



California AFL-CIO News

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer
THOS. L. PITTS

July 5, 1968
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Labor At the Legislature

From the Capitol Office
of the Executive Secretary

Another attempt to expand the Moretti Act assault on the women's eight-hour law was defeated late last week on the Assembly floor. Assemblyman Bill Greene presented AB 1357 which would have extended the Moretti Act to include women in the laundry industry. The spokesmen for labor's opposition in the debate were keynoted by Assemblyman Dave Roberti and the measure was refused passage on the roll call. The author then moved to have the vote record expunged and the bill was returned to the Committee on Industrial Relations by unanimous action.

* * *

A committee-authored bill on public employee-employer relations is moving successfully and rapidly through the legislature, following a series of meetings with various public employee groups in the state. AB 1182, sponsored by the Assembly Committee on State Employment, Retirement and Military Affairs chaired by Assemblyman Milias, has cleared its committee of origin and the Ways and Means Committee. As we go to press, it is pending action on the Assembly floor.

* * *

The Assembly Industrial Relations Committee on Monday, July 1, took AB 1142 by Greene under submission. This is a proposal relating to "fair employment practices" which is opposed by labor as bad legislation. AB 2090 by Briggs, relating to wages, rests "on the bottom of the box" in the same committee.

* * *

Two good bills are scheduled

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Social Insurance Bills Moving in Assembly

It is to be noted that certain social insurance bills are now moving through the Assembly and it is hoped they will receive favorable action and move on to the Senate for further consideration. The bills are:

Disability Insurance:

AB 2034 - Zenovich. Increases the maximum weekly disability benefit to \$90.00 per week.

AB 176-Warren. Freezes wage credits during periods of disability with respect to pregnancy.

Unemployment Insurance:

AB 182 - Brathwaite. Provides coverage for agricultural workers.

AB 276 - Burton. Includes tips as subject wages.

Workmen's Compensation:

AB 262 - Fenton. Increases weekly temporary disability maximum to \$100 per week; increases burial expenses to a maximum of \$1,000; increases death benefit for spouse or spouse with dependents by \$2,500 each; contains modifying language with respect to accumulative exposure involving disability.

AB 1612 - Mobley. Deletes the requirement of Department of Finance approval of compromises and releases in subsequent injury cases.

AB 1888 - Fenton. Permits commutation in subsequent injury awards for payment of attorneys' fees.

Pitts Urges Reagan To Drop Move to Control Poverty War

Vigorous opposition to Governor Ronald Reagan's attempt to take responsibility for the direction of anti-poverty programs in California away from local communities and centralize them in the State Health and Welfare Agency has been voiced by the State AFL-CIO.

Call Issued For COPE Convention In S.F. Sept. 4

The official call to the pre-general election convention of the California Labor Council on Political Education has just been sent to all State COPE affiliates.

The convention, to be held less than a week after the National Democratic Convention in Chicago, will be held at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco

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Asserting that such action would "effectively destroy" much of the anti-poverty effort in California, Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, sent a letter to the Governor urging him to reconsider his decision "to weaken

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Better Food Stamp Provisions Urged

California Congressmen were urged by the State AFL-CIO this week to support an amendment to correct inadequacies

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Anti-Labor Bills Due to Be Taken Up Soon

A number of vicious anti-labor bills are expected to be taken up in the closing weeks of the current legislative session. All trade unionists are urged to contact their legislators immediately to urge opposition to the following bills:

AB 1010-Powers. This would break down the women's eight-

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New York City Backs UFWOC Grape Boycott

New York City is supporting the boycott of California-grown grapes initiated by the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

This major boost to the historic struggle of California Farm Workers to win decent wages and working conditions and union recognition was announced this week by New York City's Deputy Mayor Timothy W. Costello.

Costello said that the city would not buy any California

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FLASH!

Hot Cargo Bill Held in Committee

A second attempt to destroy the effectiveness of organizing efforts by California farm workers and prohibit informational picketing of any kind throughout the State was blocked this week when the Senate Labor Committee voted 3 to 1 to hold the Hot Cargo and Secondary Boycott Bill, S.B. 951, in Committee.

The bill, vigorously opposed by the California Labor Federation, came up again before the Senate Labor Committee last Tuesday. Senator Hugh M.

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Anti-Labor Bills Due to Be Taken Up Soon

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hour law in the railroad industry. It is a further extension of the infamous "Moretti Bill" and must be defeated.

AB 1101-Biddle. This anti-trespassing, anti-picketing bill will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday, July 11, at 8 p.m. It would adversely affect all labor, so urge your Senators to oppose it.

AB 1024-Wilson. This measure, which would deprive thousands of musicians of jobs, is now on the Assembly floor. Urge your Assemblymen to vote against this destructive legislation.

Immediate action is essential to muster the opposition necessary to defeat all of these anti-labor measures. So act now.

Fed.-Backed SB 576 Signed into Statute

After a long struggle, SB 576 by Senators Rodda, Short, Mills and Moscone, was signed into law by the Governor on June 27.

This is the measure which protects wage-earning motion picture projectionists from liability for arrest in cases involving movie censorship. This is a good and just law which has had the active, vigorous support of the California Labor Federation ever since it began its progress through the Legislature.

Labor at the Legislature

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in Assembly committees during the week of July 8. On Monday in Judiciary, Brathwaite's AB 632 on attachments will be given a hearing and on Tuesday, Sherman's SB 397 on jury service by employees will be up before Criminal Procedures Committee.

Senator Murphy Fights To Deny Farm Workers Union Rights

California's junior senator, George Murphy, has done it again—taken the side of the state's huge corporate agri-business interests in an effort to deny California farm workers collective bargaining rights.

Murphy, who had little to say when he witnessed the shocking conditions under which California farm workers are forced to work and live while on a tour of the valley with the late U. S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy several years ago, apparently still places agri-business profits above people's rights.

This was evident at a recent hearing on a bill to grant collective bargaining rights to farm workers held by the U. S. Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee.

RIGHTS FOR 1.5 MILLION

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (D-New Jersey), would grant union rights to 1.5 million farm workers throughout the nation.

Even though the legislation would exempt small farm operators and affect only 3.5 percent of all farms in the nation—largely the huge corporation farms that employ 45 percent of all farm workers—Senator

Bill Eroding 8-Hour Law Is Advanced

AB 1010 by Assemblyman Powers, which would extend the Moretti Act breakdown of the eight-hour law to include women working in the railroad industry, was sent out of the Assembly Industrial Relations Committee Monday by a 4 to 2 vote.

This attempt to deteriorate legal protections for women in industry will be considered on the floor of the Assembly. It is a bad bill and should be defeated.

The motion to advance the bill was made by Assemblyman Briggs, seconded by Assemblyman Schabarum. Voting with them were Assemblymen Powers and Crandall. Voting against the motion were Assemblymen Roberti and Sieroty.

Murphy first tried to delay action on the bill by offering a motion to send it to another subcommittee.

Following defeat of that motion, Murphy and Senator Paul Fannin (R-Arizona) engaged in what Senator Williams described as a filibuster, and then walked out of the meeting, leaving the committee without a quorum. This prevented the committee from transacting any further business.

ANTI-LABOR PROPOSALS

Some further indication of just how anti-labor Senator Murphy is proving to be was suggested by committee aides who said Murphy and Fannin planned to offer amendments that would:

- Bar strikes at harvest time.
- Bar union hiring hall arrangements.
- Require unions to give a 30-day notice of any prospective work stoppage.
- Exclude many seasonal workers from coverage of the collective bargaining rights bill by permitting only employees of 30 days' standing to take part in union recognition elections.
- Allow growers, despite union objections, to set up bargaining units embracing more than one farm.
- Exclude all farms that pay less than \$10,000 a year in wages, employ fewer than 12 workers, take in less than \$250,000 for their product or provide fewer than 500-man days of work.

If that's not looking after the agri-businessman's interests at the expense of the workers' right to decent wages, working conditions and union recognition, what is?

Changing the Slums

AFL-CIO President George Meany says the responsibility for changing the grim conditions of the nation's ghettos "belongs to all of the American people." In a speech, Meany said "the American trade union movement has a contribution to make in this area and I'm quite sure we're going to make that contribution."

Fed Asks Solons To Improve Food Stamp Bill

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in the Food Stamp Bill which is expected to be taken up on the House floor some time next week.

At present, the measure, HR 18249, contains provisions that fail to provide adequate funds for the program and also prohibits stamps to workers on strike or involved in labor disputes or work stoppages regardless of family need.

In a wire sent to California's 38 Congressmen Wednesday, Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said:

"Understand HR 18249, the Food Stamp Bill, will soon be on House floor. Present bill is unsatisfactory because it provides limited funding and is not responsive to family need. Strongly urge you to support on House floor substitute amendment by Congresswoman Sullivan which will provide adequate funding and allow stamps on the basis of need."

FLASH

Hot Cargo Bill Held in Committee

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Burns (D-Fresno), who joined Senator John L. Harmer (R-Glendale) in introducing the bill, made the presentation in behalf of this anti-labor measure.

Senator George Deukmejian (R-Long Beach) made a motion to give the bill a "do pass" but this was countered by a substitute motion by Senator Lou Cusanovich (R-Sherman Oaks) to hold the bill in committee.

The vote on the substitute motion was 3 to 1 with only Senator Deukmejian in opposition.

Voting in favor of holding the bill in committee were: Senators Cusanovich, Nicholas C. Petris (D-Oakland) and Alfred H. Song (D-Monterey Park).

Charles P. Scully, General Counsel of the California Labor Federation, and Federation Vice President Harry Finks represented the state AFL-CIO at the hearing.

New York City Backs UFWOC Grape Boycott

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grapes until the labor dispute between California farm workers and the Giumarra Vineyards Corporation and other growers is settled.

The unprecedented action by the nation's largest city is important on two counts.

First it reflects the growing awareness and indignation of the American public at the "grapes of wrath" conditions perpetuated among farm workers by selfish corporate agricultural interests.

20% SOLD IN NYC

Secondly about 20 percent of all California grapes are sold in the New York City area and the City itself buys about 15 tons of grapes each year for its prisons and hospitals.

Deputy Mayor Costello said he hoped that the city's decision to support the boycott "will stimulate city residents to do the same thing."

On being informed of the New York City action, Delores Huerta, UFWOC vice president, said the union has had about 50 farm workers seeking support for the strike in New York since January and added that: "This boycott is going to be extended to other cities — like Boston and Chicago."

Contradicting the claims of California grape growers that the boycott was ineffective, officials of major New York food chains agreed that very few grapes are being sold in Manhattan at present, the peak season for table grapes sales.

DRIVE EXTENDED

Meanwhile the UFWOC has extended its organizing drive from Delano to Southern California's Coachella Valley.

By June 10 more than 90 percent of the workers had signed up in favor of representation by the UFWOC headed by Cesar Chavez. At a meeting in Indio a little more than two weeks ago 1,484 voted for the UFWOC and only 32 against.

The Coachella Valley strike began only after the growers had spurned repeated efforts by the workers to open negotiations.

William Kircher, AFL-CIO

State COPE Convention To Be Held in S.F. Sept. 4

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on Wednesday, September 4, 1968.

The business of the convention will be to review the primary endorsements of California Labor COPE and to issue endorsements for the November 5, 1968 general election in those instances where the position of California Labor COPE has not been recorded to date and in those instances where candidates endorsed by California Labor COPE have failed to qualify at the primary election.

To be represented at the convention, organizations must be in good standing, with per capita tax paid in full up to May 31, 1968.

No organization that has not applied for affiliation prior to May 31, 1968 may be represented except organizations chartered after that date.

A large block of rooms has been set aside for the convenience of the delegates at the San Francisco Hilton for the night of September 3. Delegates or their organizations should send their reservations directly to the hotel.

Delegates-elect and alternates-elect will receive their credentials from the secretaries of the organizations they are to represent. Each delegate is to present his or her credential to the Committee on Credentials at the convention.

It should be borne in mind

National Director of Organization who spent 10 days in the valley assisting the UFWOC, said:

"Every effort was made to get the growers to talk. They resisted every offer whether the talks were to be exploratory or otherwise. As a result, a strike was called."

The AFL-CIO Executive Council has extended the Giumarra grape boycott to all struck grapes except those of the DiGiorgio Company which are marked under the Hi-Color label. And it has urged all union members to support the UFWOC, the "newest and neediest member" of the family of organized workers.

that the original credential is to be given to the delegate. The list of authorized delegates is to be filled out and the original and duplicate mailed, together with the properly filled out duplicate credentials, to the Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Council on Political Education, Suite 310, 995 Market Street, San Francisco, 94103 as soon as possible after receipt but not later than August 16, 1968.

Deadline for the receipt of resolutions and proposed amendments to the constitution by the Secretary-Treasurer of State COPE is Tuesday, August 20, 1968, except for those approved by regularly constituted and affiliated State-wide organizations at Conventions or conferences held during the 15 days preceeding the convention, which must be received not later than 9 p.m. Tuesday, September 3, 1968.

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

IWIU Wins NLRB Vote at S.F. Firm

Another significant victory for the AFL-CIO Insurance Workers International Union was chalked up last week when workers at the Civil Service Employees Insurance Company in San Francisco chose the union as its bargaining agent despite a vigorous anti-union campaign fought largely by the company's lower echelon managerial personnel.

The victory in the National Labor Relations Board-conducted election culminated an organizing drive started in October, 1967, and represents the first full home office of a West Coast insurance company to vote for union representation.

Summer Job Goal

The Federal Government has a goal to hire 70,000 disadvantaged youths under the President's Youth Opportunity Campaign this summer. This is an increase of 26,000 over the number hired last year.

Bishops Urge Union Rights For Farm Workers

The top leadership of the Roman Catholic Church in California has voiced its unequivocal support for collective bargaining rights for farm workers and has specifically endorsed the nearly three-year old strike of Delano farm workers.

"We cannot in good conscience allow another year to pass without effecting social justice for the farm workers," a statement signed by the church's two California archbishops and seven bishops declared.

The statement urged Congress to grant farm workers—the "poor, forgotten and neglected Americans"—the same legal rights of unionization that are accorded workers in other industries.

It calls specifically on Congress to bring farm labor under the National Labor Relations Act and also specifically endorsed the now historic Delano grape workers strike that was launched by the former AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee on September 5, 1965.

This strike, which was subsequently joined by the National Farm Workers Association headed by Cesar Chavez, led to the merger of the two organizations into the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee in August 1966.

While the strike has already resulted in some historic contracts improving the lot of thousands of farm workers employed at DiGiorgio, Schenley, Christian Brothers and other major growers, the fight is still being pressed against the huge Giumarra Vineyards Corporation and more than a score of other big growers in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Bishops' statement was signed by:

James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles; Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken of San Francisco; and Bishops Francis J. Furey, San Diego; Harry A. Clinch, Monterey; Timothy Manning, Fresno; Floyd L. Begin, Oakland; Alden J. Bell, Sacramento; Leo H. Maher, Santa Rosa; and Hugh A. Donohoe, Stockton.

Meany Backs LBJ's High Court Choices

AFL-CIO President George Meany has voiced strong support for President Johnson's nominations to the Supreme Court and urged every member of the Senate to vote for their confirmation.

"The President," Meany said, "has nominated two eminently qualified Americans as Chief Justice and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. The AFL-CIO strongly supports the nominations of Justice Fortas and Judge Thornberry and we hope the Senate will speedily confirm both nominations . . .

"We are dismayed and disappointed by the political maneuvering among a few Senators and a leading Presidential candidate that has followed the President's announcement. The threat of a filibuster, and the overtones of prejudice that accompany it, cannot be justified by any political or moral standard. An attack on these appointees, or an attack on the right of the President to fulfill his constitutional duties, can only reflect discredit upon those engaging in it.

"We certainly cannot understand objections in the Senate now for both Justice Fortas and Judge Thornberry were confirmed by the Senate without opposition when they were nominated to their present posts.

"We trust cooler heads and more mature legislators will recognize these dangers and that the Senate will speedily consent to these appointments.

"We cannot allow this opportunity to pass without stating our deep regret at the resignation of Chief Justice Warren and our acknowledgement of the real debt that we and all Americans owe to him — a truly outstanding jurist and great American," Meany observed.

Nonwhite Jobless Rate

The nonwhite unemployment rate in May was 6.4%. This was exactly twice the unemployment rate of 3.2% for white workers. This ratio has held fairly constant for the past 15 years.

Pitts Urges Reagan To Drop Move to Control Poverty War

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the anti-poverty program by centralizing control in Sacramento."

Pitts said the Governor's desire for state control was "particularly hard to understand" since Reagan has repeatedly voiced a "belief in the desirability of local autonomy, initiative and self help."

None of these capabilities would exist, he pointed out, "if vital decisions regarding community action are made in Sacramento."

Taking issue with the claim that state control would reduce costs, Pitts said that this was "untrue."

On the contrary, he said, "such control would actually increase the cost of the anti-poverty program to California taxpayers while providing fewer services to the poor and disadvantaged."

To be "truly responsive to the needs of the poor, such programs must be centered near the poor in order that access be unimpeded," he wrote.

"Recognizing this, it is a difficult to understand the reasons behind your decision to deny local community control of the anti-poverty program."

Photographs of "On the Job Slaughter" used to illustrate a Labor Dept. safety pamphlet portray "exactly the truth" of what is happening today, Assistant Sec. of Labor Esther Peterson declared.

Mrs. Peterson told a news conference she "got mad" when an industry spokesman accused the Labor Dept. of "yellow journalism" during Senate hearings on the Administrations' Occupational Health & Safety Bill.

A vice president of the American Iron & Steel Institute, Leo Teplow, said some of the pictures of workers crushed and maimed in industrial accidents were more than 20 years old.

"I strongly deny," Teplow said, that the pictures represent "the current scene. . . ."

In a letter to Sen. Jennings Randolph (D-W. Va.), Mrs. Peterson retorted that "the sad

Since passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the war on poverty has assisted millions of adults and youths through such efforts as the Job Corps, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, Head Start, remedial education and job training programs, legal aid and locally run community action programs.

The AFL-CIO, both in California and nationally, has vigorously supported these programs and other efforts to reduce poverty and deprivation.

In fact, Pitts pointed out in his letter to Reagan, the AFL-CIO has repeatedly called for greater appropriations for the poverty program than Congress has authorized in the belief that "in this time of national stress, the poor and the unfortunate must be given hope and opportunity if we are to build a fairer, more equitable society."

The League of Women Voters of California and "numerous major cities and counties throughout the state" also believe that local control of the anti-poverty program should be maintained," Pitts' letter to Reagan pointed out.

On-Job Slaughter Pamphlet Tells it Like it is

truth of the matter is that these pictures do represent the current scene."

In her letter and in her news conference, Mrs. Peterson quoted newspaper clippings from the past three months which could have served as captions for the photographs, so closely did the stories match the pictures.

There usually isn't a photographer around to take a picture of workers crushed by falling loads or hands severed by trim-saws, she said. That's why older file pictures were used.

If virtually identical photos of recent accidents had illustrated the brochure, Mrs. Peterson asked, "would this have really changed the brochure or the need for this legislation?"

As for the management spokesman's charge that the Labor Dept. is trying to "arouse

More White Collar Workers Vote Union In

The increased momentum of union organizing among white collar workers last year has carried over into 1968, according to White Collar Report, a privately circulated labor information service of The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

A tabulation and analysis of NLRB certifications by White Collar Report shows that the Board conducted 200 white collar elections in cases closed in the first three months of this year.

Unions won 110 in bargaining units comprising 2,540 clerical, technical, professional, or other white collar employees. Unions were defeated in 90 elections in which 2,790 employees were eligible to vote. Comparable figures for the entire 12 months of 1967 were: 868 elections; 567 won in units of 15,090 employees; 301 lost in units of 11,950 employees.

The Office and Professional Employees remained among the most active with a record of 18 elections, seven wins, and 11 losses. OPEIU's biggest victory came at National Bellas Hess, Kansas City, Missouri, where it displaced the Teamsters.

emotional reaction" through "an inflammatory, lurid booklet," Mrs. Peterson had this comment:

"Yes, the Dept. of Labor is aroused by these tragic accidents. It will be an unfortunate day for the American worker when the Dept. of Labor ceases to be aroused, and to attempt to arouse others against the needless deaths, pain, suffering and financial costs of preventable on-the-job accidents."

She wrote Sen. Randolph that "criticism is needed in the field of occupational safety and health. But it should be aimed at the root causes of the problems that daily cause deaths, maiming and injuries in the workplace, not at those who seek to arouse the nation's conscience against the blood tragically, and often needlessly, spilled on the job."