



California AFL-CIO News

Published weekly by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO,
995 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94103—Second Class
Postage Paid at San Francisco, Calif.—Subscription: \$3.50 a year

Executive Secretary-Treasurer
THOS. L. PITTS

May 31, 1968
Vol. 10—No. 22

Labor At the Legislature

From the Capitol Office
Of the Executive Secretary

This is a "light" week as far as the sessions of the Legislature at the Capitol are concerned. After lengthy deadlock, the Senate and Assembly came to agreement on a recess and from Wednesday of this week until the afternoon of June 5 the members will be absent from the chambers.

The recess period takes in the Memorial Day holiday and the final days of the Primary Election campaign, culminating with the voting on Tuesday, June 4.

Your Senators and Assemblymen will be in their home districts during this time. This is when you can most readily contact them. Before you vote next Tuesday, find out where your district representatives in the Legislature stand on the issues vital to Labor and progress in California. Let them know, directly and personally, what your views are on such legislation. It is important to them and to you that you get in touch with them.

* * *

As soon as the recess ends, the members of the Legislature will again return to work toward adjournment of the session. Committees will be in high gear and bills which reach the floor will tend to receive prompt action as the date for adjourning draws nearer. For this reason, it will be even more important that Labor's membership be alert to coming action on legislation.

On June 5, the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee will have before it SB 393, Dills, on tax relief for the motion picture industry.

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Assembly Balks At Bills to Delay Workers' Pay

AB 1163 and AB 1555, two important anti-labor bills which would deny prompt payment of wages to seasonal workers, were refused passage in the State Assembly after a running legislative battle that extended over four days and into the evening on May 22.

This result was achieved by the firm, united opposition of Labor, organized and coordinated by the Sacramento legislative office of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

The floor fight became necessary when, on May 13, the bills

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Major Vote Drive Vital, Pitts Says

"As California trade unionists, we all have a huge stake riding on next Tuesday's primary election—both morally and financially—and must all pitch in to help get-out-the-vote," Thos. L. Pitts, executive officer of the California Labor Council on Political Education, said this week.

In an appeal to all union members to "plan on donating at least four hours next Tuesday afternoon and evening to help get-out-the-vote," Pitts said that "any objective examination of the records of conservative lawmakers in both the state legislature and in California's congressional delegation shows clearly that it is the conserva-

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Hold Budget Cuts To \$4 Billion, State Fed Urges

The California AFL-CIO urged the state's 38 Congressmen this week to support a motion to restrict a proposed \$6 billion federal budget slash to \$4 billion.

Acting in the face of estimates that the demand being made by Congressional conservatives for helter-skelter budget cutbacks could slice \$2 billion out of the Golden State's economy and possibly trigger a recession due to California's large share of federal projects, the state AFL-CIO called for support of a motion offered by Rep. James A. Burke (D-Mass.) to send the bill back to the Conference Committee with orders to reduce the slash in spending to \$4 billion.

The Burke motion was sched-

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Bldg. Trades Unions Dealt Stunning Defeat by Unruh

The building trades unions of California were dealt a stunning blow by a coalition of forces headed by Speaker Jesse M. Unruh and Governor Reagan when the Assembly Tuesday passed AB 1463 and 1464 which emasculate the California Apprenticeship Program.

In speaking on the bills, Unruh stated that he was "sort of proud of the alliance" with Governor Reagan which produced overpowering support for these two bills.

When the vote was taken AB 1463 was adopted 54 to 11 and AB 1464 was approved 46 to 20.

The opposition to these two bills was greatly assisted

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Truth-In-Lending Bill Wins Final OK by Congress

An AFL-CIO backed truth-in-lending bill that will require stores and money lenders to tell consumers in simple, easy-to-compare terms just how much they are paying in credit charges and interest has won final Congressional approval and is expected to be signed into law shortly by President

Johnson.

The measure, the fruit of an eight-year campaign in which AFL-CIO unions played a major role, was hailed as "a great victory for the people" by former Senator Paul H. Douglas (D-Illinois), a fighting liberal who first sponsored the legislation in 1960.

Douglas, contacted by the AFL-CIO News, said that it was the trade union movement lining up behind the bill that "gave it mass support and helped to finally put it over."

"We are eternally grateful," Douglas added, for the support from union members who wrote letters, passed resolutions and lobbied for the bill.

AFL-CIO Legislative Director Andrew J. Biemiller praised Douglas for leading "the lonely

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Bldg. Trades Unions Dealt Stunning Defeat By Unruh

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by W. L. Vinson, International Vice President, and George Mulkey, international representative, for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. While it was to no avail, labor is indebted to the efforts of these men in their attempts to call attention to the dangers in AB 1463 and AB 1464.

Some elements of the labor movement were cited in the floor debate as "having no opposition" to these bills.

"The passage of these two bills is a good example of what can happen when politicians are able to drive a wedge into labor unity for political purposes", Mulkey declared.

"The building trades unions particularly, will be set back decades in the development of their apprenticeship training if these bills are finally approved by the State Senate and the Governor," he said.

Truth-In-Lending Bill Wins Final OK by Congress

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fight for many years" for this legislation and said it was a "monument" to his untiring efforts.

SOLONS PRAISED

Biemiller also praised Senator William Proxmire (D-Wis.) and Rep. Leonor K. Sullivan (D-Mo.) for steering the bill through in a strong and improved form.

The legislation will provide consumers and wage earners with the "protective legislation they badly needed," he said.

It will require stores and lending institutions to state the full charge for credit and interest both in total dollars and cents costs and in terms of true annual interest.

AID TO FAMILIES

This will enable a family buying on the installment plan or borrowing money to shop for the best buy in credit—without having to resort to a slide rule or get a college degree in mathematics.

The new legislation means that a person who borrows \$1,000 to be repaid over one year at an "add-on" rate of 10

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Considerable testimony has already been heard and definite action is indicated. The committee begins its deliberations at 1:30 Wednesday afternoon.

Good bills pending in Assembly committees after the recess are AB 1784, Powers, on rest rooms in public establishments, on June 11 in Public Health, and ACA 37 by Fong on June 12 in Constitutional Amendments. The latter bill deals with appropriations for public schools.

"Bad" bills in Assembly committees during the same period include ACA 39 in Constitutional Amendments on June 5, relative to appointment of judges, and SB 314 in Water Committee on the sixth, relative to irrigation districts' power rates.

Senate Elections and Reapportionment Committee will hear SB 542, Marks, on election materials on June 5. This is a good bill, worthy of sup-

percent must be told that the true interest rate is 18.5 percent and that the dollar cost of the credit is \$100.

If it is a 10 percent "discount" rate, it must be translated into a 20.5 percent true interest and an actual cost of \$111.10.

And if the rate is two percent a month on the unpaid balance, the consumer must be told that he will pay a true rate of 24 percent a year at a total cost of \$130.

GARNISHMENT ISSUE

While the garnishment provisions in the final version of the legislation are not as strong as the House originally passed—or as the AFL-CIO had sought—they do make it illegal for an employer to fire a worker the first time his pay is garnished.

The garnishment provisions exempt the first 75 percent of a worker's after-tax pay—or \$48 a week—whichever amount is higher, from garnishment.

Moreover, whenever the federal minimum wage is raised, the \$48 figure goes up also. It

port. Likewise, AB 263, Murphy, on mechanics' liens and SB 687, Short, on attachments are good legislative measures before Senate Judiciary on June 6.

June 10 is the day set for hearing AB 727, Fenton, on automobile liability insurance in Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions. This bill has Federal support.

Senator George Moscone's SB 708, on the Labor Commissioner, and SB 709, on wage claims, are both on file for Senate Judiciary Committee on June 13 and are good proposals.

On the other hand, Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee has on its schedule for June 10 two bad bills, opposed by Labor. These are SB 589 on Unemployment Insurance and AB 590 on investments. Another bad bill is set for June 13 in Judiciary, SB 1272, relative to payment of wages.

is computed on the basis of 30 times the minimum wage.

Exempt from the credit charge disclosure law provisions, however, are all purchases under \$25, items under \$75 in which the total credit charge is \$5 or less, and any sales over \$75 in which the credit cost is not more than \$7.50.

Another important provision of the legislation is aimed at protecting consumers from unscrupulous home repair salesmen and others who seek to get unwary consumers to sign a mortgage or a second mortgage on their homes under the pretense that it is a normal installment sales contract.

To begin with, the salesman will be required to inform the consumer that the paper is a mortgage on his home. And even after that, the consumer would have three days after signing to cancel the agreement if he had second thoughts about it.

In addition, the legislation requires that advertisement of goods or loans—whether published or broadcast—must

Court Upholds Right To Picket Shopping Centers

The U.S. Supreme Court has opened privately-owned shopping centers to peaceful picketing by unions, overruling a Pennsylvania court decision which had barred the Meat Cutters from picketing a non-union store.

In the 6-3 decision, the high court held that freedom of speech was violated by not allowing the pickets to march at the center.

'TRESPASSING' ISSUES

The decision also means that states no longer can enforce "no-trespassing" laws to stop unions from picketing business places in the shopping centers.

Privately-owned shopping centers are in practice public thoroughfares—much like downtown business districts, the Supreme Court ruled in its majority opinion by Justice Thurgood Marshall.

"Business enterprises located in downtown areas would be subject to on-the-spot public criticism for their practices, but businesses situated in the suburbs could largely immunize themselves from similar criticism by creating a cordon sanitaire of parking lots around their stores," should a contrary decision prevail, Marshall said.

A PUBLIC PLACE

In essence, this means that a shopping center is no less a public place than a street.

However, the opinion did not say that the picketing could not be regulated—only that it may not be forbidden.

The case arose over picketing in 1965 by Local 590 of the Meat Cutters, Pittsburgh, of a Weis Markets, Inc., store in the Logan Valley Mall shopping center near Altoona, Pa. The pickets carried signs saying the market was non-union and that its employees were not receiving union wages or other benefits.

quote the true interest rate and total cost if any credit or interest charges are used in the advertisement.

Most of the provisions of the bill will take effect July 1, 1969. The garnishment provisions, however, will not become effective until July 1, 1970.

Youth Corps Cuts School Dropout Rate

Cleveland is the fourth major city in the past year to report a drastic cut in dropout rates as a result of the Neighborhood Youth Corps in-school program, the Labor Department has announced.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps program, sponsored by the Cleveland Public Schools, reduced the dropout rate among enrollees in 13 inner-city schools to 3.1 percent for the 1966-67 school year, while the dropout rate in these schools for non-NYC youth was 14.5 percent.

Other cities reporting a cut in dropout rates among NYC enrollees the past year have been Washington, D. C., Minneapolis and Pittsburgh. A survey of six school districts in Texas and Oklahoma revealed the same result.

In Cleveland the study showed that almost every NYC enrollee demonstrated a marked improvement in social, academic, personal and vocational attitudes as well as growth in work habits and job skills. All students showed a significant improvement in both school grades and attendance after one year in NYC.

The Neighborhood Youth Corps is an economic Opportunity Act program, administered by the Bureau of Work-Training Programs of the Labor Department's Manpower Administration.

The in-school program provides part-time work in libraries, schools, and other public buildings for poverty-level boys and girls 14 and up. The pay they earn in 10 to 15 hours of after-school work weekly often means the difference between their dropping out or being able to finish high school.

A survey completed in May, 1967, of all 16 high schools in Pittsburgh for the previous school year disclosed that the dropout rate for NYC enrollees was 4.2 percent compared with an 8.43 dropout rate for non-NYC students.

A sampling of NYC teenagers who worked during the summer of 1965 and 1966 at three high schools in Washington revealed that fewer than 2 percent of these youngsters had dropped

Assembly Balks at Bills To Delay Workers' Pay

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were powered out of Industrial Relations Committee as a package.

The first skirmish came Monday, May 20, when opposition to the pair drew bi-partisan support and AB 1163 was defeated. Heated debate and numerous roll calls of the members left this measure without the needed 41 votes for passage. The final vote was 34 "Aye" and 32 "No."

The roll call on AB 1163, with the "No" votes upholding Labor's position, was:

AYES — Badham, Bagley, Barnes, Belotti, Beverly, Biddle, Britschgi, Burke, Campbell, Collier, Conrad, Cory, Crandall, Cullen, Dent, Duffy, Hayes, Hinkley, Ray E. Johnson, Ketchum, Lanterman, Mobley, Monagan, Moorhead, Moretti, Powers, Priolo, Russell, Schabarum, Stull, Veneman, Veysey, Wakefield and Wilson — 34.

NOES — Bear, Bee, Brown, Burton, Chappie, Davis, Deddeh, Elliott, Fenton, Fong, Foran, Bill Greene, Leroy F. Greene, Harvey Johnson, Karabian, Knox, MacDonald, McGee, McMillan, Meyers, Miller, Murphy, Porter, Quimby, Ralph, Roberti, Shoemaker, Sieroty, Townsend, Vasconcellos, Warren, and Mr. Speaker — 32.

After the result was announced, Assemblyman Ketchum served notice for reconsideration. However, two days later the author accepted defeat of the bill and waived his motion to reconsider.

The importance of the issues involved was emphasized when — during the course of action — the two bills were set as "Special Order" to insure their full consideration.

out of school by June, 1967. The normal dropout rate for these schools is nearly 20 percent.

Dr. Louis J. Kishkunas, Assistant Superintendent of Pittsburgh's schools, attributed NYC's "holding power" to the money it puts into empty pockets and the sense of pride and responsibility that goes with an NYC job.

Meanwhile, amendments were offered to AB 1555 in order to soften the opposition and to divorce it from AB 1163. This was opposed by Labor as unacceptable. One speaker on the floor characterized the proposed amendments as "not a divorce but an abortion." The amendments were firmly refused passage, mustering only 21 "Aye" votes and 40 in opposition.

Again, after numerous calls of the House and other legislative maneuvering, the result of voting on AB 1555 was announced at 7:45 on the evening of May 22. The tally was 39 "Aye" and 36 "No," with a "No" vote sustaining Labor. This roll call was:

AYES — Badham, Bagley, Barnes, Belotti, Beverly, Biddle, Briggs, Burke, Campbell, Collier, Conrad, Cory, Crandall, Cullen, Dent, Duffy, Lanterman, McGee, Millias, Hayes, Hinkley, Ketchum, Monagan, Moorhead, Moretti, Mulford, Pattee, Powers, Priolo, Russell, Ryan, Schabarum, Stacey, Stull, Veneman, Veysey, Wakefield, Wilson, and Mr. Speaker — 39.

NOES — Bear, Bee, Brathwaite, Brown, Burton, Crown, Davis, Deddeh, Dunlap, Elliott, Fenton, Fong, Foran, Gonsalves, Bill Greene, Leroy F. Greene, Harvey Johnson, Karabian, Knox, MacDonald, McMillan, Meyers, Miller, Murphy, Negri, Quimby, Ralph, Roberti, Shoemaker, Sieroty, Thomas, Townsend, Vasconcellos, Warren, Z'berg, and Zenovich — 36.

Immediately, Assemblyman Cullen served notice he would seek reconsideration of AB 1555 on the next legislative day.

On Thursday, the Assembly voted 41 to 24 for reconsideration but later the bill was referred to the Assembly Committee on Industrial Relations.

The Cullen-Unruh-Moretti combination has now set AB 1555 to be heard again in Industrial Relations on June 10 at 1:30 p.m. This bill is supported primarily by the Employers, one of the worst anti-labor groups in Sacramento.

Please urge your Assemblyman to oppose AB 1555.

Demo Voter Registration Below 1966

Despite California's population growth of about one million since the June 1966 primary election, there are 138,000 fewer registered Democrats in the state now than two years ago.

On the other hand, Republican registration, pegged at 3,197,815 for next Tuesday's primary, is 71,931 higher than two years ago.

The diminution in the ranks of the Democratic Party's registered voters was disclosed in the "California Report of Registration" just released by Secretary of State Frank M. Jordan.

It lists total Democratic registration for the June 4 primary at 4,347,406 compared to 4,485,777 two years ago.

To put these figures in some perspective, Democratic registration rose some 320,000 between June 1960 and June 1962, was up about 25,000 between 1962 and 1964, and rose more than 463,000 between 1964 and 1966.

On the Republican side, registration increased 313,000 between June 1960 and 1962; 61,000 between 1962 and 1964; and 230,000 between 1964 and 1966.

Unfortunately, voter apathy more than likely accounts for a major portion of the fall-off in the growth rate among the ranks of the state's registered voters.

In percentage terms, Democrats held 57.1 percent of the state's registered vote in June, 1966 to the Republican's 39.8 percent. Today the Democratic Party is down to 54.9 percent; the Republicans are up to 40.3 percent.

A footnote to the report also provides some insight to the rapidly increasing use of automatic equipment in tallying votes throughout the state.

Five years ago a survey conducted by California Labor COPE found that only five of the state's 58 counties were then using computers in voter registration or vote tallying work or both while five others were then in the process of acquiring such equipment.

The footnote in the 1968 report indicates that there are now 32 counties using automated vote-counting systems.

Hold Budget Cuts To \$4 Billion, State Fed Urges

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uled to be taken up on the House floor Wednesday but the House is not scheduled to vote on the Conference Report itself until some time in June.

Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, wired the state's Congressional delegation on the issue again last Monday saying:

"The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, urges you to vote Yes on May 29 for Burke motion to limit budget slash in tax Conference Report to \$4 billion. Federation recognizes need for tax hike to curb inflation and soaring interest rates but more drastic cuts in key education, poverty, health and welfare programs would jeopardize health and hopes of millions and compound state's economic problems."

Just 10 days earlier, Pitts had wired the Congressmen urging them to oppose the Conference Committee report, pointing out that such "a wholesale, meat-axe cutting of the federal budget" simply should not be countenanced while the nation is "in the midst of an urban crisis . . ."

Pitts pointed out that programs "to ameliorate this crisis require greater appropriations, not slashes."

The tax bill, which incorporates the Administration's long sought 10 percent surtax, is aimed at reducing inflation by cutting the supply of spending money. This, government economists say, would reduce consumer demand and in turn strengthen the dollar and cut the flow of money overseas to pay for imports.

The AFL-CIO is opposed to the \$6 billion slash because the \$2 billion in additional cuts would almost inevitably result in the loss of thousands of jobs in California due to postponement, scaling down, or elimination of water and highway construction projects as well as anti-poverty, research, education and other public works programs.

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tives who have dogmatically fought efforts to meet the crisis in our core cities and to give hope to our own hungry just as they fought Medicare."

The loss of more than 40 liberal congressmen in 1966 and the revival of the GOP-Dixiecrat coalition "has clearly thrown a roadblock into the path of progress at the national level," he said.

"Likewise, the harvest of 18 months of conservative rule in Sacramento is already painfully evident in our tax bills and in the attempts to curtail services to union members, the mentally ill, and disadvantaged citizens throughout our state.

"For years, now, in California, conservatives have exercised a power far in excess of their numbers because, particularly in primary elections, they make a point of trooping to the polls while many moderate and liberal voters are 'too busy'. We must overcome this apathy next Tuesday.

"Just a few hours of coordinated and concentrated work on June 4 can contribute substantially toward winning effective legislation to cope with the critical problems of our times," Pitts said.

Noting that delegates to the pre-primary endorsement convention of California Labor COPE made no endorsement in the Presidential primary and that there was no choice on the Republican side anyway, Pitts said that "the only slate that affords labor an effective voice at the Democratic convention next August where the final decision will be made is the slate headed by Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch."

He noted that the uncommitted Lynch slate contains strong labor representation as well as a well balanced cross-section of business, religious, and minority group representation.

On the Republican side, Pitts called attention to the fact that U.S. Senator Thomas H. Kuchel is facing the toughest primary fight of his career against a candidate strongly supported

by the radical right who has no legislative experience whatever.

"Tom Kuchel clearly merits the support of all trade unionists in the Republican Party," he said.

California Labor COPE made an "open" endorsement in the U.S. Senate race on the Democratic ticket where former State Controller Alan Cranston, State Senator Anthony Beilenson and State Public Utilities Commissioner William Bennett, the three principal candidates who are all friendly to labor, are running against one another.

Noting that conservatives already dominate the State Senate and "are within a stone's throw of winning control of the lower House," Pitts said that the COPE-endorsed candidates for State Senate and State Assembly as well as COPE's congressional candidate "urgently need our help next Tuesday."

"The time we give them can pay handsome dividends in the future in terms of more effective action on job-creating programs to attack the roots of the problems in our urban ghettos, improved benefits for injured

Union Pledges Million to Fight Bias & Poverty

One million dollars to be used "for eradicating poverty and discrimination from our land" has been pledged by the AFL-CIO International Ladies' Garment Workers Union.

The pledge, amounting to a little more than \$2 for each of the union's 450,000 members, was contained in a resolution that won unanimous approval from the 1,000 delegates attending the union's convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, last week.

Citing poverty as the nation's No. 1 problem, the resolution declared:

"We must assert our will through a moral commitment to bring jobs, education and housing to every family in America."

or jobless workers and enforcement of minimum wage and other laws benefiting workers," he asserted.

"In short, it's essential that we get-out-the-vote next Tuesday as it's never been gotten out before," Pitts concluded.

Bldg. Trades Act To Aid Minorities

Five more programs to help minority-group youths qualify as building trades apprentices have been launched in Gary-Hammond, Ind.; Minneapolis-St. Paul; East St. Louis, Ill.; Albuquerque, and Houston, Labor Sec. W. Willard Wirtz has announced.

Organizations entering into contracts for Apprenticeship Outreach programs were identified as:

Northwestern Indiana Building & Construction Trades Council, Minneapolis-St. Paul Urban Leagues; Business Representatives Council of Southern Illinois (Building Trades); New Mexico Building & Construction Trades Council and Houston Building & Construction Trades Council.

Under the contracts, totaling \$242,000, unemployed youths will be sought out for four weeks' courses to prepare them

for specific apprenticeship examinations, in carpentry, sheet metal, electrical, plumbing and other crafts.

The latest programs, Wirtz said, bring to 30 the number of cities where Apprenticeship Outreach programs are being conducted either by building trades councils, the Workers Defense League or the Urban League.

S.F. Bay Wages Rise

Pay levels of key office and plant occupations in the San Francisco Bay Area rose significantly during 1967. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual wage and salary survey shows that last year straight time hourly earnings of unskilled plant occupations rose 6.2 percent and hourly scales of skilled plant workers rose 5.1 percent.