



California AFL-CIO News

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer
THOS. L. PITTS

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Labor At the Legislature

From the Capitol Office
Of the Executive Secretary

Your personal contact with your Assemblyman for a "yes" vote on AB 426 is extremely important. The "professional strikebreaker bill" is coming up in the Assembly Industrial Relations Committee at 1:30 p.m. on April 1. This is of the highest urgency to every union member in California. The use of professional strikebreakers is a constant threat to your jobs, delaying or preventing fair settlement of disputes. They are a source of violence and trouble not only to Labor but to the entire community. Contact your Assemblyman at once for a "Yes" vote.

* * *

Also coming up in Industrial Relations Committee on April 1 is a "Bad" bill, AB 756, by Veysey. This would require wage boards to consider "the economic condition of the industry, the ability of employers to pay and the effect on the industry" when making recommendations to the Industrial Welfare Commission on wages, hours and working conditions for women and minors. This is a direct attack on protections built up over the years for these workers. AB 756 would lead to the exploiting of women and children. It should be defeated soundly.

* * *

SB 425 is a "Bad" bill which requires special attention. On the surface, it appears a simple matter of giving local government greater "home rule." Because the wording of the bill is so broad and unclear, it could be interpreted to give city councils and boards of supervisors

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Hundreds Due At COPE Parley In S.F. April 10

Hundreds of delegates from AFL-CIO unions throughout the state are expected to be on hand at the San Francisco Hilton Hotel on Wednesday, April 10, when the California Labor Council on Political Education holds its pre-primary endorsement convention.

The delegates will act on the endorsement of candidates for the U. S. Senate seat presently held by Republican Senator Thomas H. Kuchel as well as on the recommendations made by local and district COPEs throughout the state for candidates for the 38 congressional and 100 state legislative seats at stake in the primary election on June 4.

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Meany Stresses Need For Strong Safety Law

"Every year thousands of workers die slow, often agonizing deaths from the effects of coal dust, asbestos, beryllium, lead, cotton dust, carbon monoxide, cancer-causing chemicals, dyes, radiation, pesticides and exotic fuels." So testified AFL-CIO President George Meany in

Parley to Beef Up Labor Alliance

A special one-day conference to explore the common goals shared by the Mexican-American community and organized labor will be held at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles on Saturday, April 20.

The conference, sponsored by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, will feature add-

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FLASH -- URGENT Contact Your Assemblyman

AB 426 is the Federation's professional strikebreakers bill.

AB 542 is the Reagan administration's anti-Labor bill. Both are coming before the Assembly Industrial Relations' Committee Monday, April 1, at 1:30 p.m.

All members of labor and officers: It is urgent that you contact your Assemblyman for a "YES" vote on AB 426. AND a "NO" vote on AB 542. This is of the greatest importance to labor in California.

Fed Hits PTT Bid For Millions More

The Pacific Telephone Company was accused by the State AFL-CIO this week of using "contrived subtlety" to boost its initial demand for a \$181 million hike in revenues to \$213 million.

The situation came to light when the California Labor

Federation filed its rebuttal brief in the marathon phone rate hike hearings with the State Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco Tuesday.

While conceding that the Pacific Phone Company "is currently earning too little," the State AFL-CIO maintains that the 7.5 to 8.5 percent rate hike initially sought by the company is far too high.

Instead, the labor organization maintained that the company should be authorized a \$30 million revenue increase,

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Youth Wins Hire Disabled Contest

Barry M. Meyers, an enterprising 17-year-old senior at Palm Springs High School in Palm Springs is the statewide winner of the 1968 Ability Counts Writing Contest sponsored by the Governor's Committee for the Employment of the Handicapped.

Barry, the judges' unanimous choice, wins a \$100 cash prize plus an expense-paid trip to

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Hundreds Due At COPE Parley In S.F. April 10

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Elections are scheduled in all 80 Assembly Districts but in only the 20 odd-numbered Senatorial Districts.

In the U. S. Senate race, incumbent Senator Kuchel's principal opponent in the Republican primary is State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Max Rafferty. Three other candidates, James A. Ware and W. C. Jones, both of Los Angeles and Phil Cammack, of Santa Monica, have also filed nomination papers for the Republican nomination.

On the Democratic side, six candidates have been certified by the Secretary of State's office as of press time, including former State Controller Alan Cranston, State Senator Anthony Beilenson, and State Public Utilities Commissioner William M. Bennett. Other Democratic candidates include Walter R. (Buck) Buchanan of Venice; Charles Crail of Los Angeles and William Morosoff of Sherman Oaks.

In addition it was understood that some candidates had filed under the banner of the Peace and Freedom Party and the American Independent Party. But their nomination papers had not been processed by the Secretary of State's office at press time.

In issuing the convention call last month Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of California Labor COPE, stressed the need for energetic registration and get-out-the-vote programs in all local COPE jurisdictions and warned that:

"If the conservatives make major gains at the polls, the cost to the labor movement will be immense. The conservatives and their backers in the business community are already striving to apply anti-trust laws to labor; to prohibit industry-wide bargaining; to dismantle the NLRB; and to impose national compulsory 'open shop' law."

The deadline for receipt of resolutions and proposed amendments to the constitution was last Tuesday except for

Palm Springs Youth Wins Hire Disabled Essay Tilt

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Washington, D. C. and a chance to compete for additional prizes totaling \$2,500.

To promote recognition of the fact that it is ability, not disability that counts, the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, provides the statewide winner each year with round-trip air fare to the nation's capitol plus \$100 in spending money. This is in addition to the winner's \$100 award.

Barry is the son of Jack Meyers of 325 West Vista Chino, Palm Springs, who was long a staunch member of Retail Clerks Locals 1144 in Santa Monica and 1167 in Colton prior to his retirement two years ago. The youth's essay reflected considerable initiative.

How He Did It

First he drafted a 17-point questionnaire and distributed it by hand to 165 employers in the Palm Springs community. After two months of almost steady plugging, he had 92 questionnaires returned or 56 percent.

In drafting his essay, he coupled the results of his survey with his interview of a man who lost an arm while working on a dam project but who is now, as Barry described him, "a one-armed daredevil who has one of the most dangerous jobs in the world."

Barry concluded his essay saying:

"If nothing else, this survey

those approved by regularly constituted and affiliated statewide organizations at conventions or conferences held during the 15 days preceding the convention which must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer not later than 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, 1968.

Resolutions must be presented in triplicate and bear either the signature of an executive officer or the seal of the affiliated organization introducing it.

A meeting of the COPE Executive Council and its Advisory Committee will be held the day before the convention, on Tuesday, April 9, at which all U. S. Senate candidates will be invited to appear for interviews.

has given me insight into the capabilities of the handicapped. I'm constantly amazed at the obstacles which they overcome daily. The business people of this community show a positive attitude toward the problem at hand. Only through the work of this Committee has so much been accomplished. The fight is not over. Forty-nine percent surveyed feel prejudice restricts job opportunities. These people are the next target.

"My generation is next in line to fill the needs of the business world. It's our job to make sure that prejudice is not a handicap."

To Leave May 1

Barry and his father plan to leave for Washington on May 1 to participate in the national awards ceremony of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped scheduled May 2 and 3. While there, they will be entertained by a luncheon and tour by the National AFL-CIO.

The contest, open to juniors and seniors in public and private high schools throughout the state, was judged by Albin Gruhn, President of the California Labor Federation; Dr. Glenn S. Dumke, Chancellor of the California State College system; and Dr. Sidney L. Gulick, Dean of Arts and Sciences at San Diego State College.

Restaurateur Named To Welfare Board

Stanton D. Elliott, a wholesale food supplier and restaurateur, has been named to a four-year term on the State Industrial Welfare Commission by Governor Ronald Reagan.

Elliott, 47, replaces Norman S. Lezin of Santa Cruz whose term expired. Elliott, a Republican, was a Eureka area dairy owner from 1947 to 1954 when he founded Fresh Freeze Enterprises which operates 7 restaurants and a wholesale food supply business.

WHERE IT BEGINS

"Freedom of contract begins where equality of bargaining power begins."—U. S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Labor at the Legislature

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authority to enact ordinances for "right-to-work" and other anti-labor restrictions. Such local option is a real evil. On this basis, SB 425 should be defeated. The bill is before the Senate Judiciary Committee and is a back door to "right-to-work."

* * *

AB 542, proposed by Governor Reagan, is a "Bad" bill, strongly opposed by the California Labor Federation. It imposes an outside influence—government bureaucracy—in labor disputes on the side of management. This interference with collective bargaining should not be allowed. Alert your Assemblyman that you favor a "No" vote on AB 542.

* * *

Be sure to contact your Assemblymen and Senators when they are home for the Easter recess, April 5 to April 15. Consult the Federation "Digest of Bills." Know, by number and subject, what bills the California Labor Federation is sponsoring, which bills are classified "Good" and which are tagged "Bad." Make your wishes on these bills clear to your legislators and find out what their stand is on them. If there is any question on any legislation, contact the California Labor Federation Sacramento office, Room 216, Eleventh and L Building, Sacramento 95818, telephone (916) 444-3676.

Callahan Renamed To Insurance Board

M. R. Callahan, Executive Secretary emeritus of the California State Council of Culinary Workers, Hotel & Motel Service Employees and a Vice President of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, has been reappointed to a four-year term on the Board of Directors of the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

Callahan, who has served on the SCIF board since 1958, is a former president of the Long Beach Central Labor Council.

DIGEST OF BILLS

*Sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
No bill may be taken up until 30 days after the date of introduction indicated in Digest, except by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote..

Key to Symbols

CR Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
DI Disability Insurance
EA Employment Agencies, Private
ED Education
EL Elections
HO Housing
IN Insurance (Incl. H & W)

LC Labor Code Changes, General
LI Liens, Attachments & Writs
LS Labor Unions, Special
LU Labor Unions, General
MI Miscellaneous
PH Public Health
RE Recreation

S Industrial Safety
SL State & Local Government
TA Taxation
TR Training & Retraining
UI Unemployment Insurance
WC Workmen's Compensation
WP Water and Power

The bills are classified "Good," "Watch," "Bad" and "N.C." With respect to the classification, "N.C.," the proposed legislation is class or special legislation, and the Digest is printed with the information printed for our affiliates who are involved, but the bill is not classified "Good," "Watch" or "Bad" since we defer to the classification by the affected affiliates.

SENATE BILLS

SB 627 Bradley (Ins. & F.I.) Prohibits use of testimony of any party or testimony or other evidence based upon his declarations or statements as evidence in his behalf in any case in which such party has knowingly testified falsely concerning any material fact relating to proof of his claim. March 18.

WC—Bad

SB 633 Dolwig (Ins. & F.I.) States intent of Legislature to be that the unemployment compensation disability benefits received by no less than 75 percent of the individuals under the schedule specifying weekly disability benefits amounts based on wages received in an employee's base period should be at a weekly benefit amount based on the amount of wages paid to such individuals during their base period, without limitation by the highest amount of wages paid in the base period set forth in such schedule specifying weekly disability benefit amounts, and that the highest amount of wages in the base period set forth in such schedule should be increased with corresponding increases in the weekly disability benefit to accomplish this result.

Requires workers to make unemployment compensation disability insurance contributions with respect to wages paid to such worker by his employer at rate specified by Director of Employment; provides that contributions shall not be required on wages paid to a worker in a calendar year by his employer above the amount of wages required in the worker's disability base period to qualify for the maximum weekly disability benefit amount.

Requires Director of Employment to promulgate and publish, on or before November 30 of each year, the unemployment compensation disability insurance employee contribution rate for wages paid in the next calendar year commencing with the 1970 calendar year; sets minimum and maximum contribution rate.

Requires "disability base period" for disability benefits for an individual who has an unexpired benefit year for unemployment benefits to be the same as the base period which was used to establish such benefit year, if the Director of Employment determines that using such unexpired benefit year for the claimant's disability base period will result in the claimant receiving benefits in an amount the same or greater than those benefits which would be received if the base period is established in the same manner as established for an individual who does not have an unexpired benefit year.

Increases the total amount of disability benefits payable to an individual during one disability benefit period from 50 to 80 percent of the wages paid to such individual during his base period.

Changes schedule for determining weekly disability benefit amounts to utilize entire base period rather than highest quarter in base period and increases the maximum weekly benefit amount to \$89.

Includes Christian Scientist sanatoriums as hospitals for purposes of hospital benefit program.

Requires the director to maintain, at the end of each calendar year, a reserve balance in the Disability Fund in an amount based upon specified factors.

Requires director to maintain an extended insurance account in the

BILLS RECLASSIFIED

SB 440 — Moscone, to bar the use of state or public junior college property for exhibiting motion pictures for which admission fees are charged, and **SB 576 — Rodda**, to exempt motion picture machine operators under certain conditions from liability for exhibiting obscene matter, have both been reclassified from **LS—N.C.** to **LS—Good** at the request of Federation affiliates.

SCA 9 — Alquist was amended March 20, 1968 and would now authorize the legislature to delegate such powers relating to government and operations of public schools to the governing boards of school districts as the legislature sees fit. This measure has been reclassified from **ED—Watch** to **ED—Bad**.

Disability Fund to be charged with benefits paid persons whose employment had terminated or were in noncovered employment when disability commenced and administrative expense of payment. Requires determination by director each year of estimated amounts to be charged to account in ensuing year and publishing of percentage of taxable wages necessary to produce sufficient revenues therefor.

Requires each voluntary plan to pay into the Disability Fund to the credit of the extended insurance account the percentage of taxable wages paid to employees covered by such plan for each calendar year as published by the director for such year.

Deletes as a requirement for the approval of the director of a voluntary plan that such approval will not result in a substantial selection of risks adverse to the Disability Fund.

Requires the director to assess insured voluntary plans on a prescribed pro rata basis in any year in which the rate of employee contributions is the maximum permitted by law and the total liability of the Disability Fund for claims of persons whose disabilities commenced in that year, exclusive of claims charged to the extended insurance account, exceeds the net revenues of the Disability Fund for such year; authorizes the director to provide, by regulation, for advance payment of assessment liability; prohibits the assessment for any calendar year from exceeding that percentage of taxable wages covered by a voluntary plan for such year represented by the difference between the published rate of employee contributions for such year and 1 percent.

Deletes inconsistent provisions. March 18.

DI—Bad

SB 637 Cusanovich (Pub.H. & S.) Prohibits service, offer for sale, sale or giving away of food cooked or prepared on a mobile unit, other than food cooked or prepared in its original unopened packaging, except at prescribed functions or events.

Requires food arranged on a mobile unit for self-service to the public to be wrapped or packaged so as to be protected from contamination and to bear a label containing the name and place of business of the manufacturer or packager, and the common or usual name of the food. March 19.

LS—N.C.

SENATE BILLS (Cont'd)

SB 639 Deukmejian (Gov. Eff.) Provides that when certain attaches of municipal court are assigned to serve a municipal court judge sitting as a superior court judge, they shall receive same salary as comparable personnel of superior court. March 19. **LS—N.C.**

SB 663 Danielson (Jud.) Makes it unlawful in connection with a retail installment contract or conditional sale contract, under designated circumstances, to make or disseminate or cause to be made or disseminated before the public any representation that Spanish is spoken or any representation conveying, or likely to convey, the impression of willingness to negotiate in whole or in part in Spanish, unless the contracts, obligations or other forms used in connection with negotiations which are in fact carried out in whole or in part in Spanish, are set out in both English and Spanish. March 20. **MI—Good**

SB 667 Moscone (Lab.) Deletes provision permitting operation of portable and mobile internal combustion engines in enclosed structures without certified exhaust purifier device where operation does not result in harmful exposure to concentrations of dangerous gases or fumes in excess of maximum acceptable concentrations. March 20. **S—Watch**

SB 669 Schmitz (Ed.) Prohibits administering to pupil in kindergarten or grades 1 through 12, inclusive, a test, questionnaire, survey, or examination containing any question about the pupil's, or his parents' or guardians', beliefs or practices in sex, family life, morality and religion, unless the parent or guardian is notified in writing at least 48 hours before such test, questionnaire, survey, or examination is administered. Provides that no such test, questionnaire, survey, or examination shall be given to such pupil if the parent or guardian has previously filed with the school district a written objection to such test, questionnaire, survey, or examination. March 21. **ED—Watch**

SB 671 Kennick (Pub.H. & S.) Authorizes Commission of Housing and Community Development to adopt such regulations for the construction and occupancy of mobile-homes which are required to be moved under permit, as it determines are reasonably necessary in order to protect the health and safety of the occupants and the public. Requires such regulations to be consistent with nationally recognized standards for the construction of mobilehomes. Requires that any mobilehome which a state has approved as meeting its standards for construction and occupancy be deemed to meet the standards of the Department of Housing and Community Development, if the Commission of Housing and Community Development determines such state's standards are being enforced. Adds mobilehomes which meet these standards to those mobilehomes which shall not be required to comply with any local regulations prescribing requirements on the same subject matter.

Permits the plumbing, heat-producing or electrical equipment and installation in any approved mobilehome to be altered or converted if performance is in compliance with commission regulations, rather than requiring prior departmental approval. March 21. **HO—Watch**

SB 673 Dolwig (Rev. & Tax.) Provides a deduction for the dividends received by a corporation from any corporation including a bank or corporation exempt from the Bank and Corporation Tax Law, if at the end of the day on which the dividends are received, such corporations are members of one or more chains of corporations linked by holdings of at least 50 percent of the voting and nonpreferred nonvoting stock of one corporation (except for the common parent) in another member of the chain or chains.

To take immediate effect, tax levy. March 21. **TA—Bad**

SB 674 Alquist (Jud.) Authorizes any person mistakenly sued on the basis of mistaken identification, upon a retail installment contract, a conditional sales contract, an account, or a credit card account, by a collection agency or a credit rating organization, to recover therefrom, and in such suit or a separate suit, his actual damages, all of his court costs and attorney fees, and additional damages determined by the court, but not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000. March 21.

MI—Good

SB 675 Short (B. & P.) Deletes definition of "landscape architecture" and defines term "practice of landscape architecture."

Makes it unlawful to engage in the practice of landscape architecture without a certificate.

Excludes from provisions of this law persons who make plans or drawings for the selection, placement, or use of plants when the execution of such plans or drawings does not require the approval of a local, state, or federal agency or will not affect the public, health, safety and welfare.

Revises exemption granted engineers and provides exemption for land surveyors.

Provides that landscape architect may employ, as well as form a partnership with, a person who is not a certified landscape architect.

Revises provisions concerning examinations. March 21. **LS—N.C.**

ASSEMBLY BILLS

AB 997 Briggs (Jud.) Deletes the provision making the failure to give a stop notice in the prescribed manner, by certain licensed contractors, grounds for disciplinary action by the Registrar of Contractors, where the cost of the work of improvement is more than \$200. March 14. **LS—N.C.**

AB 1000 McGee (G.O.) Establishes the California Radio and Television Commission to be composed of six members appointed by the Governor and three Members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and three Members of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker, with the legislator appointees to constitute a joint interim legislative committee and to serve on the commission to the extent that such participation is compatible with their positions as legislators. Specifies that the purpose of the commission is to foster and encourage educational television and radio stations to provide educational and cultural benefit to the public as a whole. Provides that any funds appropriated to the commission in the future shall be used for this purpose and for the purpose of experimentation by such stations to find means to improve the programs on commercial stations. Imposes a license fee on all commercial radio and television stations at the rate of 4 percent of the gross receipts derived from the sale of advertising in this state, with the State Board of Equalization required to administer the levy. Specifies that the fees shall be placed in the California Radio and Television Fund, which the bill creates, with 75 percent of the fund to be used, when appropriated by the Legislature, by the commission for the above-stated purposes, and 25 percent to be used, when appropriated, for instructional television in the public schools.

To become operative on January 1, 1969. March 14. **TA—Watch**

AB 1009 Powers (Ind. R.) Increases various fees for inspection of boilers and tanks. Defines "small boiler" and "large boiler" and includes unfired pressure vessel as boiler for purposes of shop inspection.

Makes related changes. March 14. **LC—Watch**

AB 1010 Powers (Ind. R.) Adds additional penalty fee of 100 percent of normal inspection fee for nonpayment of boiler inspection fee for each 30-day period of delinquency beyond 60 days after notification of inspection fee owing. March 14. **LC—Watch**

AB 1011 Powers (Ind. R.) Increases fee which Division of Industrial Safety may charge for first inspection of new elevator installation from \$15 to \$35, for each inspection of existing elevators or subsequent inspections of new elevators from \$10 to \$20, and for each subsequent annual inspection from \$10 to \$20. March 14. **LC—Watch**

AB 1012 Powers (Ind. R.) Requires specified wages which cannot be delivered to woman or minor for whom such wages were collected by Division of Industrial Welfare within six months from date of collection to be deposited in Special Deposit Fund in State Treasury rather than into State Treasury to credit of General Fund. March 14.

LC—Watch

AB 1016 Crandall (Ind. R.) Increases from 3 to 5 years the frequency with which the Division of Industrial Safety must inspect tanks, or cause them to be inspected. March 14. **LC—Watch**

U.S. Workers Short-changed \$36 Million

More than 193,000 U. S. workers were short-changed by a total of more than \$36 million by employers during the six-month period ended last December 31, a Labor Department study has disclosed.

The study, conducted by the Department's Wage-Hour and Public Contracts Division, found that the 193,668 workers underpaid by employers during the last half of 1967 was 6.4 percent higher than in the preceding half-year.

Underpayments Rise

It also found that the underpayments, which totaled \$36.3 million, were higher than in the preceding six months period by nearly 2 percent.

The study, the first since the Division instituted a flexible investigation procedure to measure compliance with the 1966 amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act that went into effect February 1, 1967, was based on inspections of 33,230 of the nation's 1.9 million establishments covered by the law.

This represented an increase of 3,481 visits or 11.7 percent more than the preceding half-year.

The Breakdown

The employer's wage-chisel, some of which was deliberate, breaks down as follows:

- 138,834 workers did not get overtime due them at the time and one-half rate.
- 78,652 were paid less than the required minimum wage.
- 4,235 were not paid the prevailing wage under the McNamara-O'Hara Service Contracts Act.
- 2,514 were not given equal pay for equal work.

Every classification, the report indicated, showed an increase in numbers of employees unlawfully underpaid except one—that under the Equal Pay Act, which totaled 3,217 for the January-June period compared with 2,514 for the following half-year.

Asserting that the violations by employers are probably even more widespread than the figures indicate, the AFL-CIO Department of Research said that the data shows a continuing

Meany Stresses Need For Strong Safety Law

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measures last Summer that might have averted the disaster. But, he pointed out, "the recommendations didn't have the force of law and weren't carried out."

He also called attention to a survey made by the AFL-CIO News that disclosed that most states have many more fish and game wardens than safety inspectors—indicating that those states place "a higher value on wild life than on human life."

The proposed legislation would provide financial help to states that are willing to do the job as well as the research and standards necessary for states to do a better job.

The measure, an administration-backed bill, is needed because "the record plainly shows that the states stand today incapable of doing the kind of job that needs to be done," Meany said.

The bill would:

- Give the Department of Health, Education and Welfare responsibility for training occupational health personnel and conducting educational programs.
 - Establish a Center for Occupational Health within the U. S. Public Health Service.
 - Direct the HEW Department to conduct research, directly or by grants, in the occupational health and safety fields to develop standards which the Labor Department would put into effect and enforce.
- Meany proposed strengthening amendments to the bill to spell out the authority of the Secretary of Labor to reassert federal jurisdiction if the state

need for a vigorous and sustained inspection program.

The Wage-Hour Law requires payment of not less than \$1.60 an hour for certain employees engaged in interstate commerce, or producing goods for interstate commerce, or employed by certain retail and other enterprises.

Workers must receive at least time and one-half for hours worked in excess of 40 in any work week unless a specific exemption applies.

program fails to live up to its promise.

He also suggested that the federal government's own 2.8 million workers be included in the legislation and called for an intensive program to bring about safety and health protections for smaller plants with less than 500 workers where more than 60 percent of the nation's work force is employed.

And charging that "the safety inspection staff under the Walsh-Healy Act is woefully undermanned," Meany emphasized the need for "full funding" of the program by Congress.

Lack of enforcement manpower has marred the federal government's record in safety areas where it has jurisdiction, he said.

At Senate hearings on the measure, U. S. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz anticipated the "leave it to the states" argument later presented by witnesses from the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

A "fair question," he said, is to ask those claiming an invasion of states' rights whether they will support legislation in their states to set up effective state health and safety programs or will they merely "hurry from opposing it here to some state Capitol to oppose it there?"

To offset reactionary opposition aiming to kill or weaken the bill, all Federation affiliates are urged to write their Congressmen immediately to ask them to support HR-14816, including the strengthening amendments proposed by President Meany.

Debs' Letters Sought

The "Eugene Victor Debs Literature Committee" has just issued an appeal to all persons possessing letters from the noted labor leader who was once a member and organizer for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, to send the letters or copies of them to the Committee at 405 Madison Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana. 46802. The committee pledges to return them promptly.

White Collar Union Rolls Now Top 2.7 Million

White-collar workers in national and international labor unions reached an all-time high of 2,744,000 in 1966, according to a biennial survey by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The consistent growth of unions in the public sector accounts for most of the 159,000 increase between 1964-66 in white-collar membership in the U. S. national and international labor unions. Government unions at all levels grew by 264,000 during this period, including 127,000 new members in white-collar occupations.

In addition to government, other industry groups with a relatively high concentration of white-collar members were communications, finance and insurance, and trade. Approximately 1.7 million, or 62 percent of white-collar members reported by national unions were in non-manufacturing industries; 753,000, or 27 percent, in government service; and 312,000, or about 11 percent, in manufacturing.

The ratio of white-collar to total membership of national and international labor unions has stayed close to one out of seven in recent years.

Another BLS survey of 900 unaffiliated local and single-employer unions recorded 141,000 white-collar union members, out of a total membership of 499,000.

The proportion of white-collar members in unaffiliated local and single-employer unions is 28 percent in contrast to 14 percent in national and international unions.

According to the two surveys, white-collar membership in the United States—that is, after deducting Canadian white-collar membership—amounted to 2,693,000 or 9.5 percent of the nation's wage and salary earners in white-collar occupations.

Purchasing Power Dips

A reduction in average weekly hours, combined with the continued rise in consumer prices, caused a further decline in the purchasing power of the nation's workers between December and January.

Walter R. Otto Succumbs at 86

Walter R. Otto, a veteran trade unionist and a staff member of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, for the past 27 years, died Friday, March 22, at Notre Dame Hospital in San Francisco.

Mr. Otto, 86, a member of Office and Professional Employees Local 3, had earlier served as business agent and in various other offices of the Retail Delivery Drivers Local 278 of the Teamsters Union.

Mr. Otto had dedicated his entire life to the labor movement, serving as a delegate to State Federation of Labor conventions in the 1930s and later, starting with the stewardship of secretary-treasurer Edward D. Vandeleur, as an aide to the executive officer of the State Federation for more than a quarter of a century.

Commenting on his death, Thos. L. Pitts, the Federation's present executive officer, said:

"Mr. Otto's prodigious memory, his geniality, wit and stalwart spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew him."

Mr. Otto had been in failing health for the past few years. He was buried Tuesday in Holy Cross Cemetery in San Francisco following a High Mass of requiem at St. Cecilia's Church.

Building Trades

The average hourly wage scale for union building trades workers rose 5.6 per cent during the year ended last July 1, the Labor Department reports. The advance was the largest since 1952. The average hourly scale was \$4.83, up 26 cents over 1966.

Fed Hits PTT Bid For Millions More

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boosting its presently authorized rate of return from 6.3 to 6.7 percent.

This was all spelled out extensively in the Federation's main brief submitted to the PUC several weeks ago.

But under the PUC procedures, each interested party in the case is subsequently allowed to examine the briefs of other interested parties and to submit rebuttal briefs.

In examining the Phone Company's brief, the State AFL-CIO said it was "an act beyond belief" to find that the company had "buried in a footnote" its proposal that \$32 million that the company is to receive as a result of inter-intrastate settlements ordered by the Federal Communications Commission July 5, 1967, should be used "to mitigate the present disparity between inter-intrastate toll rates" instead of being used to reduce the company's rate application.

"The audacity of such a proposal," the State AFL-CIO said, "buried in a footnote, is colossal."

It said the Phone Company's contention that "we are here to serve" leaves no trace of doubt as to who.

Pointing out that one of the company's spokesmen conceded in the course of the PUC hearings that the Phone Company would not be seeking the rate increase if it were now earning substantially less than eight percent on its intrastate invest-

ment, the State AFL-CIO declared:

"Now, with contrived subtlety the applicant seeks over nine percent (\$181 million plus \$32 million)."

The labor federation's closing brief also called on the PUC to:

- Prohibit the Phone Company from issuing any more common stock until its debt-equity ratio is at least 50-50.

- Maintain the existing Western Electric price adjustment.

- Require the company to take advantage of accelerated depreciation in its tax computations.

- Set the intrastate rate base at \$2,894,400,000, that is, a rate based on a 6.70 rate of return on investment which would yield the company \$30,145,175 in additional revenues.

It also took issue with the Phone Company's claim that the costs of record keeping involved in the use of accelerated depreciation would amount to \$3 to \$5 million a year. Other large California utilities utilizing accelerated depreciation such as the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Southern California Edison, the Federation said, spend only about \$50,000 per year for such expenses.

The State AFL-CIO is fighting the Pacific Telephone Company's demand for the \$181 million hike in an effort to protect trade unionists and other consumers from a 50 percent increase in the cost of residential phone service.

If the rate hike to be authorized by the PUC should be held

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Before April 11**

down to the AFL-CIO's proposed \$30 million, it is estimated that each union member presently paying the Pacific Company for residential phone service would save about \$18.75 a year. Thus, if one million of the state's present 1.5 million AFL-CIO union members are presently served by PT&T, the savings could amount to about \$18,750,000 for union members alone.

Apprentice Council

George W. Smith, business manager of IBEW Local 18 in Los Angeles has been named to a two-year term on the State Apprenticeship Council by Governor Ronald Reagan. He replaces Webb Green of Sun Valley whose term expired.

Smith, 49, serves on the Health and Welfare and Education Committees of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and is vice president of both the State Association of Electrical Workers in California and the Southern Joint Conference of Electrical Workers.

Other union officials re-appointed to two-year terms on the Apprenticeship Council by Reagan are:

- Bernard S. Miles, business representative of the International Association of Machinists Lodge 68, San Francisco.

- Fred V. Adam of Los Angeles, business manager of the Carpet, Linoleum and Soft Tile Installers Local 1247.

L.A. Fed Parley Aims to Strengthen Mexican-American-Labor Alliance

(Continued from Page 1)
resses by such prominent Mexican-Americans as Rep. Edward R. Roybal, Dr. Julian Nava, a member of the Los Angeles City Board of Education and Vicente T. Ximenes, director of the federal cabinet-level Inter-Agency on Mexican-American Affairs.

In calling the conference, Sigmund Arywitz, executive secretary of the county Federation said that while ties between the two groups have been

close in the past it has "become apparent that there should be an even closer relationship now."

"We are hopeful that this conference can lead to accomplishing that objective by examining issues of common concern, working out permanent channels of communication and strengthening bonds of cooperation," he added.

The conference is being developed by J. J. Rodriguez,

who chairs the Los Angeles County Federation's Mexican-American Labor Action Committee. He is executive secretary of Butchers Local 563.

The conference, to open at 8:30 a. m. and extend to 4:30 p. m., will begin with an address by Ximenes speaking on "Issues to Mobilize the Mexican-American Community." He will be followed by Rep. Roybal speaking on "Progress Through Legislation."

Dr. Nava's subject during the afternoon session will be "A Challenge to Labor."

Arywitz will wrap up the conference by addressing himself to the question of "Now What?" He urged a strong labor representation at the conference.

The cost for the conference, including lunch, is \$5.00. Further information may be obtained by phoning the County Federation at area code 213-DU 1-5611.