



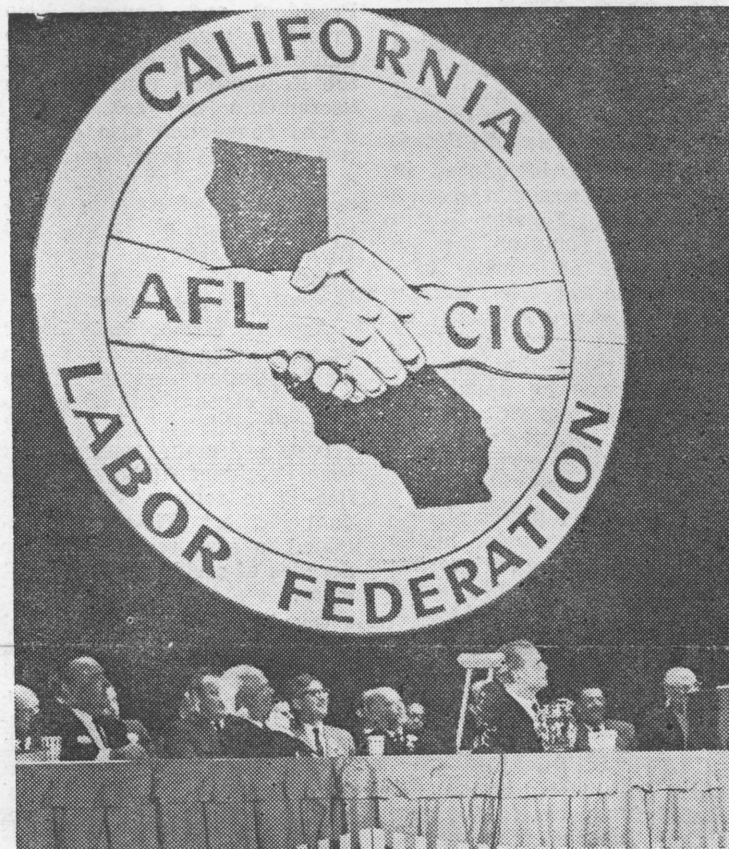
California AFL-CIO News

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

Published weekly by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO,
995 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94103—Second Class
Postage Paid at San Francisco, Calif.—Subscription: \$3.50 a year

Executive Secretary-Treasurer
151 THOS. L. PITTS

Oct. 4, 1968
Vol. 10—No. 40



Time To Act Now, Pitts Tells Parley

**Delegates Adjourn After Approving Action
To Aid Trade Unionists in L.A. Her-Ex Dispute**

"The time now is for action — action in your community . . . to put the electoral votes of California in the column for Hubert Humphrey," Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, declared last week in the closing minutes of the Federation's Sev-

enth Convention in Sacramento.

Less than 18 hours earlier, the Convention had heard Humphrey himself spell out the anti-worker record of his GOP opponent and assert that:

"It makes no sense for a working man that carries a union card to have a man sit in the White House that has never been your friend, that has spent a lifetime of public service being your enemy.

"And it makes no sense," Humphrey added, "to put in an administration that has 'Trickle Down' economics that will rob you of your income, that will permit unemployment to rise as they bicker and argue about what to do about it."

Although the focus of most of the convention's principal speakers, including U.S. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz, U.S. Senate nominee Alan Cranston, and Paul Hall, AFL-CIO President George Meany's personal representative to the convention, was riveted sharply on the crucial consequences of the presidential election next November 5, the convention's 1,500 delegates also:

● Adopted a seven-point program of action to assist workers involved in the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner Strike-Lockout, including a call to all unions to make a voluntary five cent per member per month contribution on a sustaining basis to the striking and locked-out unions. (See separate story on Page 1).

(Continued on Page 2)

COMING ON STRONG—Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey drives home what's at stake in the Presidential election next Nov. 5 at the California Labor Federation's Convention in Sacramento. Humphrey told the more than 4,000 delegates and guests who cheered him repeatedly that "You own the White House and you ought to have a friend in it." Seated at the front table as he spoke were (from left): Former Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown; Thomas L. Pitts, the Federation's secretary-treasurer who introduced Humphrey; Albin J. Gruhn, Federation president; Humphrey; Sacramento Mayor Richard Marriott; and San Francisco's Mayor Joseph Alioto.

Hall Spells Out Choice in 1968 Election; It's HHH

"We're not confronted with an alternative in this election year but the people who are seeking to divide us are trying to make us think we have two or three different choices to make. We have only one choice and that's Hubert Humphrey," Paul Hall, president of the Seafarers International Union and AFL-CIO President George Meany's personal representative to the California Labor Federa-

(Continued on Page 3)

Labor Acts To Aid Strikers At Los Angeles Herald-Ex

A seven-point course of action to aid the 2,000 embattled trade unionists involved in the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner strike-lockout was adopted unanimously by delegates to the California Labor Federation's convention in Sacramento last

week.

The program, recommended by a special committee created by the convention on a motion offered by Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts, calls for:

1—Action by the California
(Continued on Page 3)

INST OF IND REL LIBRARY
UNIV OF CALIF
2521 CHANNING RM-110

Now's Time To Act, Pitts Tells Delegates

(Continued from Page 1)

- Recommended that the state's wage and salary earners cast a "YES" vote on state-wide ballot Propositions No. 1A, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7; a "NO" vote on Propositions No. 6 and 9; and made "no recommendation" on Propositions No. 1 and 8. The Federation's position on Proposition No. 1-A, on which state legislative action was not completed until last week, was determined by the Federation's Executive Council this week. The Executive Council recommended a "YES" vote on Prop. 1-A because it is a realistic property tax relief proposal that affords significant property tax relief to both homeowners and renters as well as business.

- Reelected Thos. L. Pitts, Albin J. Gruhn and Manuel Dias as the Federation's Executive Secretary-Treasurer, President and General Vice-President respectively and filled two vacancies on the Federation's 37-man Executive Council. (See Separate Story on Page 2.)

- Voted to boost Federation per capita tax payments from five to eight cents per member per month, the first increase since the merger of the State AFL and the CIO 10 years ago.

- Adopted 15 wide-ranging policy statements calling for specific actions at both the federal and state levels to improve the health, welfare, safety and social and economic conditions of wage and salary earners in California and throughout the nation.

- And acted on more than 120 resolutions submitted to the convention by Federation affiliates.

BRACERO BAN

In addressing the second day of the Convention, U. S. Labor Secretary Wirtz told the California trade unionists who have fought for years to win bargaining rights for farm workers that this year, for the first year since 1942, "not a single foreign contract worker will be employed in California crops."

Wirtz said that "the absence of foreign agricultural workers in 1968 represents an historic step toward healing the mi-

grant workers' sore in California and in the entire United States."

Last year no foreign contract workers were employed in California crops between January and late September but by mid-October there were 5,900 working in the state.

PAID HIS OWN WAY

Wirtz told the delegates that he had torn up his government travel order and paid his own expenses to the convention so he could say exactly what he would like to say about the current political campaign.

He attacked Nixon's running mate, Maryland's Governor Spiro Agnew for referring to a newsman as a "fat Jap" and calling someone else a "Polack" and reminded the delegates that Agnew had also attempted to smear Vice President Hubert Humphrey by charging the Vice President was "soft on Communism."

Agnew, reacting to indignation from Republican leaders over his attempted smear of the Nation's Vice President, retracted the charge. But Wirtz pointed out that Nixon had used the same despicable tactics in his campaign against Helen Gahagan Douglas in 1950 when Nixon called Mrs. Douglas "the Pink Lady."

NIXON'S SMEAR ATTEMPTS

Wirtz also recalled Nixon's attempted smears of Adlai Stevenson, Dean Acheson, and President Truman and said that the "communism in government" charges Nixon used simply weren't true.

"Richard Nixon and any man who spoke with a forked tongue then has a scar on his conscience and on his heart where it doesn't wear off," Wirtz said.

Wirtz also reminded the delegates that Vice President Hubert Humphrey was the man who cast the key vote to prevent the transfer of the responsibility for bracero imports from the Department of Labor to the Department of Agriculture in September, 1965 when the growers were attempting to reopen avenues to cheap foreign labor. The vote was 45 to 45 until Humphrey made it 46 to 45 in favor of keeping

that responsibility within the Labor Department where there has been greater determination to enforce the bracero ban.

'SLEEPER' ISSUE

The Labor Secretary also warned that "one of the great sleeper issues" in this election has to do with the National Labor Relations Board and whether there is going to be a National Labor Relations Board.

Citing a bill introduced in the last Congressional session by Republican Senator Griffin of Michigan, one of the authors of the anti-worker Landrum-Griffin Act, Wirtz warned that it was aimed at abolishing the National Labor Relations Board and said that another bill introduced by Republican Senator Tower of Texas seeks to give the NLRB's authority over unfair labor practice cases to the courts.

(Both of these pieces of legislation are incorporated in the package of punitive anti-worker legislation currently being pushed by the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Chamber of Commerce. (See story in the California AFL-CIO News of Sept. 20, 1968.)

CRANSTON'S REMARKS

Alan Cranston, in an unscheduled address to the convention Tuesday morning, attacked his Republican opponent, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Max Rafferty, for proposing that America "should resort to police-state tactics to keep the peace" and called on the trade unionists to work between now and election day to elect candidates who believe "in an America of faith and progress" rather than those like Rafferty "who counsel, fear, retreat, and retribution."

Cranston pledged his support to efforts to strengthen social security benefits, broaden medicare coverage, repeal Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, win bargaining rights for farm workers, de-Americanize the Vietnam War and to work for full employment and a guaranteed job for every American willing and able to work.

Among other speakers at the convention were Bill Kircher, AFL-CIO Director of Organization, Charles Hitch, President

Pitts Reelected; Two New VP's On Fed Board

Thos. L. Pitts, Albin J. Gruhn and Manuel Dias were reelected Executive Secretary-Treasurer, President and General Vice President respectively of the California Labor Federation at the Federation's convention in Sacramento last week.

The convention also elected two new vice presidents: Sigmund Arywitz, secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, and Richard K. Groulx, secretary-treasurer of the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

Arywitz, former State Labor Commissioner under the Brown administration and a veteran member of Local 266 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, was elected Vice President At Large in Office D to replace Vice President Herbert Wilson who declined to seek reelection after decades of service to organized labor.

Groulx, a member of Local 444 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, replaced Vice President Robert S. Ash in Geographical District No. 10A. Ash also declined to seek reelection following more than 30 years' service to the trade union movement.

At the Executive Council meeting held the week before the convention opened, George O. Faville, secretary-treasurer of the Humboldt-Del Norte County Central Labor Council and a member of Hospital and Institutional Workers Local 327 of Eureka, was elected to fill the vacancy in Geographical District No. 14 created by the death of Vice President Harry Hansen earlier this year.

Faville and other incumbent Federation vice presidents were all reelected for two year terms. There were no contested elections.

of the University of California, California State Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch, James Lee, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council, and Stanton C. Smith, National AFL-CIO Coordinator of State and Local Central Bodies.

Labor Acts To Aid Strikers at Los Angeles Herald-Ex

(Continued from Page 1)

Labor Federation to urge the National AFL-CIO to seek a meeting with the Board of Directors of the Hearst Corporation, parent company of the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, aimed at "bringing the parties together for immediate negotiations."

2—A selective advertising boycott against principal advertisers and their suppliers who contribute to the payment for such advertising.

3—Action by the State Federation to urge the National AFL-CIO to ask the Labor Department to investigate the importation and use of professional strikebreakers in the strike and restrictive actions to break the striking and locked-out unions. It also urges the Labor Department to "take steps to secure an equitable solution to the dispute."

4—Action by the State Federation to urge the National AFL-CIO to call on the U. S. Department of Justice to make a thorough investigation of monopoly practices by the Hearst Corporation in merging and consolidating newspapers with the objective of restricting competition in the newspaper industry.

5—Action by the State Federation to urge the National AFL-CIO to call on the Internal Revenue Department to investigate tax write-offs and carry-back procedures used by Hearst to force U.S. taxpayers to share losses it incurs in resisting unions with which they had been in collective bargaining.

6—Action by the California Labor Federation "to lend its efforts in seeking a solution to this strike without usurping the rights of the individual unions involved."

7—A five cent per member per month voluntary contribution on a sustaining basis by all unions in the state of California to assist the striking and locked-out unions. This is designed to enable the unions involved in the Herald-Examiner strike-lockout to intensify and accelerate "all efforts necessary to bring this dispute to a

quick and satisfactory conclusion."

The Committee's report was drafted by a five-man committee chaired by Joe Angelo, sub-district director of the Steelworkers and including Sigmund Arywitz, secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, Max Osslo, of the Western Federation of Butchers, James Lee, of the State Building and Construction Trades Council and Richard Hackler, of CWA District 9. It

noted that a boycott must have long range connotations which go beyond the duration of a given dispute.

In view of this, it recommended that a full-scale boycott be held as a reserve measure but that the other proposals in the report be initiated immediately.

Bob Rupert, chief negotiator for the Joint Strike-Lockout Council, thanked the committee for having acted "promptly and aggressively" and said that both he and the members of the

Strike-Lockout Council were "very encouraged" by the action.

Rupert emphasized that the 11 unions involved in the Herald-Examiner dispute "are fighting a giant (the Hearst Corporation) with a peashooter" and urged the convention delegates to stress the importance of the voluntary five cent per member per month contribution to the newspaper strike effort when they go back to their locals.

Hall Spells Out Workers' Choice in 1968 Election; It's HHH

(Continued from Page 1)

tion's convention in Sacramento warned last week.

Hall, a native of Alabama, zeroed in on George Wallace's third party candidacy declaration:

"As a native of Alabama, I can tell you I couldn't conceive of anyone in his right mind voting for George Wallace, because he is representative of that establishment which dedicates itself to the proposition of keeping our kind of people and particularly the poor black and white at the bottom of the totem pole.

"To me, to give serious consideration to any vote for this man . . . would be absolutely ridiculous."

Turning to the Republican presidential candidate, Richard M. Nixon, Hall, who heads up the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department, noted that Nixon had just that day (September 25) released the text of a major speech on the maritime industry that says practically everything that "every maritime and shipping union has been saying for years" about what the industry needs.

Yet, Hall noted, "we are not for Richard Nixon" and wouldn't be even if "Nixon promised us three times what he has promised" because, he declared, neither "Richard Nixon or anybody else can wean us away" from the labor movement.

Hall reminded the delegates that it was Richard Nixon who as Vice President cast the tie-breaking vote that led to enactment of the Landrum-Griffin law.

And Hall pointed out that the

Landrum-Griffin Act has been "a tremendous burden on the backs of local union officers" and said that both the Landrum-Griffin bill itself and the manner in which it has been enforced have resulted in a great deal of damage and cost in time and effort to trade unionists.

"How could you vote for the man who made this law possible? It's rather silly," he said, to even consider it.

Stressing the fact that the forthcoming election is "probably the most difficult struggle confronting organized labor in a long time," Hall said that the main thing to remember is that the labor movement has just a short time to do the job that must be done to awaken the working people of this state and nation to the threat to meaningful progress posed by the candidacies of Nixon and Wallace.

Apprenticeship Films Now Available

Two new films to aid in apprenticeship promotion and minority youth motivation are available from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Hugh C. Murphy, administrator of the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, announced that both films were produced to explain apprenticeship to youngsters as well as to business firms with apprenticeable occupations.

One film, "Bridge to Skills," is aimed at minority youth to help motivate them to seek careers in the skilled trades. The 20-minute film is available for showing through schools, par-

ent-teacher associations, church groups, clubs, and civil rights organizations.

The second film, "Skills for Tomorrow," which runs 16 minutes, is directed toward the potential apprenticeship sponsor.

Both films are 16 mm., in full color and sound. They are available through the more than 150 field offices of the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training located in all principal cities, Apprenticeship Information Centers located in 36 employment service offices in major cities, and through Apprenticeship Outreach programs in 35 metropolitan areas.

Delegates Urge Better Jobless Pay Program

Significant improvements in California's unemployment insurance program, including a major boost in weekly benefits and extension of coverage to farm workers, were urged this week by representatives of California's 1.4 million AFL-CIO union members.

In adopting a policy statement on Unemployment Insurance, delegates to the California Labor Federation's Seventh Convention pointed out that under the present benefit structure "those who suffer from periods of unemployment can barely exist."

The present maximum benefit is only \$65 a week although average weekly earnings of factory employment are more than \$130. The delegates also attacked the present disqualification provisions applying to voluntary quits and discharges for misconduct which make workers indefinitely ineligible for jobless pay benefits.

Such provisions, the policy statement said, "are inconsistent with the philosophy of unemployment insurance. To be consistent, a person so disqualified should be ineligible for benefits for a period not exceeding five weeks."

Among other things, the statement, adopted by some 1,500 delegates meeting in the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium, challenged the validity of the so-called merit-rating system of taxation and the wage base upon which unemployment insurance taxes are paid and pledged the California Labor Federation to work to create a satisfactory tax system to guarantee fund solvency. It also called for:

- Amendment of Section 1262, the trade dispute section, in order to prohibit employers from using that section as "a strikebreaking device."

- Repeal of Section 1264 — the so-called domestic leaving section.

- Coverage of agricultural workers, domestics, government employees and all other workers not now covered.

- Extension of benefit payments to at least 39 weeks for periods of unemployment.

Fed Delegates Call for 50% Hike in Social Security Pay

Strong support for major improvements in the nation's social security program, including a 50 percent boost in benefit payments, was voiced last week by delegates to the State AFL-CIO convention in Sacramento.

In adopting a policy statement on Social Security, the representatives of some 1,600 AFL-CIO local unions and central bodies throughout the state also called for a national health insurance system financed by contributions from workers, employers, and the government to "assure that every citizen receives adequate health services."

While allowing that some "long overdue" improvements were made by the last Congress, the statement said that the 13 percent increase in benefits "fell far short of meeting demonstrable needs."

It emphasized the need to raise the minimum payment now available under social security and to extend medicare

coverage to disability recipients.

"The minimum payment (now) dooms those who receive it to a life of poverty," it said.

And, referring to the lack of medicare coverage by workers receiving disability benefits, the trade unionists pointed out that "no group is more in need of such coverage."

In addition, the California trade unionists called for:

- Supplementation of the social security payroll tax by monies from general revenue.

- Review of the costs of the medicare program in view of the "extremely rapid" rise in medical and hospital costs.

- A boost in the taxable wage base for social security to \$15,000 to allow increased benefits, particularly for wage earners in upper income brackets whose benefits are now pegged to a relatively small percentage of wages earned.

- Establishment of a flexible zone of retirement between 60 and 65.

Overhaul of Social Welfare Setup Essential, Labor Says

The nation's public welfare efforts to aid the millions of citizens in poverty have been labeled "a failure" by delegates to the State AFL-CIO convention in Sacramento who adopted a policy statement on social welfare last week that calls for "top to bottom" revision of such programs geared to "national standards based on one criterion: need."

The statement, adopted by some 1,500 delegates convened at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium, observed:

"The role of public welfare is clear: it is intended to help those in need. Its function is not to punish and degrade the poor or create a sub-class of public welfare recipients. Yet it has failed to provide adequate income maintenance for those in need. The fact is, public assistance needs to be drastically overhauled."

Highlighting the fact that although some 30 million people in the United States live in pov-

erty "largely forgotten by the nation's more affluent majority," the labor delegates pointed out that public welfare "reaches fewer than one-fourth of the poor and (that) those receiving aid get an amount insufficient to meet their minimum needs."

The State AFL-CIO position paper voiced opposition to some of the amendments to last year's social security bill, particularly those requiring all mothers under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program to work or be enrolled in training programs regardless of their background, work history or other factors; and to the freeze on the number of children eligible for AFDC. These are "vindictive measures that must be changed," it said.

Among other things, the statement called for:

- Establishment of a national minimum standard for public assistance programs which requires equitable and reasonable efforts by the state but recognize the federal government's

State COPE Pamphlets Now Going to Press

California Labor COPE's General Election Endorsement pamphlets will be rolling off the press next week and will be available to local unions and central bodies throughout the state through their central labor councils within the next 10 days.

Local unions having multi-county jurisdictions should plan on ordering copies of the statewide variation of the pamphlet from State COPE at 995 Market Street, San Francisco (phone Area Code 415-988-3585.)

The attractively designed pamphlets feature a composite drawing of Hubert Humphrey, Edmund Muskie and Alan Cranston on the front cover and a brief note inside about the strong public records each has compiled.

The pamphlets are broken down into 11 regional variations to feature the Congressional and State Senate and Assembly candidates for each area on two of the inside panels. The two-color pamphlet also contains labor's recommendations on the 10 ballot propositions to face the voters on the November 5 ballot.

It is designed to fit easily into a No. 10 envelopes or may be used as a self-mailer.

Local unions planning regular membership mailings in the near future may wish to hold up such mailers in order to include copies of the endorsement pamphlet for their area in it.

stronger fiscal capability.

- Recognition that social service must be accessible to all in need at all times and that welfare programs receiving federal or state funds must be administered consistently with the principle that "welfare is a right, not a handout."

- Major expansion of the "Food Stamp" program and programs to provide school lunches for needy children.

The nation's public welfare effort must be focused toward "creating a feeling of dignity and purpose rather than second-class citizenry," the California AFL-CIO trade unionists said.