



California AFL-CIO News

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SACRAMENTO

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
151 THOS. L. PITTS

June 28, 1968
Vol. 10—No. 26

Labor At the Legislature

From the Capitol Office
of the Executive Secretary

AB 1010 has become an extension of the Moretti bills on the eight-hour law by authorizing employment of female workers by railroads up to 10 hours a day and up to 58 hours a week.

A postponed hearing will be held on AB 1010 in the Assembly Industrial Relations Committee on Monday, July 1, at 1:30 p.m. The California Labor Federation is on record in opposition to AB 1010 in its present form.

* * *

AB 283 originally was a collective bargaining proposal for public employees. Several weeks ago, AB 283 was taken under submission and was out of action for the session. On June 18 amendments revived it but AB 283 is a complete stranger to its original version. As it stands, AB 283 deals with adding a benefit to members of the judges' retirement system.

* * *

While late in the session action tends to move out of committees and onto the floors of the two houses, several important bills still are pending in committees. For instance, SB 1065, a bad bill dealing with minimum wages for women and minors, and AB 1338, another bad bill relative to training, are on tap for the Senate Labor Committee Tuesday, July 2, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 3191 of the Capitol.

* * *

Two good Assembly bills — AB 576 by Negri on credit sales and AB 1265 by Biddle on retail installment sales — will be heard Monday, July 1, in Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee.

Cullen Anti-Labor Bill Defeated in Committee

Assembly Bill 1555, the anti-labor "pay delay" bill by Assemblyman Mike Cullen, finally died in the Assembly Industrial Relations Committee Monday afternoon.

On a motion by Assemblyman John Briggs, seconded by Assemblyman Peter

Schabarum, AB 1555 was defeated by a 4 to 2 vote.

Charles Scully, General Counsel for the California Labor Federation, ably led the opposition to the Cullen anti-labor bill. He

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Labor Alert!

Move Made To Revive Hot Cargo Proposal

Senate Bill 951, the Hot Cargo and Secondary Boycott bill by Senators Burns and Harmer, will again be heard in Senate Labor Committee next Tuesday, July 2, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 3191 of the State Capitol.

The intent of SB 951 clearly is not only to destroy the effectiveness of organizing activity of farm workers but also to extend the representative provisions of the federal law so that no informational picketing of any kind can occur in the entire State of California.

Big Voter Signup Drive Essential, Pitts Warns

An intensive union voter registration effort is clearly essential to block the attempt by "a combine of conservative and reactionary forces" to sweep the state in the general election this year.

Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-

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Spearheaded by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, all California labor will again rally to kill the Hot Cargo bill. At its last hearing the united opposition of working Californians forced it into submission. On Tuesday, labor will again rally to defeat SB 951.

MAKE JULY 4TH COUNT!

Here Are Some Issues To Take Up With Your Congressman

You can help make the Independence Day holiday next week mean something special — something like independence from the selfish special interest groups that constantly work to block or cripple legislation vi-

tal to the general public as well as to trade unionists. Here's how:

Make an appointment now to see your congressman while he's home for the July 3 to

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Fed Urges All Out Support for L.A. Her-Ex. Strikers

"Hearst's contempt for the right of workers to bargain collectively with their employers constitutes a real and immediate threat to the wages, working conditions, and job security of union members not only in Los Angeles but throughout California and in the nation at large."

This was the warning issued by the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation as it acted this week to mobilize statewide support for trade unionists involved in the seven-month long strike-lock-out at the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner as well as for union insurance workers locked in a nationwide fight with the giant Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

In a letter sent to all affiliates, the Federation, which rep-

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Harry W. Hansen, Fed. V.P., Dies

Harry W. Hansen, a Vice President of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and former President and Executive Board member of the Humboldt-Del Norte Central Labor Council, died Thursday, June 20, in Sacramento on the eve of a two-day meeting of the State Federation's Executive Council.

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Harry W. Hansen, Fed. V.P., Dies In Sacramento

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He was 65.

Mr. Hansen joined Local 540 of the International Association of Machinists in 1942 and was elected business manager of the local four years later. He repeatedly won reelection to that post until his retirement late last year.

Long active in the community life of the North Coast area, Mr. Hansen was also on the Board of Directors of the General Hospital in Eureka, a hospital governed by the Union Labor Hospital Association.

TIRELESS FIGHTER

Commenting on his passing, state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts said:

"Mr. Hansen fought tirelessly most of his adult life to improve and safeguard workers' rights. He was a dedicated trade unionist in the finest sense of the word and will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known him."

Mr. Hansen is survived by his wife, Edith, two daughters, Mrs. Virginia Rumble, of Arcata, and Mrs. Beverly DeNello of Fortuna; and two brothers and three sisters.

SERVICES HELD

Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 25, at the Sanders Funeral Home in Eureka.

For Albin J. Gruhn, President of the California Labor Federation who was in Eureka representing the Federation at the services for Mr. Hansen, the occasion was doubly sorrowful. Mr. Gruhn's father, William A. Gruhn, 85, an active member of the labor movement from the early 1930s until the time of his retirement, passed away last Sunday.

Industrial Injuries

Assistant Labor Secretary Esther Peterson reports that each year almost 15,000 men are killed and over two million disabled in on-the-job accidents. Mrs. Peterson said it was imperative that the proposed Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1968 should be enacted by Congress to help curb industrial injuries.

Reagan's Judge Pick Plan Hit as Court-Packing Try

Opposition to Governor Ronald Reagan's so-called "Judicial Merit Plan" for selecting judges was mounting this week.

First, the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation reaffirmed its opposition to the Governor's scheme at its meeting in Sacramento June 21-22.

And just this week State Senators George Moscone (D-San Francisco) and Alfred Alquist (D-San Jose) joined the President of the San Francisco Lawyers Club, Robert Cartwright, in describing the administration's proposal as "Governor Reagan's attempt to pack the judiciary with ultra-conservative judges," a view that is in line with the State AFL-CIO's opposition to the measure.

They said the Reagan administration's proposals, which are contained in Senate Bill 28 and Senate Constitutional Amendment 2, represent an attempt by the state's conservative propertied establishment to get control of judicial appointments.

Senator Moscone said that the special interest groups have a prime interest in passing this bill.

"The oil and insurance lobbies, the utilities and the Farm Bureau are all behind it," he said.

Senator Alquist pointed out

that the Reagan plan would represent "a shift from public politics to back-room bar association politics."

And Moscone recalled that Senator Donald L. Grunsky (R-Watsonville) revealed the real purpose of the Reagan judge selection measure when he argued in its behalf on the Senate floor. He quoted Grunsky as saying that:

"For those of you who have been dissatisfied with the civil rights and civil libertarian decisions and the one man, one vote decisions of our courts, this is a chance to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Younger union members and many of those who learned little of the role of organized labor in the development of the nation's economy from their high school or college textbooks may be surprised to learn that the nation's conservative, propertied interests dominated the courts throughout the 19th century, and through the injunctive process, used them repeatedly as a club to beat back the workers' demand for decent wages and working conditions.

After a year and a half of Reagan rule, however, it should not surprise any California worker to learn that the Governor has a hankering to return to the robber baron days of the 19th century.

Cullen Anti-Labor Bill Defeated in Committee

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was assisted by a fine presentation by Sig Arywitz, Secretary of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, and other labor representatives.

AB 1555 would have unduly delayed the pay checks of thousands of California seasonal workers and has been vigorously opposed by the Federation throughout the session.

Cullen admitted he was carrying the bill for the California Merchants & Manufacturers Association. His presentation seeking favorable action was

noticeably anti-labor in its arguments.

At the same meeting of the Industrial Relations Committee, Assemblyman Charles Conrad appeared in connection with AB 542, the so-called "secret ballot" bill for unions. Conrad, as principal author, was the only witness and asked the matter be referred to interim committee.

Federation General Counsel Scully and Sig Arywitz were both on hand to present opposition arguments to AB 542, but Conrad's action made this unnecessary.

CWA Delegates Back Humphrey For President

The Communications Workers' 30th anniversary convention in Washington, D. C., endorsed Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey for President, calling him a man "who can mold national unity and forge national progress."

The convention, which drew more than 1,800 delegates and alternates, overwhelmingly adopted a resolution backing Humphrey's candidacy.

The CWA resolution recited the high points of Humphrey's record as a senator and as Vice President, declaring that since he first came to Congress in 1949, the nation's progress "has been stamped with the ideas and ideals of Hubert Humphrey."

It noted the key role he played in conceiving or winning enactment of such programs as the Peace Corps, arms control and the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the Food Stamp for Peace programs and federal aid to education.

"The entire field of social legislation, minimum wage, jobless pay, trade union welfare, manpower training, area redevelopment, urban problems and consumer protection has been directly affected by his legislative leadership and imaginative concern for the well being of his fellow man."

The convention recalled Humphrey's direct support for the CWA as mayor of Minneapolis during its battle with the Bell System in 1947 and observed that against this background its endorsement was "appropriate."

The delegates followed up with another resolution calling for strong registration and voting drives by every local in cooperation with COPE during this "critical" presidential election year.

Earlier, CWA President Joseph A. Beirne had keynoted the convention with a call for a sweeping program of social action to improve the quality of life in America.

Beirne also outlined the record wage increases won by CWA last month after an 18-day strike against the Bell System.

Big Voter Signup Drive Essential, Pitts Warns

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Treasurer of the California Labor Council on Political Education, issued that warning in a letter sent this week to all central labor councils and COPEs.

DAYS DWINDLING

Pointing out that the days are rapidly dwindling between now and the Thursday, September 12, 1968 voter registration deadline, Pitts said:

"The issues before us are clear — the right-wing reactionary forces versus the liberally-oriented friends of labor.

"Our first job is to forge the strongest and most effective registration and education drive ever created in the ranks of labor."

WHO ELSE CAN?

The State AFL-CIO leader said that the labor movement is the only large, liberally-oriented organization in the state capable of turning back the reactionary tide.

"A combine of conservative and reactionary forces has spent at least 10 years preparing for a sweep of the state, which they hope to effect in this election year," he warned.

He called on all labor officials at the community level to unite and work as never before to register the unregistered membership of the trade union movement in California.

As of today only 76 days, including Saturdays and Sundays, are left to do this job.

Service Employees Union Alters Name

The Building Service Employees International Union, organized and chartered by the AFL-CIO in 1921, has dropped the word "Building" from its name.

The 373,000 member union has expanded so greatly that Service Employees International Union fits the composition of its membership much better, the union said. In the past eight years the union's membership has grown by more than 100,000.

All Must Work for Better Society, Labor Tells Legion

"If we are to learn anything from the senseless tragedies that have rocked this nation," it is that "we must all come together now . . . in support of the highest form of patriotism: the building of a stronger, more viable society in which all men of good will can live together in peace."

This was the central theme of an address to the 50th annual statewide convention of the California Department of the American Legion in Fresno this week by Thomas A. Small, a vice president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

CRUCIAL ROLE CITED

Speaking in behalf of State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts, executive secretary of the Federation, Small said that service organizations like the Legion and the Labor Federation "must play a crucial role in working to change the climate in our nation."

It is not enough simply to deplore violence, he said, because violence will never really disappear until the root causes of frustration, disillusionment and despair are eradicated.

"And we all know, or should, that despite our great progress in material affluence, the grinding poverty that often breeds a sense of hopelessness remains widespread."

"High ideals mean little," the Federation's spokesman said, "unless accompanied by ceaseless effort."

He urged the Legionnaires and all citizens to "turn a deaf ear to the extremists" and said that the kind of constructive action necessary can be achieved only "if we reject the prophets of doom and do not veer sharply to the right or to the left."

DRIVES POINT HOME

To drive the point home, he quoted from a resolution adopted at the last National AFL-CIO convention which warned that:

"The extremists of the right, undeterred by defeats at the polls, tirelessly prosecute their fanatical campaign against enlightenment and progress.

"Their targets include the United Nations and the U. S.

Supreme Court, school integration, open housing and civil rights generally; social security, unemployment insurance and the whole range of federal domestic programs for public welfare. . . .

"Their tools are hate and fear, fomented by simplistic slogans and wild accusations, disseminated by leaflets, newspaper advertisements, periodicals, billboards and more than 10,000 radio broadcasts a week.

EFFECT EXPLAINED

"Their effect is to substitute hysteria for reason—to disrupt the free marketplace of ideas upon which the survival of democracy depends.

"Equally dangerous are the extremists of the left" . . . who "infiltrate well-meaning peace organizations, converting debate into disorder and mindless defiance of law.

"They infiltrate the ghettos and segments of the civil rights movement, transforming the rightful quest for the redress of ancient grievances into violent civil disorders. They have distorted 'black power' into a symbol not of ballots but of bullets."

The resolution went on to charge that "those who inject hate and fear into public issues, degrade the nation and undermine the democratic process itself."

It called on all Americans to "reject such tactics and all who use them."

Shun Kleenex, Union Urges

"Don't buy Kleenex" or other products of the Kimberly Clark plant in Anderson, California, is the appeal being made by members of the AFL-CIO International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers.

The union is engaged in a strike against the Kimberly Clark plant and has obtained boycott sanction from the Five Counties Central Labor Council, according to Charles Wolfe, President of Local 586.

Other Kimberly Clark products, he said, include:

Kleenex Towels, Delsey Kotex, Kim Towels, and Kim Wipes.

Let Your Solon Hear Your Views During July 4th Fete

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July 8 recess. Then discuss the following issues with him:

Housing—Urge him to support the omnibus housing bill, H.R. 17651, and to vote against all crippling amendments.

The Johnson administration's \$5 billion three-year housing bill won Senate passage on May 28. It contains major new programs to provide home ownership and rent subsidy for families with annual incomes between \$3,500 and \$7,000, programs that could substantially improve employment in California's depressed building trades industry.

It also calls, among other things, for FHA hospital construction and a program of insurance for residents and businesses in blighted, riot-prone areas—programs that can contribute significantly toward easing the nation's urban crisis.

But anti-labor special interest groups are expected to attempt to impose crippling amendments in the lower house aimed at:

- Killing basic labor protection provisions in the original mass transit law.

- Slashing funds for the omnibus housing program.

- And substituting a currently-used federal aid program that fails to bring rental housing within the reach of low income families.

Safety—For your own safety's sake, also urge your congressman to demand immediate action on the Occupational Health and Safety Bill, H.R. 17748. This bill is presently bogged down in the House Labor Subcommittee and has failed repeatedly to muster a quorum to report it out.

Farm Labor—And before you thank him for whatever he's done right recently, urge him to support extension of collective bargaining rights to farm workers and to oppose any relaxation of the 160-acre limit in the Reclamation Act.

But don't bother to talk to Senator George Murphy on this one: he's carrying the ball on both these issues for the enemy camp—the state's huge corporate agribusiness interests and land speculators.

L.A. Herald-Examiner Impasse Perils All Unions, Fed Exec. Council Warns

Solid Support for Insurance Workers' Union Battle With Metropolitan Life Held Vital Too

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resents some 1.4 million AFL-CIO members in California, reviewed the repeated attempts made by the 10 unions involved in the Herald-Examiner dispute to bring about good faith bargaining—(all of which were spurned by Herald-Examiner publisher George R. Hearst, Jr.)—and called on all affiliates to “contribute generously and continuously to help win this crucial battle for workers’ rights.”

The Executive Council’s action in the two strike situations was taken at the Council’s meeting at the El Dorado Hotel in Sacramento, June 21-22, a meeting saddened by the death of Vice President Harry W. Hansen the evening before the meeting was convened.

In other action, the Council:

- Elected two new vice presidents (See story below).

- Placed “Tennessee Plastics,” a non-union manufacturer of electric heaters headquartered in Johnson City, Tenn., whose products are distributed in a number of Western states, on the Federation’s “We Don’t Patronize” list.

- Reaffirmed the Federation’s opposition to Governor Reagan’s so-called judicial mer-

it plan for selecting judges (See story on Page 2).

In its letter to all affiliates, the Executive Council said:

“California trade unionists involved in two critical labor disputes—the strike-lockout at the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, now in its 27th week, and the more recent strike against the giant Metropolitan Life Insurance Company by members of the AFL-CIO Insurance Workers International Union—urgently need the help of every union in this state.

“They are fighting our fight. They deserve our help.

“The Herald-Examiner dispute constitutes a direct, frontal assault on the trade union movement. . . . For more than seven months” . . . the 10 unions involved . . . “have explored every avenue available to try to bring Hearst management to the bargaining table.

“But publisher George R. Hearst, Jr., has spurned them all. Instead, he has chosen to erect a 10-foot high steel fence topped with barbed wire and has imported scores of professional strikebreakers from all over the nation in an obvious attempt to destroy the unions and impose a compulsory open shop.

“This was reflected early in the strike when the Herald-Examiner management insisted that strikebreakers would have to be given super-seniority over strikers in any contract to be negotiated. It was pointed up again last April when a special three-man panel appointed by the mayor resigned after more than a month of futile efforts to get management to the bargaining table. . . . In its letter of resignation, the panel declared:

“‘The cause of our failure is clear. One of the parties to the dispute, the Herald-Examiner management, has flatly refused to cooperate with this panel.’

“Just this month Hearst corporate officials torpedoed another mediation effort when they refused to enter marathon negotiations with top leaders of four of the international unions. . . .

“Hearst’s contempt for the rights of workers to bargain

Here's How You Can Help Now

Here’s how Federation affiliates and individual union members can help:

Herald-Examiner — Send checks made payable to the Herald-Examiner Joint Strike-Lockout Council to the Herald-Examiner Joint Strike-Lockout Council, 1058 South Olive Street, Los Angeles, California, marked to the attention of Robert J. Rupert.

Insurance Workers — Send checks made payable to Insurance Workers International Union No. 83 to Lew Fink, Secretary-Treasurer, Insurance Workers International Union No. 83, 748 North Niagara Street, Burbank, California.

In addition, the Herald-Examiner Joint Strike-Lockout Council is appealing to union members and friends of labor to shun all Hearst products, including the L.A. Herald-Ex-

aminer and its advertisers. Other Hearst publications on the Strike-Lockout Council’s list include:

Magazines—Harper’s Bazaar; House Beautiful; Science Digest; Popular Mechanics; Town & Country; Eye Magazine; Good Housekeeping; Motor, Motor Boating; American Druggists; Cosmopolitan; Sports Afield; and Bride & Home.

Avon Paperback Books.

Newspapers—L.A. Herald Examiner; San Francisco Examiner; Seattle Post-Intelligencer; San Antonio, Texas, Light; Boston Record and American; Baltimore News-American; and the Albany, Times-Union, News.

Radio-T.V. — Pittsburgh WTAE; Milwaukee WISN; Baltimore WBAL; San Juan WAPA.

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collectively with their employers constitutes a real and immediate threat to the wages, working conditions and job security of union members not only in Los Angeles but throughout California and in the nation at large.

“The Hearst Corporation has been described as suffering from ‘an embarrassment of riches’ and its assets were placed at more than half a billion dollars by Forbes magazine. A number of much less affluent papers including the Bakersfield Californian and the Long Beach Press-Telegram have already signed union contracts far superior to Hearst’s last proposal. . . .

“A similar David and Goliath battle is developing in the insurance industry where the small but vigorous AFL-CIO Insurance Workers International Union is carrying the fight for decent wages and working conditions for a small group of underpaid white collar workers against one of the world’s biggest financial firms. The white collar workers’ need for union protection has long been recognized. The IWIU’s strike amounts to a critical battle in the insurance field. They need help and they need it now. . . .”

Meat Cutters & Packinghouse Workers To Unite

The Meat Cutters & Butcher Workmen and the Packinghouse Workers have signed a merger agreement that will unite the two unions into a single 500,000-member organization.

The agreement is subject to approval by conventions of both unions scheduled for the week of July 8 in Los Angeles and San Diego.

If the delegates to the conventions ratify the actions of their top officers and executive boards, the two unions will meet in a joint session at San Diego on July 12. The Meat Cutters are meeting in San Diego; the Packinghouse Workers in Los Angeles.

The merger agreement was signed in Chicago by the two principal officers of each union.

The new union will carry the name of the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen and be governed by the Meat Cutters’ constitution. The merger pact calls for a president, secretary-treasurer and 26 vice presidents.

Two New Veeps On Fed Board

Two new vice presidents were elected to the 37-member Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO at its meeting in Sacramento last weekend.

Joseph R. Garcia, President-Organizer of Bartenders Local 41 in San Francisco was elected to succeed the late Arthur F. Dougherty as vice president in District 9B.

Joseph P. Mazzola, Business Manager of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 38, in San Francisco was elected to serve as vice president at large (F), a post formerly held by Henry L. Lacayo.

The vacancy in the latter post was created by the suspension of the United Automobile Workers from the AFL-CIO.