



California AFL-CIO News

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer
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Labor Delegates Urge Action to Achieve Full Employment

Stressing the fact that "tremendous imbalances" exist in both the national and state economies, delegates to the California Labor Federation's Seventh Convention adopted a policy statement on "Full Employment and the Economy" this week that calls on the federal government to provide strong leadership "to achieve a balanced full employment economy in which all segments of society prosper," and attacked what they called "the prevailing state government view that the private sector alone knows what is best."

The imbalances, the policy statement adopted at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium

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Fed Sees Move to Cripple Unions, Urges Stronger Laws

"Special interest groups . . . are now mounting an all-out offensive to cripple . . . the trade union movement," delegates to the State AFL-CIO convention warned this week in adopting a policy statement on Labor Legislation calling for substantial strengthening of

federal and state labor laws.

Asserting that "reactionary congressmen" can be expected to push bills already in the congressional hopper to outlaw the union shop through a federal compulsory open-shop or so-called "right-to-work" law, to

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Other Highlights

Other activities at the convention including major addresses by U. S. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz, Paul Hall, AFL-CIO President George Meany's special representative to the convention and Alan Cranston will be reported next week. Among other things, the convention delegates also:

- Nominated three new members of the Executive Council.
- Called for a "no vote" on Proposition 9, a deceptively dangerous proposition relating to property tax relief.

A Rousing Welcome for HHH at Fed Convention

"You own the White House, you know, and you ought to have a friend in it."

That's what Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey told thousands of enthusiastically cheering trade unionists during an address to an evening session of the California Labor Federation's convention in Sacramento Wednesday night as he contrasted

his own solid record of voting for programs to win peace and progress for all with the "miserable, conservative, and reactionary record" of his Republican opponent, Richard Milhous Nixon.

Obviously heartened by the biggest turnout he has received in the course of his

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Top to Bottom Tax Reform Vital, Labor Delegates Say

"Top-to-bottom reform" of California's "extremely regressive" state and local tax structure, including particularly property tax reform and adoption of a pay-as-you-go withholding system was urged by the California Labor Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, this week.

"The California tax structure suffers from two basic defects," delegates to the Federation's seventh convention at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium declared in adopting a policy statement on Taxation.

The state's tax structure "is extremely regressive and tax revenues rise less rapidly than expenditure needs because regressive consumer taxes, such as those on retail sales and cigarettes, raise revenue at a slower rate than the economy

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Unionists Act To Help L. A. Her-Ex Strikers

Beefed-up support for trade unionists involved in the Hearst-owned Los Angeles Herald-Examiner strike-lockout was in the offing this week after an 18 man delegation from Los Angeles staged a one-day, 1,000 mile motorcade to the biennial convention of the California Labor Federation in Sacramento to report on the status of the dispute.

Bob Rupert, chief negotiator for the Joint Strike-Lockout Council, addressed the convention Monday afternoon and warned that "we know that Hearst has open-shop plans."

He said some sources suggest that a merger is planned be-

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All Must Join Rights Fight, Fed Says

"Until responsible men in all walks of life become as militant in their demands for equality and justice as the firebrands and revolutionaries are for destruction, racism and grave internal disorder will continue."

This call to action and involvement by all concerned

Americans was made by delegates to the California Labor Federation's Seventh Convention in Sacramento this week when they adopted a strong policy statement on civil rights.

While noting that significant legislative progress has been achieved, the representatives of

the state's 1.4 million AFL-CIO union members said that "when matched against the need, it is pitifully inadequate."

To underscore the fact that "the situation is worse than most people care to believe," the trade unionists noted the fact that in many urban ghettos jobless rates exceed 25 percent and pointed out that "when this happened to white America it was called a Great Depression."

Declaring that "continued ra-

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Top to Bottom Tax Reform Vital, Labor Delegates Say

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usually grows. The result is repeated fiscal crises," it said.

And asserting that the federal government's overall tax system is "riddled with inconsistencies" that make "a sham of the ability-to-pay principle of taxation," the statement said that federal tax reform was needed "to close the many loopholes now benefitting special interest groups at the expense of wage and salary earners."

To back up their charge that "the progressive quality of the Federal income tax has been weakened steadily over the past 20 years by special interest group pressures," the trade unionists pointed out that before World War II the federal income tax favored earnings from wages and salary but that today the opposite is true.

"Persons receiving billions of dollars in capital gains, stock market and real estate transactions, from tax-free interest on

state and local bonds and from oil and other unjustifiable mineral depletion allowances, now enjoy special tax shelters," the state AFL-CIO policy statement said.

Noting that one result of these developments has been a major loss of public confidence in the fairness of the nation's tax system, it called for top priority to be given to closing the many federal tax loopholes.

Such action could raise billions of dollars in additional revenue to be used to help meet the nation's international obligations and domestic needs while restoring public confidence in the tax system, it called for top priority to be given to closing the many federal tax loopholes.

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and helping to reduce the tax burdens on low and moderate income families, it said.

While recognizing that greater financial aid is needed by many hard-pressed local governments in the state to meet public needs, the Federation's statement rejected the idea advanced by some congressmen that a portion of federal tax receipts should be returned to the states and localities automatically on a no-strings-attached basis.

Instead, it said, "federal grant-in-aid funds should go to states and localities for specific high priority programs where needs are greatest and under enforceable federal performance standards."

RICH GET OFF EASY

On the state level, the trade unionists charged that "California's combined state and local tax structure places the greatest tax burden on those least able to pay while taxing much more lightly the incomes of the well-to-do."

"This is reflected in the fact that the chief revenue raisers in the state are the severely regressive property tax and unfair consumer taxes such as those on retail sales and cigarettes," it said.

Deploping the fact that local property taxes, which tend to rise every year and bear no relationship to family income, "may force many people, including trade union families from their homes," the statement declared:

OVERHAUL NEEDED

"The only solution to California's recurrent tax problems is an overhaul of the entire state tax structure. Tax reform must place greater reliance on the personal income tax, including adoption of a pay-as-you-go withholding system to capture the millions of dollars presently annually escaping collection."

It also called for a further increase in the bank and corporation tax and a consolidation and general increase in the rate of taxation on inheritances and gifts.

In the area of property tax relief, the trade unionists called for restriction of such relief to owner-occupied single homes and to renters.

It warned that efforts to re-

Unionists Act To Help L. A. Her-Ex Strikers

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tween the Los Angeles Times and the Herald-Examiner and that the merger can't be accomplished unless the Herald-Examiner is non-union.

"On the surface of it," Rupert said, "I can't imagine why that would be in any way acceptable to Chandler, but I really don't know the workings of those two giant corporations."

After the showing of a film, "Return to Tyranny," which drives home the meaning of the strike and Rupert's remarks, the convention delegates appointed a committee to meet with the representatives of the Herald-Examiner strike lockout council and to make a report and recommendations back to the convention before the convention adjourns this week on ways to "deeply involve" the entire California labor movement in the Herald-Examiner strike activity.

A collection on the floor netted the newspaper workers strike fund \$1,457 in addition to pledges of \$5,000 each from Operating Engineers Local 12 of Los Angeles and District 9 of the Communications Workers of America headquartered in San Francisco.

The dispute, longest in California newspaper history, has idled 2,000 members of 10 AFL-CIO unions. Copies of the film, "Return to Tyranny," are available for use by local unions and central bodies from the Herald-Examiner Joint Strike Lock-Out Council in Los Angeles.

turn large sums of state-collected revenue in block form to the counties to pass on to property owners would only result in giving "windfalls" to large landowners, apartment house owners and other wealthy groups.

And taking issue with continued efforts to reduce and eventually eliminate the business inventory tax, the State AFL-CIO said that, if successful, this too would result in a "windfall" tax break to large corporations and mean that the balance of California's taxpayers would have to pay higher taxes.

ALL MUST JOIN EQUAL RIGHTS FIGHT, CALIF. UNIONS DECLARE

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cial discrimination and injustice has created a severe domestic crisis that threatens to totally divide society," the union delegates meeting at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium said.

"Only unremitting efforts by labor, business and government can move the nation away from this crisis and toward a society based on brotherhood and true equality for all."

CAUSES SPELLED OUT

The statement said that the causes of racial injustice and the explosions that result are lack of jobs, lack of adequate housing, lack of education and white racism. It rejected the view that "tokenism" is sufficient to meet these problems.

On the contrary, it said, "increased violence and divisiveness may come to pass unless tremendous changes are made in the hearts and minds of all men."

What's needed, the AFL-CIO union members declared, are massive and immediate programs:

- To provide jobs for all and ban job discrimination "in prac-

tice as well as on paper."

- To build low-cost housing and wipe out the ghettos.

- To insure equal educational opportunities for all.

- To train, retrain and upgrade the skills of minority group members.

The statement also called for immediate action to ban discrimination in the administration of justice and for an immediate overhaul of the nation's social welfare system.

"The single greatest cause of social unrest stems from unemployment and underemployment of minority groups," it said.

"It is a demonstrable fact that when citizens have a 'stake' in their community everything changes. Unfortunately, pitifully few minority members are in this position."

And, it observed:

"Perhaps never before in this nation's history has a particular problem been so thoroughly studied and restudied only to come to the same basic conclusion: discrimination destroys faith in the system first, and the system second."

Labor Delegates Urge Action To Win Jobs For All

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said, are pointed up by the fact that the top five percent of the nation's families receive 20 percent of the national wealth while the bottom 20 percent receive only five percent.

To drive home their assertion that "a disproportionate share of the fruits of economic progress have gone to the wealthy," the delegates noted that "from 1960 through the first quarter of this year, corporate profits after taxes rose 96 percent and dividend payments jumped 73 percent.

"Yet the weekly take-home pay after taxes of the average factory worker rose only 27 percent and in terms of 'real' buying power only 10 percent. Sharp increases in the cost-of-living, over the past three years in particular, have meant that the 'real' buying power of workers has shown little change," they asserted.

FAIR SHARE ISSUE

The statement said that wage and salary workers "have not received their fair share of the nation's economic growth" and said that this is clearly reflected by a comparison between increases in output per man-hour in the private economy, which has grown at an annual rate of 3.6 percent, and

the low 2.7 percent increase in real compensation per hour for all employees in the private economy over the past eight years.

To spur the pace of social progress at home, the statement, adopted by the delegates at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium, called for "expansion of such essential domestic programs as aid to education, the war on poverty, the rebuilding of our cities, and the building of a true full employment economy."

PUBLIC SECTOR VITAL

Looking beyond Vietnam, the statement said that federal economic policy "must emphasize the public sector through greatly increased spending for essential social and public works programs rather than emphasizing tax cuts that would chiefly benefit the already well-to-do."

It also charged that the policies of the Federal Reserve Board "have been out of kilter with other federal efforts" during the past few years and advocated a law to require the FRB to "act in harmony with the national economic policies of the administration."

It also suggested that public attention should be directed to-

ward the unfair pricing policies of major corporations if the nation is to create and maintain a balance between wages and prices and called on the federal government to establish a national inventory of needs and goals in such fields as housing, community facilities, public services, and the like.

In addition, the delegates called for the establishment of a program of income maintenance to guarantee for all in need a floor under which family income would not fall.

On the state level, the California trade unionists pointed out that the state's jobless rate continues to be above the national average and that the state economy is still highly vulnerable due to its heavy reliance on federally-financed aerospace production.

UNIQUE ECONOMY

"The state's economy remains unique," the statement said, "... in so much as our economic health depends on military and aerospace production."

The statement noted that 38 percent of California's 1.6 million factory workers are employed in defense-related work and that the figure is higher

in such counties as Los Angeles (41 percent), Orange County (58 percent), and San Diego (65 percent).

Asserting that "the lack of planning has created sprawling suburbs that continue to gobble up prime agricultural land ... and helped to create urban slum conditions in the central cities," it observed:

"The prevailing state government view that the private sector alone knows what is best must be modified to recognize that government is the servant of all the people and must provide leadership in meeting state and regional needs."

Specifically, the delegates' statement calls for the reorientation of state-sponsored and assisted job training and manpower development programs from developing short-run fragmented job skills to creating programs emphasizing long-run needs in order to maximize job opportunities over a worker's lifetime.

It also called for "bold innovative leadership at the state level" to help diversify the state's industrial base by developing urban transit programs, combatting air and water pollution, sponsoring new housing programs and adequately aiding education.

Fed Sees Move To Cripple Unions, Asks Stiffer Laws

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destroy industry-wide and coordinated bargaining, and replace the National Labor Relations Board with a so-called "Labor Court," the statement said:

"If successful, such legislation would disrupt long established bargaining patterns and prevent coordinated negotiations over wages, pensions, and welfare funds.

Enactment of any of these bills, the labor delegates said, "would drastically curtail union activities and make a shambles of free collective bargaining."

These attacks, they said, must be repulsed and the National Labor Relations Act must be substantially strengthened.

While the NLRA sets forth the workers' right to organize and bargain collectively, the delegates declared that "this basic policy has been perverted

in many cases and the NLRA has become little more than a license for union-busting.

"Employers often violate the Act deliberately and flagrantly knowing that its sanctions, if ultimately invoked, are feeble."

To correct this, the state's AFL-CIO trade unionists called for:

- Repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act which licenses compulsory open-shop laws.

- Elimination of the frequently interminable delays encountered by unions seeking to press unfair labor practice cases, which stem in part from the anti-worker Taft-Hartley amendments of 1947 which Presidential candidate Richard M. Nixon, then a congressman, voted for.

- Equalization of the "grossly unfair" NLRA remedies available to unions. In this con-

nection the statement pointed out that the Act provides mandatory injunctions against a long list of union activities but no comparable provisions to apply against unfair labor practices by employers.

- Curbs on anti-union activities by third parties engaged in unfair labor activities for an employer.

- Inclusion of farm workers, employees of non-profit hospitals and other excluded workers under the NLRA.

It also calls for: enactment of situs picketing legislation; a strong occupational health and safety measure; strengthening of the Fair Labor Standards Act to increase the minimum wage to \$2.25 an hour with double time for overtime; and extension of the Act's coverage to all workers "engaged

in or affecting interstate commerce," with farm workers to receive the same minimum wage and hour coverage as other workers.

On the state level, the delegates called for legislation to:

- Guarantee all workers the right to organize and bargain collectively, including farm workers, public employees and hospital workers.

- Ban the use of professional strikebreakers.

- Create a state level Fair Labor Standards Act with universal coverage, a \$2.25 minimum wage, a 35-hour work-week and doubletime for overtime.

The delegates also urged the State Industrial Welfare Commission to act speedily to enact a wage order covering private household workers.

A Rousing Welcome for HHH at Fed Convention

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swing through California, Humphrey lit into his Republican opponent for opposing the embattled farm workers grape boycott and challenged Nixon to join him in urging the growers to sit down with the farm workers and negotiate.

He also said that an end to the war in Vietnam would be "the first priority" of a Humphrey-Muskie administration and challenged Nixon to debate the issues.

NO PROTECTION

Pointing out that the "strike and boycott arise from the fact that there is no law to protect farm workers" since farm workers are excluded from the National Labor Relations Act, Humphrey declared:

"The farm worker needs the protection of the law and when I am elected President he's going to get the protection of the law . . .

"The National Labor Relations Act is in the best interests of an orderly economy and every worker should have these protections. And I want all to know that I will send a recommendation to Congress to include farm workers where they justly belong."

BARGAIN OR BOYCOTT?

But under the present circumstances with the farm workers excluded from the NLRA, Humphrey said the choice confronting the growers is "bargain or boycott."

Humphrey, who was introduced to the more than 4,000 trade unionists and guests by the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts, said that Nixon had voted for the union-busting provisions in the Taft-Hartley Act; had voted to pass it over President Truman's veto; and had called the medicare program "a cruel hoax."

Humphrey, who has consistently championed medicare and adequate social security and jobless pay benefits, declared that Nixon "has a miserable, conservative, and reactionary record. And you know it!"

Early in his hour-long address, which was interrupted more than 20 times by enthusiastic bursts of cheers and applause and may prove to be the turning point in his cam-

paign, Humphrey told the labor delegates not to worry about the "new Nixon" or the "old Nixon."

"The one you've got to worry about is the real Nixon," he said.

Warning that the Republican "trickle-down theory of economics means trouble," Humphrey described himself as "percolate-up Hubert" and charged that during the eight Republican years Nixon was Vice President, the Republican "trickle down" type of economy cost this country \$175 billion in lost income.

"During those eight Republican years," he said, "the personal take-home income for a family of four rose only nine percent."

But in the past eight Democratic years, he said, it has risen 32 percent.

"I hope this tells you the difference between Nixon and Agnew, and Humphrey and Muskie."

Personal income during those eight Republican Nixon years rose only \$16 billion compared to \$27.2 billion during the Democratic years, he observed.

At the outset of his address, the Democratic Presidential nominee noted that he has "no seniority clause in my contract," and added, "what's more the management has folded up."

Toward the end of his speech, he attacked Nixon for his opposition several years ago to the nuclear test ban treaty and for his opposition today to the U.S. Senate's pending action on ratification of a treaty to halt the spread of nuclear weapons.

Stressing the fact that Nixon

DANGER CITED

has opposed both of these "steps toward peace," Humphrey asked his audience to imagine the danger to the world if Nasser or Castro had nuclear capability.

The failure of this nation to ratify the currently pending treaty to curb the spread of nuclear weapons "would be a terrible blow to humanity," he said.

On the Vietnam issue, Humphrey noted that while Nixon seems to have a "plenitude of platitudes" he refuses to discuss it.

In contrast, Humphrey de-

clared that "the first priority" of the Humphrey-Muskie administration will be to "use every authority" at the Chief Executive's command to "honorably end the war in Vietnam."

In contrast to Nixon's repeated opposition to realistic steps toward peace, Humphrey pointed out that he has devoted his life to peace programs, citing his leadership in the development of such programs as the Peace Corps and Food for Peace.

PROLONGED OVATION

The Vice President was greeted when he arrived in the auditorium by a sea of waving signs, welcoming banners and a prolonged standing ovation.

Without mentioning third party candidate George Wallace by name Humphrey observed that "we have one candidate who is an outright racist, a man who wants a segregated America."

"He is not your friend," Humphrey said, "but at least he does it openly."

And commenting on the current Republican filibuster aimed at denying confirmation of Associate Justice Abe Fortas as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Humphrey asked what kind of judges will be on that court if a conservative like Nixon does the appointing.

"You'd better think and think twice," he said. "We can have a conservative court that can set this nation back a decade or longer," he warned.

He also suggested that voters take a look at the Nixon-Agnew party.

"Just look at those initials, NAP. That's what you'll get," he said, if a conservative like Nixon should win.

"I say the Democrats must win this election and you must win it to protect the hard-won gains we have made and move the nation forward."

Asserting that he knows his stands "don't please everyone," Humphrey flatly declared:

"I need your help.

"We must work together to hold the country together . . . If you'll stand with me, we'll move this country to higher ground and we'll do the things that you want done," he said.

Rehab Setup Sought To Aid Disabled Workers

California workers who suffer on-the-job disabilities and need vocational rehabilitation to regain their position in the nation's economic life "should be entitled to such a program as a matter of right," delegates to the California Labor Federation's seventh convention, meeting at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium declared.

In adopting a policy statement on workmen's compensation this week which also called for a further increase in benefit payments for both temporary and permanent disabilities and payment of death benefits in the form of pensions for widows and dependents, the AFL-CIO delegates pointed out that in other jurisdictions injured workmen have benefited from vocational rehabilitation programs for years.

LAW NEEDED

The statement said that California's "so-called voluntary rehabilitation program . . . has shown little or no success" and called for a mandatory rehabilitation program to be "created by statute to permit those qualified persons to receive complete vocational rehabilitation."

Among other things, it also called for:

- Payment of benefits for the first week of disability if the disability lasts more than 25 days.

- Adoption of administrative procedures to discourage litigation.

- Extension of coverage to household domestics.

- The right of the injured worker to free choice of physicians.

- Legislation to require the administrative director of the Division of Industrial Accidents to exercise strict supervision of medical treatment to guarantee prompt, quality medical care to injured workmen.

New FLSA Aim

"My ambition is that no man should have to work for a minimum wage, but that every man should have skills that he can sell for more. This new minimum wage is a step in that direction."—Lyndon B. Johnson.