security benefit increases result in reduced state welfare costs, so all California's taxpayers have a stake in this issue."

Prior to adoption of the Reagan-requested amendment, the Senate version provided that a \$7.50 per month increase in federal public assistance benefits contained in the bill could be offset by benefit increases granted by the states since December 31, 1966.

Even under this version, California's general fund would be entitled to pocket \$22,540,800 of the \$37,818,000 in additional federal funds it would receive annually.

This is because just last week, on December 1, 1967, state benefits were automatically increased by: \$3 a month to the aged; \$4 a month to the blind; and \$3 per month to the disabled.

Cancer Society Unit Anti-Union, Says Union

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area, Local 3 of the AFL-CIO Office and Professional Employees International Union has charged.

In a letter dispatched to AFL-CIO President George Meany to urge that the Society be placed on the National AFL-CIO "We Do Not Patronize" list, the union also said that management of the Cancer Society's California division had also rejected "for no reason" standard union security and job steward clauses.

The union has been seeking a standard 30-day union security clause but the Cancer Society's management wants an open shop, the union said.

Management has also refused the union's request that employees be covered under the California Unemployment Insurance program, it added.

It is now clear, the letter written by Phyllis Mitchell, Business Manager of Local 3, said, "that not only is there an inability to reach agreement on economic matters but there is also a basic anti-union bias on the part of the American Cancer Society representatives in San Francisco."

This is evidenced by "their refusal to grant standard and long-accepted union security, shop steward and similar provisions in the contract," she said.

But by moving the date back to June 30, 1966, the state administration would be able to eliminate any increases for the aged or the blind and to reduce the increase to the disabled from \$4.50 to \$2.50 because of earlier state aid increases.

"This would mean that the state would be able to cancel out the effect of the automatic cost-of-living increases enacted in 1963, pay out only about \$3.4 million in benefits to the disabled and pocket more than \$34.4 million in the state's general fund," Pitts explained.

Since Congress is driving hard toward adjournment, he urged immediate action to protest this "flagrant disregard of the public interest" by wiring Rep. King and Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-Arkansas) chairman of the Joint Conference Committee.

The following is the text of a wire sent by Pitts to Reps. King and Mills on this issue Wednesday:

"Urge deletion of Reagan-requested amendment to social security amendments of 1967 which, by rolling back the date on which benefit increases granted by the state could offset the \$7.50 monthly increase contained in the bill from December 31, 1966 to June 30, 1966, would bar more than 300,000 aged and blind public assistance recipients from any benefit increases under the bill whatsoever and slash the increase for this state's disabled aid recipients from \$4.50 per month to only \$2.50 per month. This amendment would enable California alone to refuse to pass along authorized federal increases to California recipients. State's cost-of-living increase for such recipients was enacted in 1963 in recognition of higher cost of living in California. This amendment would permit state's general fund to pocket \$34 million of the \$37 million in federal funds the state would receive annually ostensibly for California's aged, blind and disabled citizenry."

PROBE SOUGHT

Unionists Asked To Back Striking Copper Workers

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point to head this drive a special committee of this Executive Council. We authorize an initial contribution of \$50,000 from the AFL-CIO itself. We call upon every affiliated national and international union, every state and local central body and every directly affiliated local union to multiply this sum by prompt and generous contributions."

CHARGES LISTED

At the earlier conference, the union conferees charged that the employers want to:

- Exhaust surplus copper supplies in order to create an artificial crisis and bring governmental action "adverse to the interest of the strikers."

- Create a sellers market that will "permit substantial copper price increases when production is resumed."

- Destroy the effectiveness of collective bargaining in the industry by refusing to bargain "on any terms on the cynical pretext of 'fighting inflation' and 'curbing union power'."

"The most obvious evidence that this strike was provoked for ulterior motives is the profit position of the companies," the union representatives said.

PROFITS CITED

Few, if any industries can match their record in profits per employee, yet "the industry for years has held to 19th Century bargaining policies."

Signers of the statement, in addition to Meany, included top officials of the following national and international unions: the Steelworkers; the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; the Plumbers; the Ironworkers; the Operating Engineers; the Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen; the Machinists; the Office and Professional Employees; the United Automobile Workers; the Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers; the Painters; the Mechanics Educational Society; the Boilermakers; the Carpenters; the Railway Carmen; the Chemical Workers; and officials of the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department.