



# California AFL-CIO News

Published weekly by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO,  
905 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

Dec. 27, 1968  
Vol. 10—No. 52

## Church Group Supports Federal Reclamation Law

In adopting a far-reaching resolution on conservation and land use problems in California earlier this month, the Board of Directors of the Northern California Council of Churches called upon the federal government, "To enforce reclamation law vigorously with its present acreage limitation . . . including federal purchase of all lands in excess of that provided under the '160-acre' limitation clause of the law."

The church group, which represents Protestant denominations from Kern County to the Oregon border, acted upon a resolution drafted by its Commission on the Church and Eco-

(Continued on Page 4)

## New 'Civil Bill' Urged for Nation

The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education two weeks ago urged the federal government to enact a "civilian bill of educational rights" and help one million students from low income families enter college by giving them scholarships over the next 10 years.

The Commission, whose chairman is Clark Kerr, former president of the University of California ousted by Governor Reagan in early 1967, pointed out that while federal aid to higher education now amounts to nearly \$3.5 billion a year, this figure must be raised to more than

(Continued on Page 3)

## Shultz Gives Views on Labor

George P. Shultz, who will be Secretary of Labor in the Nixon Cabinet, doesn't think his job description requires him to intervene in every big labor-management dispute.

Pres.-elect Nixon said in his television introduction of his Cabinet appointees that Shultz "may be able to mediate some of the devastating labor-management crises" before they reach the strike stage.

But Shultz told a news conference that disputes in which he gets personally involved will, he hopes, be "few and far between."

His own belief, Shultz said, is that unions and management

(Continued on Page 3)

## Urban Housing Needs Demand Top Priority

The President's National Commission on Urban Problems has called on the nation to "put housing on the front burner" by immediately expanding five-fold the number of homes built for low and moderate income families.

The 14-member panel, which was headed by former

Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois, and included labor representation, said that at least 500,000 housing units for low and moderate income families must be built each year. The Commission also urged that total housing units built be increased from the current rate of about 1.5 million a year to over 2 million.

The panel noted that not even the goals of the Housing Act of 1949 have so far been met and that the federal government, ironically, has torn down more housing units than it has built

(Continued on Page 2)

## Ag Department Blasted on Handling Food for Poor

The U. S. Department of Agriculture conceded under sharp questioning before the U. S. Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs last week that it employed a full-time expert to help hungry persons in nations abroad, but only employed a part-time consultant on programs to help feed hungry citizens in the United States.

This startling revelation came to the surface when Dr. Aaron Altschul told U. S. Senate investigators that he had been

(Continued on Page 2)

## Big Farm Group Opposes Limitation on Hand Outs

The American Farm Bureau Federation, which claims to be the nation's largest farm organization, wound up its 50th annual meeting recently by burying under an avalanche of "No" votes a proposal to recommend to the federal government that a ceiling of \$20,000 a year be placed on government cash payments to any single farmer.

The Farm Bureau Federation for years has stated it is opposed to government cash payment systems under which certain corporate farms in California and elsewhere in past years have received over one million dollars a year. However, when an amendment was offered to put the Farm Bureau on record

for a \$20,000 limitation that would be decreased in stages to no payments, the effort was widely opposed.

Supporters of the amendment to put a ceiling on cash payments stated they wished to put the Farm Bureau on record in favor of its professed objective of phasing out government aid to agriculture and going to a supply and demand market system after a transition period. When put to the test, however, members of the Farm Bureau apparently felt that this would be a little too risky after all.

While refusing to go on record against this subsidy program, delegates to the Farm Bureau Federation's convention

(Continued on Page 3)

## Employment and Earnings End Year At Record Level

The trend in employment and factory workers' earnings in California throughout 1968 was sharply upward. The substantial growth in non-farm employment occurred despite cutbacks in the aerospace industry. The rise in the average hourly earnings of factory workers, however, was counteracted by inflation and an increase in taxes. The result was that the "real" buying power of factory workers' earnings did not improve over-the-year.

Non-agricultural wage and salary worker employment in

(Continued on Page 4)

Happy  
New  
Year

INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL  
RELATIONS LIBRARY

INST OF IND REL LIBRARY  
UNIV OF CALIF  
2521 CHANNING BLVD

DEC 30 1968

## Ag Department Blasted on Handling Food for Poor

(Continued from Page 1)

employed by the Department of Agriculture as a special assistant for international nutrition improvement, but that only a part-time assistant had been employed for about a year to help improve domestic nutrition. Dr. Altschul further noted that the Agriculture Department had developed several high protein food products that are being used in nations abroad but that only within the last nine months had the federal government's war on poverty agency, the Office of Economic Opportunity, begun to develop a similar program for the United States.

Several Committee members, after hearing once again how the U. S. Department of Agriculture has overlooked, or avoided, truly helping poor people in the United States, demanded that food programs for the hungry in this nation be transferred to another agency.

The unresponsiveness of the Agriculture Department to the nation's needs was graphically demonstrated when Senator Joseph Clark (D) of Pennsylvania asked, "How did the Agriculture Department bureaucracy get in the position of doing this for foreign countries and nothing domestically? What is the matter with the Agriculture Department?"

Dr. Altschul's lame response was, "I don't think that I am the one to answer that question."

Senator Walter Mondale (D) of Minnesota, after expressing concern that newly developed protein-fortified foods were being "used for starving children around the world but not for our own," stated that the U. S. Congress was largely at fault for not providing enough money to pay for the domestic programs it says it believes in.

Summing up the feelings of many, Mondale noted, "We authorize dreams and appropriate peanuts. There is more than enough blame for all of us."

## Urban Housing Needs Demand Top Priority

(Continued from Page 1)

over the past 10 years.

The Commission's sweeping report to the President dealt with a wide range of urban problems effecting the nation's ability to meet housing needs.

The panel recommended more than 100 specific changes in such areas as the need for uniform standards for local building codes, zoning and land use, restructuring of local government, construction industry practices, taxation and financing.

In strong language, the Commission said in its summary "if there is a sense of urgency and alarm in our report and in our recommendations, it is because the Commission saw the cities of our country first-hand.

"The Commission members certainly were not less concerned or knowledgeable than the average citizen, but after our inspections, hearings and research studies, we found conditions much worse, more widespread and more explosive than any of us had thought."

The urgent tone of the Commission's report was expressed in its finding that "about a third of the families of the nation cannot buy or rent decent housing at market rates by paying a reasonable proportion of their income." The panel declared that the nation "must focus our housing programs on housing for poor people."

They called for giving local authorities "the tools and the money" to get the job done, urged an expanded role for the states, simpler federal programs and speedier processing by federal agencies, and urged the utmost cooperation from private industry but went on to note that "if all these fail to bring an abundance of housing for poor people, then we believe that the government must become the builder of last resort."

The Commission summarized its major goals as follows:

- Development of programs to produce at least five times the present annual number of low-income housing units.
- Development of a mechanism that would provide regional and state uniformity in building

codes and a system to develop standards that will be more hospitable to the research, testing and application of new building materials and methods.

- New efforts to reduce housing costs, including greater use of industrialized building methods, reduction of restrictive practices, new methods for lowering land costs and ways to reduce the expense of title searches and other closing costs.

- Development of incentives to encourage larger units of local government so effective, efficient home rule becomes possible. The Commission went on to say in this regard that the federal government cannot and should not attempt to solve all urban problems.

- Creation of new sources of tax revenues in order to meet urban housing and community needs.

- Development of new zoning proposals and land use techniques designed to encourage more orderly urban growth.

- The Commission also came out in support of a revenue sharing plan that would give credit to state-local tax efforts and that would provide for larger urban governments to obtain their share of this revenue directly from the federal government without having to go through their state capitols; streamlining the property tax; and new efforts to syphon off more of the benefits of community created land values for public purposes.

Clearly the Commission's report seemed designed to stimulate extensive discussion regarding ways to solve the nation's housing and urban crises.

Its plan for revenue sharing through "block" federal grants to states and cities, for example, is strongly opposed by the AFL-CIO and brought a sharp rebuttal from Wilbur Cohen, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Cohen said that such a system is not "sound economics." It is wrong, he said, for the federal government to bear the burden of tax-collecting and then turn the funds over to the states "to spend as they wish without a definition of national

## Right Wing Rallies To New Cry -- Eat Grapes

The American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Right-to-Work Committee and the John Birch Society have called on their members to eat all the California grapes they can stuff down.

The goal is to break the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, whose national boycott of struck California table grapes has the solid support of the trade union movement and the endorsement of leading church groups.

At the Kansas City convention of the Farm Bureau, President Charles B. Shuman called for a counter-boycott of food stores which have stopped carrying California grapes.

"Buy and eat grapes and have some on your table for Christmas," Shuman urged delegates.

The pitch to the conservative big farmers establishments was that organization of grape workers in California would spread to farm workers elsewhere. Posters in the convention hall warned, "Grapes today—bread tomorrow."

Local chapters of the John Birch Society have held "counter-picketing" demonstrations to try to nullify protests against the sale of California grapes.

And the National Right-to-Work Committee has a leaflet it is passing out which terms the grape boycott a weapon to bring about "compulsory unionism."

What the "work" committee doesn't mention is that the farm workers aren't covered by a law giving them the right to union organization and collective bargaining—and that the refusal of growers to recognize and bargain with a union is the cause of the boycott.

priorities."

The Commission, in submitting its report to the President, also came out strongly against proposals such as those put forth by President-elect Richard Nixon and his supporters that would use tax incentives as a means of spurring greater participation by private industry in the re-building of ghetto areas.

## Shultz Gives Views on Labor

(Continued from Page 1)

are the "real experts" and it's up to them to work out their problems.

Where mediation is sought, he said, the major responsibility is with the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service and the National Mediation Board.

Shultz emphasized that most labor disputes are settled without strikes, but under a free system of government if people feel strongly enough about an issue to strike, "you have to respect that" decision.

He made clear, however, that he considers strikes of public employees in a different category. Shultz said he "deplores" such strikes but believes problems of collective bargaining in the public sector deserve careful study.

Shultz, in discussing wage-price guidelines, noted that several years ago he wrote an article "quite skeptical about the workability and usefulness of guidelines."

The Secretary-designate said he thought private industry should be drawn into job training programs "as much as possible." But he doesn't think "we can turn it over to the private sector and just walk away."

He is a registered Republican and voted for Nixon, Shultz said, "but I'm not a particularly partisan type."

So far as relations with the labor movement are concerned, Shultz plans to be a "careful listener" and hopes to develop "a good cooperative relationship."

He will try to bring into the Nixon Cabinet an understanding of "the problems of the workplace."

The Kennedy-Johnson years in which major manpower programs have been initiated has been an era of "fruitful experimentation," Shultz said, "a very worthwhile period."

Shultz, who has handled occasional Labor Dept. assignments while dean of the University of Chicago School of Business, had high praise and "admiration" for outgoing Labor Sec. Willard Wirtz,

## New 'G.I. Bill' Urged for Nation

(Continued from Page 1)

\$13 billion by 1967 if the nation is to keep step with the educational needs of its population.

Using language that has become familiar to Californians over the past two years, the Carnegie Commission report said that colleges are "being forced to choose among the alternatives of limiting enrollments, raising tuition fees, postponing expansion of new programs, or allowing quality to deteriorate," and went on to observe that neither state nor private contributions will be sufficient to meet the demands of higher education in future years.

In specific terms, the Commission urged:

- That the budget for the present federal educational opportunity grant program, which helps low and middle income students, be raised from the present level of \$125 million to \$900 million by 1970 and to \$1.6 billion by 1976.

- That present work-study programs, which provide part-time jobs to students who need added income to stay in college, be expanded by raising the budget level from the current \$140 million to \$510 million in 1970 and to \$870 million in 1976.

- That a national student loan bank be created to provide loans to students of all income levels. The program would have a contingent repayment provision under which the borrower, depending on his salary after college graduation, would pay back a fixed percent of his income over the next 30 to 40 years.

- That supplementary general-purpose grants be provided for all colleges and universities based on the number of students receiving federal aid. The purpose of this program, the commission said, would be to encourage colleges and universities to enroll more disadvantaged youths as well as students in fields such as science and teaching where federal scholarships have been provided in the national interest. The commis-

## Big Farm Group Opposes Limitation on Hand Outs

(Continued from Page 1)

in Kansas City were quick to voice their opposition to any extension of the National Labor Relations Act to farm workers. Instead, delegates voted to "strongly oppose" such an extension of the nation's basic collective bargaining law.

The Farm Bureau also went on record urging that federal anti-trust laws be altered "to prohibit labor union boycotts against the marketing of any product or commodity." The only type of farm labor legislation that should be enacted, the Farm Bureau said, should include prohibitions against boycotts and "strikes which would result in loss of perishable products."

Support of this position also was voiced by the California

sion projected financing for this effort at \$1.1 billion in 1970 and \$2.7 billion by 1976.

The commission's package proposals also include substantial aid for expansion of college facilities, including construction of 500 new two-year community colleges and 50 four-year urban colleges by 1976 and the building of 20 new medical schools.

Commenting on the program, Clark Kerr stated that, "it would not only aid the schools, but it would throw open college doors to kids from the lowest-quarter family income bracket, who now make up only 7 percent of college students."

The commission's program, the most ambitious ever developed by a private organization to meet the nation's higher education needs, got mixed reactions from various educational groups. Some complained that new federal aid should go directly to the colleges and universities rather than indirectly through students to the colleges as proposed by the Carnegie report. However, one well-known backer praised the report instantly.

Vice President Humphrey, in announcing his acceptance of two college teaching posts in his home state of Minnesota, stated that he strongly endorsed the report and would, "as a private citizen . . . be doing every-

Grape and Tree Fruit League, an organization which has opposed, in numerous court battles over the years, improvements in California's minimum wage regulations covering women and minors in agriculture and related industries. In a New York press conference, Robert Herrick, an official of the Grape and Tree Fruit League, stated that a federal law was necessary to "protect the perishability of the crop, the farmers, and retail grocers."

The Grape and Tree Fruit League spokesman also urged enactment of an apparent national "right-to-work" law, stating that legislation would be desirable that would "insure that the worker had the right to reject or accept union representation."

thing I can to build public support for the Carnegie Commission's report."

### Contract Approved

The U. S. Department of Labor reports major collective bargaining settlements were concluded during the third quarter of 1968 for about 1,400,000 workers.

This brings the total number under agreements reached during the first nine months of the year to nearly 3,400,000.

### Listening to Greeley

Americans are still taking Horace Greeley's advice. A Labor Department report shows that during the 1950's a net 3.9-million people migrated to the West Coast seeking better jobs. About 3.1-million settled in California.

### Beware of Laser Jobs

The U. S. Bureau of Labor Standards reports that in the ten years since the development of the laser, nearly 800 applications have been found in medicine and industry for this valuable new tool. But to stress its potential danger, the Bureau states that a survey of laser operations conducted by the Public Health Service disclosed that nearly 38 percent were considered to be inadequately protected.

## Church Group Supports Federal Reclamation Law

(Continued from Page 1)

nomic Life after hearing spokesmen from this Commission and water law experts point out that reclamation law, with its 160-acre limitation, provides a useful mechanism for preserving agricultural green belts and open spaces. Opponents of the measure, chiefly from the lower San Joaquin Valley, urged the church body to take no action but in the end were defeated.

By adopting the resolution, the Northern California Council of Churches has aligned itself with the national AFL-CIO, the State Federation, and the Sierra Club and other conservation groups in the continuing effort to insure that the benefits of large scale public irrigation projects go to many recipients rather than a few large agri-business interests.

In addition to urging that federal reclamation law be vigorously enforced, the resolution called for:

- The federal government to establish a democratic planning process under which interested parties would participate in the development of an overall land-use plan for the future of the rural and urban areas where federally-financed water would be delivered. In this regard, the resolution urged that the state legislature, the state administration, and local governments within California help facilitate such a democratic planning process in cooperation with the federal government.

- The federal government to develop, on the basis of an established master plan, a policy for the redistribution of "excess" lands purchased by it in parcels which are in keeping with the original intent of the federal law.

- The federal government to create a procedure and system by which government purchase and resale of excess lands would provide funds for Water Grants for Education and Conservation while preserving open spaces and agricultural green belts.

In this regard the policy of the Northern California Council of Churches was similar to

## Natural Resources Are for All, Labor Says

The nation's natural resources should be "conserved for the long-run good of all rather than the short-run benefit of special interest groups," according to AFL-CIO trade unionists in California.

Pledging support for the development of an overall natural resources policy designed to combat air and water pollution and bring about more effective enforcement of federal reclamation law, delegates from AFL-CIO unions from throughout the state adopted a policy statement on natural resources at their convention in Sacramento late last month that:

- Calls on the federal government to promote long-range planning and development of efforts at all levels of government to acquire recreational land, particularly in and around urban areas.

- Favors federal action to curb speculation in land values and suggests that the federal reclamation law would be a useful regional planning instrument.

While acknowledging that the enactment of the Clean Air Act and amendments to the federal Water Pollution Control Act represent notable forward steps, the statement said that "increased efforts must be made to develop facilities to handle and treat municipal and industrial wastes.

It also calls for federal action to prevent "foot dragging by local governments" and voiced opposition to any "special tax or other benefits to

that of the national AFL-CIO. Last month the AFL-CIO urged that the Federal Water Resources Council, an inter-agency group administering federal water policy, to support efforts to allow the federal government to be empowered to require through voluntary sale or by eminent domain excess lands in federal irrigation projects that are now under construction or in the planning stage.

In calling for such project planning and implementation, the national AFL-CIO stated that some of the divested lands should be acquired by state and local governments for recreational areas, parks, green belts and other conservation purposes. This would include ac-

cover the cost to industry of controlling air and water pollution."

The Federation's policy statement said that it is "unfair to reward those who have polluted air and water with tax incentives to correct their wrongdoing."

It also rapped the U.S. Department of Interior, charging that it has failed to enforce the excess land provisions of U.S. reclamation law.

The position of the state's trade unionists is that the general public, rather than "well entrenched landholders," should receive the benefits of water projects constructed under federal and state auspices and paid for by public tax monies.

It also charged "large-scale corporate agriculture, in combination with allies in some banks and manufacturing concerns" with spearheading efforts to deny bargaining rights to farm workers and thwart improvements in social insurance legislation that would benefit all Californians.

The delegates called for amendment of U.S. Reclamation Law to provide that "no money shall be appropriated to build any water delivery system until all excess landowners (over 160 acres for any individual; over 320 acres for man and wife) sign recordable contracts agreeing to sell their excess holdings."

It suggested that such excess land should be acquired by the Department of Interior at pre-project prices so that the land could be sold to small farmers.

quisition of land for schools, colleges, and other educational facilities.

AFL-CIO Legislative Director Andrew J. Biemiller, in calling for such a program, stated, it "would receive widespread support. It is needed to restore the viability of the federal reclamation program, to revitalize historic land policy and make it capable of adaptation to new needs and situations in the national interest."

The AFL-CIO also called upon the federal government to adopt a policy of giving large land holders profiting from reclamation projects 90 days to sign contracts complying with the law's acreage limitations, or see the water project terminated.

## Employment and Earnings End Year At Record Level

(Continued from Page 1)

California averaged a record 6,630,000 in 1968, the first time that the annual figure has exceeded the 6½ million mark. This represented a growth over the 1967 average of about 285,000—and a rate of increase of better than four percent. The over-the-year growth rate in 1968 was one of the most rapid in the decade.

This year's leader in terms of employment growth among the major industry groups was wholesale and retail trade, which accounted for one out of every four new jobs in the state.

Government, which has ranked first in job growth in recent years, took second place in 1968, because of a slowdown in the expansion of civilian personnel in federal defense agencies that had begun with the escalation of the Vietnam war.

The year also saw only limited recovery in construction industry employment. Construction employment averaged 15,000 jobs higher than in 1967; however, average construction employment, at 290,000 workers, was the smallest in the last 10 years, with the exception of 1967.

In terms of earnings, production workers averaged a record \$3.45 an hour, 16 cents more than in 1967.

This gain in average hourly earnings pushed the average weekly wage for factory workers to a new high of \$139.38, nearly five percent above the 1967 level. This was the largest over-the-year percentage increase in more than a decade. Yet, despite this sizeable increase, the California factory worker's weekly paycheck, because of the combination of sharp price increases and increases in taxes, in terms of "real" earnings, stayed at the 1967 level.