



# California AFL-CIO News

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
THOS. L. PITTS

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## Fed Asks Help To Spread Word On Vet Benefits

Did you know that if you are a veteran training in an approved apprenticeship or other on-the-job training program you may be entitled to a monthly allowance of up to \$100 in addition to your wages under the new GI Bill?

Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, this week urged officers of all AFL-CIO local unions and central bodies to spread the word of the availability of these benefits throughout their membership.

Under the new GI Bill, the Veteran's Pension Readjust-

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## Choice in '68 Is Critical One, Meany Warns

A choice between "liberalism and reaction" confronts the nation in the year ahead and labor must assume a major role if liberalism is to win out, AFL-CIO President George Meany declared in a New Year's statement.

The choice, Meany stressed, will be not only at the Presidential level, but in every congressional district.

There "is no question," he said, that the AFL-CIO must take the lead if the nation is

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## Who's The Loser In Furor Over Top Public Health Post?

Though few people know it, California workers, union and non-union alike, are the big losers in Governor Reagan's refusal to reappoint Dr. Lester Breslow as State Director of Public Health.

This is because Dr. Breslow, who is generally recognized as the top physician in the nation in the field of public health, fought hard for meaningful public health programs that sometimes rubbed selfish special interest groups the wrong way.

For example, just last year Dr. Breslow vigorously opposed a legislative proposal aimed at eliminating the Bureau of Occupational Health in his department.

This bureau, under the aegis of Dr. Breslow, has done pioneer work on the dangers posed by pesticides to manufacturers, farmers, workers and transporters and has sought to provide better means of detecting and treating persons suffering from overexposure to them.

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## 19 \$500 Awards at Stake In Fed Scholarship Tilt

A statewide contest for 19 \$500 scholarships that is open to all public and private high school seniors in California was announced this week by Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. The contest, the Federation's 18th Annual Scholarship

## Mobile Clinic To Aid Farm Workers

A specially outfitted, \$50,000 bus laden with medical equipment, has just been made available to California's embattled farm workers by the AFL-CIO International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

The mobile health clinic is expected to help greatly in find-

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Awards program, is conducted to help broaden public understanding of the American labor movement and at the same time provide assistance toward a college education for outstanding students.

Noting that "as our technological age brings about more complex production, the labor force requires more education for effective life careers," Pitts invited the state's high school seniors to study the history of

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## Legislature To Convene Next Week

The first general session of the California legislature to be held in a general election year convenes in Sacramento Monday faced with a demand for further "economies" by the Reagan administration, a call for tax reform legislation and reports that the Governor's task force may recommend extension of the state sales tax to food items, a move that would hit lower income groups the hardest.

In a year-end report to the people last month, the Governor stated flatly that "many things will have to be curtailed."

To date the administration's

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## Poll Shows Most Favor Withholding

Governor Reagan reiterated his opposition to the use of a withholding system to collect state income taxes at his press conference Tuesday and said that as far as he knows the people of California are also opposed to it.

But the Governor is apparently unaware of a poll conducted by Mervin D. Field of the Field Research Corporation in May 1967 which found Californians almost evenly divided on the

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## Carolina Textile Firm Acts to Rehire Workers Fired in Union Drive

GREENVILLE, S. C.—The law, in the person of the U. S. Supreme Court, finally caught up with J. P. Stevens & Co., Inc., long-defiant textile giant.

Management of the world's second largest textile chain sent notices to 69 workers it fired as long as four years ago that they can come back to work now,

even if they are union members.

Stevens fired the workers, the National Labor Relations Board

found, to smash an organizing drive begun in 1963 by the Textile Workers Union of America. Then it staged a legal fight to

prevent their reinstatement despite orders from the NLRB and U. S. courts of appeals.

Just before Christmas the Supreme Court refused to review a lower court finding that Stevens interfered with the rights of 71 workers "flagrantly, cynically and unlawfully."

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## Fed Asks Help To Spread Word On Vet Benefits

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ment Act of 1967 which was enacted with strong AFL-CIO support, veterans in approved training programs with two or more dependents receive \$100 a month for six months, those with one dependent \$90 and those with no dependents \$80, Pitts explained.

The rate declines during the next six-month training period to \$80 for veterans with two or more dependents, \$70 for one dependent and \$60 for no dependents.

In the third six-month period, the rate drops to \$60 for veterans with two or more dependents, \$50 for one dependent or \$40 for no dependents.

If the training program requires more than 18 months of study, the monthly allowance drops to \$40, \$30 or \$20, respectively, for up to 36 months providing the veteran remains in good standing in the training program.

Charles F. Hanna, Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards of the State Department of Industrial Relations, estimated that nearly 5,000 registered apprentices and several hundred other workers training under Manpower Development and Training Act programs are eligible veterans who could receive such training allowances.

Those who have been in training since before October 1, 1967, the effective date of the new law, could receive retroactive payments to that date if their program was registered and approved by the state during that time.

Under the law, eligible veterans are entitled to one month of training for every calendar month of active service in the Armed Forces served after January 31, 1955.

Further information about such veteran's assistance benefits can be obtained from the Veteran's Administration, the State Division of Apprenticeship Standards, or from veterans employment representatives at California State Employment Service offices throughout the state.

## 19 \$500 Awards at Stake In Fed Scholarship Tilt

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the labor movement, become familiar with its social goals and to look at its economic and political policies.

Regardless of the students' particular career goals, he said, all will be able to participate more effectively in our industrial society by having the fundamental understanding of the role of the labor movement in our democracy that participation in the contest will provide them.

Students intending to compete must submit their applications through their high school principal and all applications must be accompanied by a transcript of the student's four-year high school record. Students should obtain their application forms from the principal of their own high school.

The applications and student transcripts must be received by the Federation no later than **March 8, 1968.**

The two-hour scholarship examination which will cover such areas as the Structure of the AFL-CIO; Labor Movement History; Social Legislation; Political and Economic Problems; Labor Union Programs; and Labor-Management and Government Relations will be held on Friday, April 5, 1968 in each high school where applicants have filed.

Winners will be selected on the basis of the two-hour exam and the student's four-year high school record. The \$500 award will be deposited in the student's name at whatever accredited college he or she chooses. It may be used to pursue a career in any field of knowledge. The awards are not limited only to those interested in a career in organized labor.

In addition to the 19 \$500 awards, certificates of merit will be awarded to the 50 highest students.

Sixteen of the 19 scholarships being offered this year are co-sponsored by the following Federation affiliates:

Butchers Local No. 120, Oakland; Butchers Local No. 498, Sacramento; Carpenters Ladies Auxiliary, California State Council; California Legislative

Board of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; California State Council of Carpenters; California State Council of Culinary Workers, Bartenders and Hotel and Motel Service Employees; California State Council of Lathers—Lloyd A. Mashburn Memorial Scholarship; California State Council of Retail Clerks—Warren G. "Pop" DeSepte Award; Communications Workers of America, Bay Area Council—William G. Gruwell Scholarship; Federated Firefighters of California; Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council; Los Angeles County District Council of Carpenters; Los Angeles District Council of Painters No. 36—Roderick MacKenzie Scholarship Award; Studio Utility Employees Local 724, Hollywood—Henry C. Rohrbach Memorial Scholarship; UAW Local 148, Lakewood—Alex Groulx Scholarship Award; and the Western Federation of Butchers.

The other three scholarships are sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Serving on the judges' panel for the 1968 competition will be:

Frederick A. Breier, Professor of Economics at the University of San Francisco in San Francisco; Leland S. Russell, Chairman of the Joint Study Committee on Vocational Guidance of the California Association of Secondary School Administrators; and Frederick H. Schmidt, Research Specialist of the Center for Labor Research and Education of the Institute of Industrial Relations at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Further information on the competition may be obtained by writing to Education Committee, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer, 995 Market Street, Suite 310, San Francisco, California 94103.

Copies of the six-page brochure announcing the contest have been sent to the principals of all California high schools, to all County, City and District Superintendents of Schools as well as to all Federation affiliates.

## Legislature To Convene Next Week

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economies have hit hardest at the state's mental health, crippled children, Medi-Cal and welfare programs and at social services such as complaints about job hazards and unpaid wages.

A suit charging the Reagan administration with failure to enforce provisions of the state's Labor Code with regard to the payment of wage claims made by union members was filed by the California State Council of Carpenters and the Alameda County Central Labor Council last month and is currently pending before the Superior Court in San Francisco.

Just this week a special safety committee of the Alameda County Central Labor Council charged that a new state policy on safety complaints which became effective after the appointment of a former management man as chief of the State Division of Industrial Safety, requires safety engineers to report complaints to their superiors and await their approval before any action is taken to eliminate hazards.

In the past, unions were able to get immediate action against conditions threatening death or injury to workers and safety engineers could and did call on employers for immediate compliance with safety regulations when hazards were found.

Since enactment of Proposition 1A at the 1966 General Election which, among other things, called for annual sessions of the state legislature, the California Labor Federation has maintained year-round offices in the 11th and L Building at 1127 - 11th Street in Sacramento to keep abreast of legislative developments. The office phone number is 916-444-3676.

The first several weeks of the '68 legislative session are expected to be taken up largely by the Governor's State of the State address, the introduction of bills and by legislative organizational issues such as committee assignments and chairmen.

## Choice in '68 Is Critical One, Meany Warns

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to sustain "the unmatched gains of 1961-1966" and renew "a surge of progress toward the perfection of American life."

"This means," he declared, "the election next November of candidates who share with us the dream of America as it can and should be, and who share our confidence that the dream can be realized."

### FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

Liberalism—"the cause of social justice"—must fight for its survival in the 1968 election just as it has had to do in the past, the AFL-CIO president said, because three conditions prevail:

- **Confusion.** As old issues arrive in new forms their outlines are often blurred, Meany observed. He pointed to the example of civil rights. A clear-cut issue a few years back, it now involves housing, urban renewal, jobs, and much else.

- **Inadequate communications.** Society is growing so fast in size and complexity, Meany noted, that there is an increasing tendency to substitute slogans for logical thought.

- **Apathy.** Millions of Americans do not vote, some because they are lazy or indifferent, but most of them because they are confused, uninformed or discouraged, Meany said.

### WAR A FACTOR

Involved in all three factors, he observed, is the "essential, but unpopular war in Vietnam—a war that is used by both "liberal" appeasers and reactionary jingos as a weapon against domestic progress."

"The overriding task of the AFL-CIO in the months ahead," Meany continued, "is to overcome these three barriers—confusion, poor communications and apathy. . . ."

"We must wage an unremitting attack on confusion, through our publications, through union meetings and every available forum."

"We must combat apathy more effectively than ever before, through our register-and-vote machinery," he declared.

## Textile Firm Acts To Rehire Workers Fired in Union Drive

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That spelled victory for the workers—except one who died and one who left for parts unknown.

TWUA offices in Charlotte, N. C., said the word of top management's decision to throw in the towel spread like a brush fire from mill town to town.

With its biggest roadblock out of the way, the TWUA said

it would launch a new organizing effort in the wake of the court action assuring Stevens workers of their right to form unions of their own choosing.

But the union warned that Stevens' capitulation in one case did not mean a total about-face by the company. It cited three other NLRB decisions against Stevens that await final court rulings. And, it noted, backpay for the wrongfully fired workers has to await months, perhaps years, of tedious backpay hearings.

A union spokesman said total backpay may reach \$1 million. The NLRB will assign an examiner to hold public hearings and then recommend how much should be deducted from backpay for earnings while the fired workers were on layoff. Individual backpay orders may go as high as \$30,000, the TWUA said.

The 2nd U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in the decision upheld by the Supreme Court, wrote that there was no room for doubt of the board's ultimate conclusion:

(The company) "through its plant superintendents acting in collaboration, initiated and pursued a pattern of conduct the purpose of which was to crush the union movement."

"With scant regard for the means employed other than their effectiveness, it interfered with, restrained and coerced its employees in the exercise of their rights under the act, flagrantly, cynically and unlawfully."

### Fire Fighters Protest AF 'Volunteer' Plan

The AFL-CIO Fire Fighters union has officially protested against a U.S. Air Force plan to experiment with the use of volunteer fire fighters recruited from military personnel to protect equipment and buildings.

International President William D. Buck charged that the plan sharply conflicts with Department of Defense policy not to use military personnel in "non-combatant support-type assignments."

## '68 Legislative Roster To Go To Press Soon

As soon as all legislative committees have been named and their meeting schedules posted, the Federation will go to press with its 1968 Roster of California's Legislative Representatives.

The pocket-sized roster provides the district number, name, party affiliation, address, occupation and geographical area represented by California's 38 Congressional representatives, 40 State senators and 80 assemblymen. It also includes the weekly schedule of meetings of the various committees of both the upper and lower house of the State Legislature and the committee assignments of each state legislator.

One copy of the roster will be sent to each Federation affiliate.

Central labor bodies, local unions and other affiliated organizations desiring quantity orders of the 1968 Legislative Roster should direct their inquiries immediately to "Rosters, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, 995 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94103."

All inquiries should specify the additional quantity desired. The cost of the rosters is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$15 per hundred copies.

## Shun Kingsport Press, Resolution Urges

A resolution passed unanimously at the 53rd convention of the Union Label and Service Trades Department strongly endorsed the Kingsport Press boycott and called for renewed efforts by AFL-CIO affiliates to convince school systems—both public and parochial—to stop buying school books produced by Kingsport Press.

The resolution noted that World Book Encyclopedia and Childcraft Series are printed and bound by strikebreakers at the Kingsport, Tenn., plant in the Appalachian area and urged union members not to purchase them.

## Mobile Clinic To Aid Farm Workers

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ing out the true medical needs of the farm worker and also to provide information needed to set up the union's own medical plan for farm workers, Cesar Chavez, Director of the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, said.

It will be used primarily in the southern San Joaquin Valley but also will be routed into the Hollister area and the Napa Valley—all areas where the UFWOC has members working under union contract.

Noting that farm workers presently seldom have the opportunity for physical examinations and that they often lack residential qualifications for available county services, Chavez said the 13-ton mobile clinic will enable the union to bring physical checkups to several thousand union members and their families.

Existing clinic services operated by the UFWOC are staffed by a full-time nurse and volunteer physicians but the clinic is able to see only 20 to 30 patients in the course of a doctor's four to six hour stint.

The mobile clinic comes to Delano from the ILGWU's southeast region where it has ranged for more than ten years from the Carolinas to Florida and Mississippi providing more than 30,000 comprehensive physical examinations to garment workers in that area. At times, the proportion of patients screened who have needed medical attention has run as high as 25 percent, the union said.

# Who's The Loser In Furor Over Top State Public Health Post?

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Dr. Breslow, who was also responsible for initiating work on the adverse effect of excessive environmental noise levels in industry and been one of the principal forces behind the drive to curb air pollution, succeeded in salvaging the existence of the bureau but the legislature, faced with the Reagan Administration's free-swinging economy ax, slashed the bureau's program by 30 percent.

So if a factory or farm worker, a teamster or a farmer or manufacturer or a dozen of them die during the next year or two from overexposure to pesticides no one will ever know whether their lives might have been saved if this program had not been slashed.

Just last Sunday Lawrence Arnstein, the 87-year-old dynamo generally known as "Mr. Public Health" of California for his exemplary work in the health and welfare field, denounced Governor Reagan's refusal to reappoint Dr. Breslow as wholly "political."

In breaking a self-imposed 50-year-old rule against commenting on gubernatorial appointments, Arnstein, now executive director of the San Francisco Social Hygiene and Health Association who has been credited with persuading the legislature to establish the school of Public Health at the University of California in 1943, said the only reason Dr. Breslow was not reappointed was because he is not a Republican.

Yet, Arnstein observed:

"Dr. Breslow is the outstanding public health expert in the country. His national stature was just recognized when he was named President-Elect of the American Public Health Association, the highest honor that can be bestowed in the field."

Dr. Breslow has also been awarded the Mary and Albert Lasker Award, one of the highest awards a physician can win in the field of general medicine as well as public health.

In announcing Dr. Breslow's resignation late last month, William P. Clark, the Governor's executive secretary, attributed the resignation to "basic philosophical differences" between Dr. Breslow and the Reagan Administration. But he con-

ceded that Dr. Breslow had been "very cooperative with the Administration."

Commenting on the "philosophical differences" that Dr. Breslow may have had with the Governor over the conduct of the state's health program, Arnstein said:

**"I am shocked at an administration that would cut 100 separate categories of aid to crippled children."**

**"I am shocked that the Governor would refuse eyeglasses and hearing aids to children starting to school, thus creating a whole new generation of dependent illiterates."**

Long one of the most stalwart champions of the state's once nationally famous program of Aid to Crippled Children, Arnstein said he understands that "additional cuts in crippled children's services are being mapped out by the Reagan administration."

The Crippled Children's program, already "seriously curtailed," brought care to some 50,000 children a year many of whom might otherwise have become wards of the state for the rest of their lives, he said.

Pointing out that until last year "New York and California had the nation's best health departments," Arnstein noted that "Governor Rockefeller, instead of cutting back, is increasing appropriations for public health."

Governor Reagan's "narrow approach to our mounting problems means we are going to lose out in every area, including recruiting forward-looking public health men," Arnstein warned.

Long a very successful businessman himself, Arnstein charged that the "savings" so often mentioned by Reagan are in fact long-term extravagances.

Arnstein, who also serves as a consultant and advisor to the State Health Department, won acclaim from the University of California last year when they awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree and cited him as "a most extraordinary political catalyst in the development of California's major public health and welfare program."

Noting that he has done his work quietly for 52 years, Arnstein declared:

**"But now I must speak out**

**because I feel we have come upon sad and dangerous times in which dollars are more important than humans."**

Since Dr. Breslow's resignation became evident, three other top men in the State Health Department have resigned to accept other positions and others are understood to be planning to resign shortly.

Arnstein said that he was "in a position to know that four of the Governor's top Republican advisors urged the retention of Dr. Breslow." The fact that Dr. Breslow was nonetheless compelled to resign because of what the Administration called "philosophical differences" tends to confirm Arnstein's charge that Dr. Breslow's departure was strictly "political."

During his campaign for the state's highest office, Reagan pledged that he would "make all appointments to state offices on the basis of experience and qualifications, and not on the basis of personal loyalties or political obligations."

How does that pledge sound now? Solid or hollow?

## Field Poll Showed Most Favor Withholding Setup

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issue with a slight edge in favor of it.

The issue, likely to loom large in the regular legislative session opening in Sacramento next Monday, boils down to something akin to what trade unionists refer to as "free riders"—people who like to accept all the wage and fringe benefits won by union members but who balk, if possible, at paying their fair share of the cost of the negotiations, arbitrations, etc., necessary to win such benefits.

In the tax field such a situation applies to thousands of workers who enjoy state services for anywhere from a few months to a year or more but then move out-of-state without paying their state income taxes.

Use of the withholding system would result in no increase in taxes except for those who are presently failing to pay the state income taxes they owe.

State estimates indicate that adoption of a withholding system would generate about \$90

million in added revenue and that about half of this sum—about \$45 million—would otherwise escape collection due to conscious or unconscious evasion.

Other things being equal that means that California tax payers are paying a \$45 million tab in state services for transient workers in all fields which, with withholding, they would not have to pay.

The other half of the increase in state revenues through the withholding system would result from the acceleration factor involved in the personal income tax itself. Due to the elasticity of the progressive income tax, a withholding system would provide the state with a portion of the money derived from the state's economic growth at an earlier date than at present.

Interestingly, last year's Field Poll, which found 47 percent in favor of withholding and 44 percent opposed, disclosed that 48 percent of those

with incomes under \$5,000 favored withholding and only 36 percent opposed.

In the \$5,000 to \$6,999 bracket, 52 percent favored it and 45 percent opposed.

This suggests that even if those in the lower income tax brackets favor the idea of taxes "hurting" they don't want them to hurt so much that they have to go to finance companies to get the funds to pay their taxes every year.

In the upper brackets the poll found that 49 percent of those in the \$15,000 a year and over bracket opposed withholding taxes while only 43 percent favored it.

In short, the Field Poll made it pretty clear that while the lower income groups favor withholding taxes, it's a preponderance of the rich that really oppose the idea.

And there should be little wondering about the "why" of that—after all, they aren't in the same tight financial bind that most of the rest of us are.