



California AFL-CIO News

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer
THOS. L. PITTS

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Pitts Raps Nixon's Attack On Poor Farm Workers

"The face behind the facade of the 'new Nixon' bared itself this week when Richard Milhous Nixon exposed his total lack of concern for the plight of the nation's farm workers by aligning himself solidly on the employers' side of the nationwide grape boycott," State AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts has charged.

"And it's the same old face of the two-time loser, old duck and dodge Dick Nixon," Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said.

Many of the huge corporate farm interests that are pushing Nixon's candidacy are the same interests that have not only

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Alan Urges Max To Answer Draft Dodge Charge

U.S. Senate nominee Alan Cranston this week urged his opponent, Max Rafferty, to debate a Long Beach newspaper—"either on television or in court"—if its portrayal of him as having been an atheist and a draft dodger is not true.

Appearing as featured speaker at the state convention of the California Federation of Young Democrats at the Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica last Sunday, Cranston, a veteran, said he, himself, had never made any such charges, although Rafferty attempted to imply as much at a press conference last Friday.

"The truth is," Cranston said, "I did nothing of the sort. Rather, a free and independent newspaper in Long Beach last

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Growers Feeling Sting of Boycott

The AFL-CIO's top organizer reported mounting success of organized labor's boycott against California table grapes, launched by the farm workers to help win employer-recognition of their union.

Local boycott teams are now operating in most major cities, and the boycott has solid co-

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Prop. 9 Would Create Chaos, Wipe Out Jobs, Labor Warns

Proposition 9, the so-called Watson initiative to appear on the November 5 general election ballot, "is the wrong way to achieve property tax relief and must be defeated," the State AFL-CIO declared this week.

Warning that the bonding limitation contained in

IAM Poll Shows Strong Support For Humphrey

Delegates to the Machinists' Convention believe that the union's membership strongly backs Democratic presidential nominee Hubert H. Humphrey as most capable of handling critical problems facing the nation.

Humphrey drew heavy majorities as the candidate who would do the best job of im-

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Proposition 9 "would throw thousands upon thousands of California building tradesmen and workers in construction-related fields out of work," a statement presented yesterday in behalf of Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, at a hearing of the State Senate Finance Committee in Sacramento accused Proposition 9 promoters of engaging in "outright falsehood" and pointed out that its enactment would adversely affect the more than 40 percent of California householders who rent.

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Court Upholds New State Farm Pay Floor

The validity of three state minimum wage orders boosting hourly wages for 100,000 women and children working on California farms has been unan-

imously upheld by the State Court of Appeals.

The ruling, handed down by the 3rd District Appellate Court in Sacramento Tuesday,

Fed Bills to Hike Disability Benefits Up to Legislature

Two bills to improve maximum weekly benefits for workers suffering on or off-the-job disabilities were introduced in the State Senate this week by Senators Alan Short and George Moscone at the request of Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

The Short-Moscone bills, SB 2 and SB 3, would, respectively, boost maximum weekly benefits under the state's workmen's compensation program for job-connected disabilities from \$70 to \$98 and hike the maximum weekly benefit for off-the-job disabilities under the employee-paid disability in-

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Union-Backed Low-Cost Homes Near Completion

A new, moderately priced housing project is nearing completion in Oakland under the sponsorship of the trade union movement in cooperation with a cross-section of community groups.

When completed Acorn will offer 780 apartments and townhouses in an integrated community with all the necessary facilities and approaches

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will hike the minimum hourly wage for women by 35 cents to \$1.65 and that of minors by 25 cents from \$1.10 to \$1.35.

Payment of the new minimums had been thwarted by three Superior Court suits filed by agribusiness interests headed by the California Farm Bureau Federation and includ-

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NLRB Upholds Right of Access To Workers

A company cannot exclude union organizers from the premises of an industrial park, according to a recent National Labor Relations Board ruling.

Moreover, a company cannot prevent union organizers from distributing union literature on what amounts to private property in a situation where the employees are otherwise inaccessible to reasonable efforts to communicate with them, the NLRB said.

The decision stems from unfair labor charges filed against the Solo Cup and Calumet Industrial District Company, both of Chicago, Illinois, by the United Paper Makers and Paper Workers, AFL-CIO, after union organizers were barred from distributing union literature from premises surrounding the Solo Cup Company plant.

It represents an extension of the Supreme Court's recent decision in the Logan Valley Plaza case in which the Supreme Court found that a privately-owned shopping center could not exclude non-employees who sought to peacefully picket and distribute literature from the premises, the union's attorney said.

In announcing its decision, the NLRB held that it could see no difference between a shopping center and an industrial park and added:

"We find that the industrial park in the present case is clearly analogous to the privately owned suburban shopping center or the normal municipal business district and similarly conclude that respondents cannot deny access to the premises to union representatives, whether it be for picketing or hand billings."

The Board also ordered the Solo Cup Company and the Calumet Industrial District Company to stop interfering with the union organizers' right to distribute union literature to Solo Cup Company's employees.

Solo Cup was also ordered to provide the union with up-to-date lists of the names and addresses of all of its employees

Massive Investment Tied To Urban Crisis

America's troubled cities are not going to disappear. They are going to grow, and grow, and grow. The vital problems afflicting them will become further inflamed as millions of people are drawn by the hope of finding opportunities which rural America does not offer.

Union-Backed Low-Cost Homes Near Completion

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to make for a cohesive neighborhood.

The non-profit sponsor of this unique urban renewal project is the Alameda County Building Trades Council, whose members are involved in the construction and which will be responsible for the maintenance, management and racial integration of the complex.

The redevelopment of the area was first attempted in 1956 and failed. In 1965 the Acorn project was launched again, this time with union sponsorship and a combined effort by civic and trade union leaders.

The high level of cooperation between public authorities, minority groups and the unions has brought the project to its present stage of near completion.

On the basis of experience with the Acorn project, the Oakland Redevelopment Agency has launched a second project called Oak Center with the emphasis on rehabilitation with a minimum of disruption.

The Acorn project consists of townhouses with units ranging in size from studio apartments to four-bedroom units with completely equipped kitchens and carpeted or resilient tile floors. They will rent from \$67 per month for studio apartments to \$145 per month for four-bedroom units.

in the appropriate bargaining unit and to keep such lists up-to-date with weekly revisions.

Both companies were instructed to post notices on bulletin boards that the companies would not interfere with the right of the union to organize and the workers to become organized.

Ten years from now, 80 percent of the nation's people will be housed on one percent of the land. For a nation already plagued by a housing shortage, the prospects are grim.

What is needed, as the AFL-CIO has been urging for years, is a program of massive public investment in many directions.

Topping the program is the creation of a million public service jobs for the hard core unemployed, many of whom are clustered in the ghettos.

AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany, appearing before the platform committees of the two major parties, said the jobs should be "useful jobs on useful projects."

"We are not talking about leaf-raking," he said. "We are talking about jobs on projects already planned, with adequate supervision already available. We are talking about projects badly needed by states, communities and non-profit institutions, which have been held up for lack of manpower and money."

These projects, he pointed out, could provide essential services in parks and other recreational facilities, in day-care centers and hospitals, schools and libraries and in the conservation of rivers and harbors from the ravages of pollution.

What has this got to do with housing? Just this: Even low-rent, subsidized housing is of little use to a no-income family.

Moreover, public facilities—water and sewage systems, mass transit, schools, hospitals, day-care centers, playgrounds, libraries, museums — are necessary auxiliaries of good housing.

Mass transit is needed to allow those trapped in the ghettos to reach the areas where new plants are being constructed, many of them in the suburbs.

Vastly increased aid to education is required to bring the slum school—the build-

Fed Bills To Hike Disability Benefits Up to Legislature

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surance program from \$80 to \$98.

Commenting on the introduction of the bills at the special session of the legislature which is running concurrently with the five-day veto session that convened in Sacramento on Monday, September 9, Pitts said:

"These bills are simply designed to assure workers suffering on or off-the-job disabilities more adequate benefits during their period of disability.

"Their enactment will mark a significant forward step toward updating these two social insurance programs to keep them abreast of the rise in wage levels and the increased monetary needs of workers suddenly cutoff from their regular paychecks and often unable to fend for themselves. Their enactment will also be of benefit to the state's economy since both of these programs contribute significantly to maintaining the workers' purchasing power and reducing welfare costs.

"I urge all California trade unionists to write their Senators and State Assemblymen today to urge prompt and positive action on these two measures, SB 2 and SB 3."

ing, the equipment and the faculty — up to standards that can properly educate the slum child and equip him for employment.

As Meany told the platform committees:

"A society that offers almost limitless opportunities to most of its members, and almost no opportunity to the rest, is a society that needs changing."

Urban Ghetto Cynicism

"A major roadblock encountered by any anti-poverty effort in the urban ghetto is the deep cynicism of its residents. The nature of the current program exacerbates this difficulty, because its goals are long-range and most of its important benefits are deferred."—Paul Bullock, Institute of Industrial Relations, UCLA.

Growers Feeling Sting of Boycott, Kircher Says

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operation and support from AFL-CIO unions from coast to coast, William L. Kircher, director of the AFL-CIO Dept. of Organization, said as he was questioned by reporters on Labor News Conference, broadcast Tuesdays on the Mutual Radio Network.

Kircher declined speculation on the percentage of grape production and sales affected by the boycott. "It is always difficult to measure the success of a boycott until it is over," he explained, "because the opposition simply tells you that you are not hurting them right up until 15 minutes before they capitulate."

EFFECTS FELT

But, there are indications that the grape producers are feeling the boycott's effects, he asserted, citing the \$25 million lawsuit the growers recently filed against the union.

"We just don't think you sue for \$25 million unless you are being hurt," he said.

The union spokesman denied that the boycott is hurting innocent people. The grocers and market operators aren't really "innocent," he said, and won't "lose a penny's worth of business" by not selling grapes, which are not a product that "attracts people into the markets."

BOYCOTT VALID

Charging that "farm workers are one of the most oppressed and impoverished groups of workers in this nation," Kircher declared: "It is perfectly correct, proper and normal for the buying public to have the opportunity to be informed of the conditions under which foodstuffs are produced, and to make a decision as to whether or not they want to buy those things."

"We don't think the American buying public wants that impoverishment to continue as a sort of subsidy that the farm worker pays to permit the American buying public to purchase foodstuffs at a little lower price," he said.

Prop. 9 Would Create Chaos, Wipe Out Jobs, Labor Warns

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Pitts' statement said that even though one may agree with some of the arguments of the initiative's proponents — that property taxes are regressive and too high; and that increasing governmental costs have been piled on the property tax because it is the simplest way of raising revenue — "it does not follow that Proposition 9 should be enacted."

The State AFL-CIO statement labeled as false Proposition 9 proponents' claims that the initiative would benefit renters; equalize the tax burden of all property owners, strengthen local government and local control; or protect California's credit rating.

NO AID FOR RENTERS

On the contrary, it said, renters would not only not receive any tax break but "would pay much more in sales taxes, income taxes and other taxes" while large apartment house owners "would make greater profits."

On its face, Proposition 9 "appears deceptively simple," the Federation's statement said. It would limit the tax burden on all property for property-related services to one percent of market value after July 1, 1969 and establish a bond limitation at 20 percent of assessed value or five percent of market value. It was authored by Los Angeles County Assessor Phillip Watson.

Pointing out that California already has "a bonded indebtedness approximately 50 percent above what Proposition 9 would permit," the State AFL-CIO said that the bonding limitation in Proposition 9 "would produce chaos."

Much presently planned construction, it said, "would never begin and much current construction would be halted if the initiative passes."

"The crucial question thus becomes, how would the future growth of California be financed if Proposition 9 succeeds? New schools, libraries and hospitals must be built, rapid transit must be constructed, the State Water Project completed and other capital improvements must be made."

"These projects traditionally have been financed largely through bonds. Yet the bonding limitation in Proposition 9

would halt much of the construction in this state. This would be catastrophic," the Federation declared.

Claims made by Proposition 9 promoters that the initiative would protect California's credit rating from the dangers of over-bonding and that various districts would still be able to issue revenue bonds as needed amount to nothing less than "an outright falsehood," it added.

"Moreover, the bond limitation would produce an erratic, unstable situation in the bond market because there are now millions of authorized but unsold bonds in California."

"If Proposition 9 is enacted, or prior to the election appears certain of passage, many districts will sell authorized bonds ahead of need and thus glut the bond market. As a consequence, interest rates, already high, would rise even more sharply, meaning even greater costs to taxpayers," the State AFL-CIO warned.

TAX REFORM URGED

The Labor Federation reminded the lawmakers that the California AFL-CIO has repeatedly urged the Governor and the legislature to undertake "an overall reform of the state's tax structure," including a reduction in property taxes and a shift in emphasis from regressive taxes to more progressive tax sources, such as the personal income tax and the bank and corporation tax.

The Federation's position, Pitts' statement said, is that "while property tax relief is desirable, such relief should be given only to the owner-occupied single family home and to renters."

"Efforts to give 'windfalls' to large landowners, apartment house owners and other wealthy groups must be opposed," it said, explaining that this position is based on the fact that about 70 cents out of every dollar of across-the-board property tax relief would not go to hard-pressed homeowners even though homeowners and renters would pay approximately 70 percent of the taxes needed to replace the revenue lost . . ."

The Senate Finance Commit-

IAM Poll Shows Strong Support For Humphrey

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proving labor laws, winning peace with freedom in Viet Nam, keeping the country prosperous and checking inflation and establishing justice and order in these cities.

The poll conducted at the convention was not a candidate preference poll but specifically asked the delegates' judgment on "how you think the majority of the members you represent feel about the qualifications of the nominee for President?"

It disclosed that independent candidate George C. Wallace ran ahead of GOP nominee Richard M. Nixon in the four areas listed.

The poll gives Humphrey 92 percent on improving labor laws compared to 2 percent for Nixon and 6 percent for Wallace. Humphrey scored 82 percent on checking inflation compared to 8 percent for Nixon and 10 percent for Wallace.

On winning peace with freedom in Viet Nam, Humphrey scored 77 percent to 11 percent for Nixon and 12 percent for Wallace. On justice and order in the cities Humphrey's 67 percent compared to 7 percent for Nixon and 26 percent for Wallace.

tee is chaired by Senator George Miller, Jr., (D-Martinex).

Earlier this week State Legislative Analyst A. Alan Post told the committee that Proposition 9 would force the state to raise taxes by \$4.5 billion in the next five years.

200 Youth Centers Set Up to Find Jobs

Nearly 200 youth opportunity centers have been established in 150 different areas to offer young people help in finding jobs, the Labor Department says.

The centers, located in fringe areas between city ghettos and the main business and shopping districts, are operated by the State Employment Services.

Court Upholds New Farm Wage Floor

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ing the California Grape and Tree Fruit League.

The growers' suits had argued that the farm minimums were illegal and that the Industrial Welfare Commission, which established the new minimums in September, 1967, after hearing extensive testimony by the California Labor Federation, did not have to authority to do so because, they contended, federal laws covered such activities.

It pointed out that the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act setting a higher pay floor or a shorter workweek would take precedence.

The 42-page Appellate Court decision written by Judge Leonard M. Friedman and concurred in by Judges Fred R. Pierce and Edwin J. Regan, ruled that the IWC had full legal authority to act, ordered the three suits dissolved, and directed the IWC to enforce the new minimum wage floors in farm labor immediately.

The Court's action also upheld payment of overtime at time and one-half for all work in excess of eight hours a day or 40 hours a week for women and minors involved in packing and processing crops on and off the farm.

The suit was carried to the Appellate Court in behalf of a number of women farm workers by California Rural Legal Assistance, an arm of the Office of Economic Opportunity's war on poverty, with the support of State Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch.

The wage orders involved are Orders 8, 13 and 14.

On-the-Job Training

The Labor Department announced on-the-job training goals have been exceeded by 12 percent during the current fiscal year and that no new programs can be approved until more money becomes available on July 1. During the fiscal year training opportunities have been afforded 140,000 workers.

Pitts Raps Nixon's Attack On Poor Farm Workers

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fought for years against Congressional measures to afford collective bargaining rights to farm workers but have flatly refused repeatedly to let even their own employees decide for themselves whether they want a union," Pitts explained.

"Just about the only thing correct" in the statement on the boycott issued by the Republican Presidential candidate at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco on Sept. 5, Pitts said, "was that it does indeed, as Nixon said, illustrate 'another sharp difference' between Nixon and Democratic nominee Hubert Humphrey."

DOUBLE TALK

"California workers as well as citizens throughout the nation have more intelligence than Nixon apparently gives us credit for," Pitts said, "for otherwise he certainly wouldn't have tried so much doubletalk on this issue — his first slip-up in an otherwise well-greased campaign.

"When a candidate for the Presidency of the United States says that 'we have laws on the books to protect workers who wish to organize . . . a National Labor Relations Board to impartially supervise the election of collective bargaining agents and to safeguard the rights of organizers' and yet ignores the fact that the very workers initiating the boycott are specifically excluded from those laws, that's doubletalk," Pitts declared.

MORE DOUBLE TALK

"And again when the GOP candidate says, 'I say the law must be applied equally to all; once you begin playing political favorites to knuckle under to power brokers in law enforcement you abdicate your responsibility to all the people,' he is again engaging in doubletalk because that's precisely what the boycott fight is all about and why it has won mounting nationwide support.

"The National Labor Relations Act is not applied equally to all; farm workers have long been unfairly excluded, and that's precisely why the farm

workers initiated the boycott," Pitts said.

"It seems perfectly obvious that Nixon is either ignorant of — or chooses to ignore — the fact that California farm workers earn an average of less than \$1500 a year including non-farm employment and that some of the same corporate farm interests that he supports by opposing the boycott are those who went to court earlier this year to attempt to deny a minimum hourly wage of only \$1.65 to women farm workers.

HHH's PROUD RECORD

"In sharp contrast to the Republican nominee, Hubert Humphrey has consistently championed farm workers' rights throughout his uninterrupted 20-year Congressional career and this is clearly and absolutely consistent with the nation's long established national policy of encouraging free collective bargaining.

"For years, California farm workers particularly have been cheated and bludgeoned by some unscrupulous growers or their agents who refuse to provide the workers with decent wages and working conditions decent housing and even adequate sanitation facilities.

NIXON OFF BASE

"To borrow Nixon's own phrase, Pitts said, 'to maintain consistency in support of law enforcement,' it is Nixon who should immediately withdraw his support of the growers and support the farm workers' grape boycott to help these long-exploited workers win the decent wages and working conditions they are entitled to.

"California's wage and salary earners should recognize that Nixon's opposition to the grape boycott is directly in line with the record he compiled in Congress where he voted repeatedly against adequate social insurance benefits, against consumer issues and generally favored private power interests against low-cost public power — a record 87 percent in opposition to the best interests of working people," Pitts added.

Alan Urges Max To Answer Draft Dodge Charge

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week published five in-depth articles which apparently documented that he was a draft dodger and an atheist who expediently discovered God when he went into politics. (The newspaper was the Long Beach Press-Telegram).

"Rafferty, with his usual evasive tactics, has tried to avoid the substance of those questions by indicating that the articles are part of my supposed name calling.

"I have refused to debate or make joint appearances with Max Rafferty because he has no regard for the truth," Cranston said, "but since he is so eager for debate and has denied the truth of these articles, I suggest a debate with the newspaper would be very much in order."

Referring to the recent Democratic national convention at Chicago, Cranston told his young audience:

"An age of New Politics clearly is upon us. And young Democrats are responsible for it. I ask you not to let your disappointments lead you to abdicate political responsibility this year. There are still battles to be won—here and now."

Cranston said he was asking Senators McCarthy and Kennedy "to come out here to help me—to help us—win them."

Negro Job Ratio Higher In Union Bldg. Trades

More Negroes hold skilled jobs in construction than in most other industries, and apprenticeship opportunities in construction are widening, the AFL-CIO's director of civil rights said in a recent network radio interview.

Donald Slaiman pointed out that the latest government report on construction employment in larger firms with federal contracts shows that Negroes make up 16.6 percent of the blue collar work force—the most solidly unionized segment of the industry. But, he said, in the mostly unorganized white collar part of the industry, Negroes hold less than 1 percent of the jobs.