



California AFL-CIO News

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer
THOS. L. PITTS

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500 Due at COPE Parley In S.F. Sept. 4

More than 500 delegates from AFL-CIO unions throughout California will meet at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco on Wednesday, September 4, for the pre-general election endorsement convention of the California Labor Council on Political Education.

The convention, meeting less than a week after the National Democratic Convention in Chicago, will review the primary endorsements of California Labor COPE, the political arm of the state's 1.4 million AFL-CIO union members, and act on endorsements for the November 5, 1968, general election in those instances where the posi-

(Continued on Page 3)

Deadline for Fed Convention Resolutions Nears

The deadline for resolutions for the California Labor Federation's forthcoming seventh convention in Sacramento which opens September 23, is September 8, 1968, Thos. L. Pitts, the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer reminded affiliates this week.

In accordance with the Federation's constitution, he explained, all resolutions submitted by local unions and councils must be made out in

(Continued on Page 2)

Take a Look at Wallace's Record

Former Governor George Wallace is making a concerted appeal for the votes of wage and salary earners throughout the nation in his American Independent Party presidential bid so maybe it's time workers took a look at his record.

(Continued on Page 2)

Special Session Likely On Social Legislation

In the August 16 issue of the California AFL-CIO News, the California Labor Federation expressed hope that the Governor would call a special session of the Legislature to coincide with the Veto Session beginning September 9.

The Governor has acted accordingly, and announced that it is his intention to call a Special Session to consider AB 1045 and

AB 2034.

AB 1045 would improve workmen's compensation benefits and AB 2034 would increase disability insurance benefits.

The Federation's Legislative Office in Sacramento will be following the developments of the Special Session very closely and will report to you the progress of these extremely important measures.

Pitts Riddles Reagan's Grape Boycott Claims

The State AFL-CIO this week challenged claims made by Governor Ronald Reagan regarding the nationwide consumer boycott of California grapes.

In wires sent to Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Washington's Governor Daniel J. Evans, Oregon's Governor Tom McCall, and San Francisco's Mayor Joseph Alioto, State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts refuted Reagan's claim that the boycott "has nothing to do with working or living conditions" and stated flatly that the Governor's contention that California farm workers' earnings are the highest in the nation "is false."

Pitts said the very publication cited by the Governor, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Statistical Reporting Service, clearly shows the aver-

Will Wonders Never Cease?

The California Farmer, a publication that for years championed the interests of California's huge corporate farms by claiming chaos would result if the now discredited bracero program were ended, has done an about face on the farm subsidy issue.

Responding to the result of its own questionnaire that

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued on Page 4)

Voter Signup Deadline Only 20 Days Away

Less than 20 days are left before the close of voter registration for the critical November 5 General Election.

The deadline is Thursday, September 12, just 14 working days away.

Some surveys indicate that a number of union members may be ineligible to vote. All trade unionists are urged to check their own registration status and remind their own eligible family members and friends of the September 12 deadline.

All persons in any of the following categories must register before the September 12 deadline to be eligible to vote in the

(Continued on Page 3)

Soaring Profits Peril Economy, Expert Warns

Organized labor's top economist has charged that many industries have been "profiteering on wage increases" while, at the same time, they were trying to blame unions for price hikes.

Per-unit labor costs actually fell between 1960 and 1966, but both the prices of those products and the profits on their manufacture and sale rose sharply, according to Nathaniel Goldfinger, director of AFL-

CIO Dept. of Research.

The labor economist said that when compared to prices and profits, workers' wages have risen very slowly since 1960, and the buying power of wages has risen even less.

He said that the situation today "clearly pictures a lack of balance" in the economy, with "skyrocketing profits" — up 84 percent since 1960 — "soaring dividends" — up 73 percent

(Continued on Page 3)



Deadline for Fed Convention Resolutions Nears

(Continued from Page 1)

triplicate and reach the office of the Secretary-Treasurer not later than 5 p.m. September 8, 1968.

The only exception to this deadline is for resolutions acted on and approved by regularly constituted and affiliated statewide organizations at conferences held in the period September 8-22, 1968 which must be filed with the Secretary-Treasurer not later than 9 p.m. Sunday, September 22, 1968. All resolutions must be submitted in triplicate.

Any resolution not submitted within the time specified above but which is delivered to the Secretary-Treasurer prior to noon on the first day of the convention, Monday, September 23, shall be reported to the convention by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to adjournment on the first day of the convention as a late resolution and shall not be referred to any committee for consideration unless and until the convention so orders by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting on the first day of the convention on request of a delegate.

In addition, all resolutions must bear the signature of the executive officer or the seal of the affiliated organization.

Come Back Alive

Over the 1967 Labor Day Weekend, 606 people were killed and about 20,000 suffered disabling injuries in traffic accidents. Another 550 people were killed and 80,000 suffered disabling injuries in non-traffic accidents over the same weekend.

The AFL-CIO is cooperating with the Labor Council of the National Safety Council in an effort to substantially reduce the accidental death and injury toll over the 1968 Labor Day holiday.

All trade unionists can help by just reminding their fellow workers, families and friends of last year's frightening toll. After all our primary aim is to "come back alive" on September 3, isn't it?

Take a Look at Wallace's Record in Alabama

(Continued from Page 1)

Despite his own four years as Governor and one and a half years as "unofficial" Governor, the conditions listed below existed in Alabama before he became governor and remain basically unchanged today.

- Wallace's Alabama ranks 48th among the 50 states in per capita annual income and is \$900 below the national average.

- Alabama meets only one out of eight key standards for state child labor laws.

- It ranks 48th among the 50

states in per-pupil expenditures in public schools.

- Wallace's Alabama has one of the highest illiteracy rates in the nation.

Some press coverage of Wallace's campaign has suggested that, despite his opposition to civil rights, he is progressive on other issues. But the record fails to bear this out too.

For example, although he promised not to raise sales taxes, most tax rates in his state have soared to among the highest in the nation.

And while some of his cham-

pions like to boast that jobless pay benefits were increased under Wallace's administration, they generally fail to point out that it also increased under all of his recent predecessors.

They also fail to mention that the increase effected during his administration was made at the expense of working women. Wallace's administration denied unemployment benefits to all working women who take maternity leave without assurance of a job when they are ready to return to work.

Moreover, Wallace's anti-worker philosophy is also reflected in the fact that for the first time in many years, Alabama state agencies—notably the highway patrol—interfered in union organizing efforts under Wallace.

If this sounds like a one-sided account it may be because the record of George Wallace of Alabama is also one-sided—against the legitimate aspirations of working people.

Will Wonders Never Cease?

(Continued from Page 1)

showed "a surprising number of farmers had some caustic remarks to make" about the huge subsidy checks paid to a few corporate farms, including five that got more than \$1,000,000 each, the August 17, 1968 California Farmer said in an editorial that it was "surprised at the depth of feeling among farmers about these outside corporations coming in and buying up big tracts of land . . .

" . . . There is good reason for the farmer to have some feeling about this trend. He is also concerned about the big interests that are moving in to develop the huge west side area that is opening up under the big ditch of the State Water Plan.

"In our own case we have changed our thinking. We think we would vote for a maximum on the size of a subsidy check to any one individual or corporation. We can't give you any good rationale on this stand except that we, too, are beginning to resent the huge corporations buying large blocks of farm land for speculation purposes. It certainly does agriculture no good."

The editorial could have gone a step farther and noted that it doesn't do the California consumer or taxpayer any good either.

Unmentioned in the editorial was the fact that four of the five firms that got more than \$1,000,000 each in subsidies in 1966 were California firms and that the total these four firms received was \$7,688,262.

Moreover, these subsidy payments, which were reported in the June 1967 Congressional Record on Page S 8412 and represented payments under the Soil Bank and Acreage Diversion Programs, were direct cash payments in addition to and not a part of any subsidy that the government may have been making under the price-support program to the same four firms.

Another four California farming operations received similar direct cash subsidies ranging between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 in 1966; and 76 other California farming operations, including the struck Giumarra Vineyard Corporation in Kern County, received sums ranging between \$100,000 and \$499,999, excluding any price-support sums they may have received.

The next thing you know The California Farmer may recognize that so long as independent farmers go along with the efforts of the Montgomery Street farmers—the corporate farm-complexes—to keep the wages of domestic farm workers at poverty levels, the value of the labor that the independent farmer and his family put into their produce is correspondingly reduced.

The fact that the median earnings of California farm workers are less than \$1,400 a year and their average earnings are more than 50 percent less than the average California factory worker's weekly wage should suggest this to them.

But don't hold your breath until it does.

Use COPE Film To Liven Next Union Meeting

If you want to liven up your union's next meeting, try showing the new National COPE filmograph, "1968 — Labor's Year of Challenge."

Copies of this 15-minute, 16 mm color film that shows how conservative and reactionary forces plan to hobble labor unions if they win control of Congress and the presidency next November are available on a loan basis to all California Labor COPE affiliates.

Since only a limited number of copies are on hand, affiliates requesting the film should list a preferred date and a first and second alternative date.

The only cost to the affiliate is payment of the return postage. The filmographs must be returned within 24 hours after their scheduled showing date.

Inquiries should be directed to Film Library, California Labor COPE, 995 Market St., San Francisco 94103. If you prefer to phone, the number is Area Code 415-986-3585.

Soaring Profits Peril Economy, Expert Warns

(Continued from Page 1)
since 1960 — while workers' earnings rose only 27 percent and "buying power only 10 percent."

Goldfinger appeared on Labor News Conference, an AFL-CIO produced public affairs interview, broadcast Tuesdays on the Mutual Radio Network.

Goldfinger said he agreed with Peter L. Bernstein, president of a New York investment counselling service, who was reported recently by the Wall Street Journal as saying:

"The pattern is clear enough. Instead of labor costs pushing prices up, what we see instead is a sort of profits push. Profits are already well on their way up before prices begin to rise, and prices are well on their way up before wages begin to rise faster than output."

Goldfinger declared that the "crucial factors" in the current economic imbalance are "profit inflation and the attempts of the companies to push prices up to increase the profits on each item of goods sold — to charge as much as the traffic will bear."

"The entire country would benefit from better relationships between profits and wages . . . a more or less equal upward movement of workers' wages and buying power of consumers on the one hand, and business profits on the other," he declared. He emphasized that unless consumer buying power moves at an equal pace, "consumers will not have enough purchasing power to buy what the economy can produce."

Apprentice Pact OK'd

The Labor Department's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training has signed an agreement for an apprenticeship outreach program in Oakland with the Bay Area Opportunities Construction program. The goal is to prepare youngsters for apprenticeship examinations.

Growers Net Earnings Skyrocket 69% in 1 Year

A slight inkling of just why California growers are so adamantly opposed to granting collective bargaining rights to farm workers was reflected this month when the California Canners and Growers issued its year-end earnings report showing earnings had skyrocketed 69 percent over the previous year.

The cooperative, organized in 1958-59, is owned by 1,100 growers and ranches and has become the largest cooperative processor of fruits and vegetables in the nation.

For the fiscal year ended

May 31, 1968, it reported net earnings of \$7.1 million, 69 percent more than the \$4.2 million in net earnings for the previous year.

California growers are repeatedly claiming that they pay the highest wages in the nation. This is false on its face and they know it.

LESS THAN HALF

But they repeat it nonetheless apparently in an effort to cover up the fact that non-union farm workers' wages in California are less than half the average weekly wage of California factory workers.

In short, it's pretty obvious that the prime reason for the agribusiness interests' opposition to bargaining rights for farm workers is simply that they prefer to get away with exploiting the workers as long as possible in order to maximize their own profits.

WHAT'S WRONG

There are several things wrong, both morally and economically with the grower's stand. Foremost of course, is that the farm workers and their children are denied adequate housing, health, education, and other facilities necessary to bring them into the mainstream of American life. The simple fact is their wages are too low to afford them a decent standard of living.

But what many California taxpayers fail to recognize is that it is the California taxpayer who is obliged through welfare payments, to make up part of the difference between the inadequate wage paid by the grower and the minimum needed by the farm worker to support his family.

WHO PAYS FOR IT?

In short, so long as California farm workers are denied collective bargaining rights, California's taxpayers will indirectly subsidize the low wages in the state's \$5 billion agribusiness industry.

That's the size of it.

And that's why it's in the best interest of consumers throughout California to support the California farm workers' drive for decent wages, working conditions, and union recognition.

500 Due at COPE Parley In S.F. Sept. 4

(Continued from Page 1)
tion of California Labor COPE has not been recorded to date and in those instances where candidates endorsed by California Labor COPE failed to qualify at the primary election.

The invocation at the convention, which opens at 10 a.m. in the Imperial Ballroom, will be given by Dean C. Julian Bartlett of San Francisco's Grace Cathedral.

The delegates will act on endorsements for U.S. President, Vice President and U.S. Senator as well as for the state's 38 Congressional districts, 20 odd-numbered state senatorial districts and 80 assembly districts.

A meeting of the Executive Council of California Labor COPE will be held on Tuesday, September 3, to review the endorsement recommendations of labor's local political action bodies and to develop the 36-member Council's recommendations to the convention. All official endorsements, however, will be made by the delegates to the convention.

Registration will open at the Hilton at 10 a.m. Tuesday and continue throughout the day. It will reopen at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

The official call for the convention was sent out to all affiliates on July 1, 1968, and more than 500 credentials have already been returned.

A First Priority

"A first priority national purpose should be full employment—in the fullest sense of that term—at wages producing a decent standard of living for everyone. We are today at the point where the most serious remaining unemployment is more personal than economic, where there are skill shortages, and where the primary need is to develop people's abilities to permit their using the opportunities that are available."—Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz before the Joint Economic Committee.

Voter Signup Deadline Only 20 Days Away

(Continued from Page 1)

Presidential election November 5:

- Persons who have moved since they last voted in California.
- Persons who failed to vote in the November 1966 general election who have not re-registered since then.
- New residents who have been in the state one year, in the county 90 days and in their local precinct 54 days by November 5.
- Young people who will become 21 years old on or before November 5.
- All persons who have changed their name legally, including women who have married.

The only exceptions to this are unregistered war voters who are released from service after the September 12 deadline. They may appear before a County Clerk or Registrar of Voters and register and vote up until 5 p.m. November 4 so long as they have proof of their discharge.

Trade unionists expecting to be absent from their precinct on election day should send a written application to their county clerk for an absent voter's ballot any time between September 6 and October 29.

Union Pacts Net 6.5% Hike in First Half of 1968

Collective bargaining contracts negotiated during the first half of 1968 provided median wage and benefit package increases of 6.5 percent a year, 1.3 percent more than the 5.2 percent median boost for contracts negotiated during the full year of 1967, the U. S. Labor Dept. disclosed this week.

The 6.5 percent median increase is based on the assumption that the changes went into effect at equal intervals during the life of the contracts, the Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics explained in releasing the preliminary estimates.

UP 6.8 PERCENT

When the actual timing of wage and benefit changes is taken into account, the median increase amounts 6.8 percent a year compared with 5.6 percent for the full year of 1967, the Bureau said.

The contracts negotiated during the first half of 1968 cover nearly two million workers or about one-fifth of the 10½ million workers covered by major collective bargaining pacts.

If wage rates are considered separately from benefits, the increases during the entire life of the contracts averaged 5.2 percent of straight-time average hourly earnings annually compared with 5.0 percent for the full year of 1967.

FIRST YEAR HIKES

The median first-year wage rate increase negotiated during the first half of 1968 was 7.5 percent of straight-time average hourly earnings, up substantially from the 5.7 percent for the full year of 1967.

In manufacturing, the first-year increase was 7.7 percent and in non-manufacturing it was 7.5 percent compared to 6.4 and 5.0 percent increases respectively in 1967, the Bureau said.

The agreements covered included those in the copper, railroad and the telephone industries, which affected more than 700,000 workers, as well as pacts reached in the apparel, can, aluminum, construction and glass industries.

Pitts Riddles Reagan's Grape Boycott Claims

(Continued from Page 1)

age hourly rate in Washington State higher than in California and the Hawaiian rate much higher.

But more importantly, he noted, is the fact that "hourly earnings and annual earnings of farm workers are very low all across the nation and that earnings of \$1.50 to \$1.65 an hour for the California farm labor force are not something to boast about."

OVERLOOKED

Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, also pointed out that the Governor "conveniently overlooked" the fact that the median earnings of California farm workers strongly attached to the farm labor work force "are less than \$1,400 a year."

"Contrary to the Governor's claim," he said, "the United Farm Workers' Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, is not trying to compel workers to join a union contrary to their own wishes. The workers want a union; the growers do not want to bargain collectively. The UFWOC has offered to meet with the growers. The growers have steadfastly refused. The UFWOC has agreed to representative elections; the growers have refused."

"In short, a majority of the growers are adamantly opposed to collective bargaining in agriculture," he declared.

TEXT OF WIRE

The complete text of Pitts' wire, which was sent to the same four political leaders that Governor Reagan had wired last Thursday, was as follows:

"Recently the Governor of California wired you stating he wished 'to call your attention to the fact that large amounts of false information are being circulated regarding the grape boycott'."

"In view of the fact that Governor Reagan, after making this and other bald statements, offered no facts to support his charges, I want to take this opportunity to give you some of the facts of this matter."

"First, contrary to the Governor's claim, the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee,

AFL-CIO, is not trying to compel workers to join a union contrary to their own wishes. The workers want a union; the growers do not want to bargain collectively. The UFWOC has offered to meet with the growers. The growers have steadfastly refused. The UFWOC has agreed to representative elections; the growers have refused."

"In short, a majority of the growers are adamantly opposed to collective bargaining in agriculture."

LOW WAGES CITED

"Second, the boycott, contrary to the Governor, has everything to do with working and living conditions. Workers in the grape harvest, according to the Reagan administration's own weekly data collection, receive a 'prevailing wage' of \$1.50 to \$1.65 an hour. This sum is only about 45 percent of the state's average weekly manufacturing wage. In terms of yearly earnings, the median earning of non-casual farm workers, that is, those strongly attached to the farm labor work force, are less than \$1,400 a year, a figure the Governor conveniently overlooked. Moreover, unorganized farm workers do not receive any of the normal fringe benefits other workers take for granted."

"Third, the Governor's claim that California farm workers' earnings are the nation's highest is false."

"The very publication he cited indicates that the average hourly rate in the State of Washington exceeds that in California. Also, the Hawaiian rate is much higher. Moreover, the important fact is that hourly earnings and annual earnings of farm workers are very low all across the nation and that earnings of \$1.50 to \$1.65 an hour for the California farm labor force are not something to boast about."

NO U.I. INSURANCE

"Fourth, the Governor, in discussing unemployment insurance, failed to note the California legislature adjourned without enacting such legislation for farm workers. The major farm worker unemployment

Networks Schedule Labor Day Addresses

Four major speeches by AFL-CIO leaders will be heard on nationwide radio networks on Labor Day, Sept. 2.

The schedule: Vice Pres., I. W. Abel, ABC, 7:20 p.m.; Pres. George Meany, CBS, 7:35 p.m.; Vice Pres. John H. Lyons, Jr., Mutual, 9:15 p.m.; Vice Pres. John J. Grogan, NBS, 10:15 p.m. All times are Eastern Daylight. Since radio programming varies from station to station, listeners should check local listings.

insurance bill at the 1968 session, which did clear one house of the legislature, was not supported by the Reagan administration.

"Fifth, contrary to the Governor's wire, the use of strike-breakers in California agriculture is well known, particularly the case of 'green carders' from Mexico. The U.S. Department of Labor has confirmed this fact repeatedly."

"Sixth, the Governor states 'concerned growers are preparing legislation to be presented at the next session of the legislature to establish procedures for handling agricultural labor problems.' Apparently, this legislation, however drafted and whatever its content, will have the Governor's support. Left unsaid is the fact that efforts have been made for years to extend the National Labor Relations Act to farm workers. The Governor could support such legislation. He has not done so."

"Seventh, the Governor seems to suggest that somehow the boycott of grapes is 'illegal'. This is totally unsubstantiated."

"In short, the Governor's wire is long on charges, but overlooks many uncomfortable, unpleasant facts. Instead of siding so vociferously with the grape growers, the Governor could more profitably devote his time toward developing constructive, peaceful labor-management relations in agriculture by urging the growers to bargain with the UFWOC, the representative of their workers."

A copy of the wire was also sent to Governor Reagan.