



California AFL-CIO News

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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Labor at the Legislature

From The Capitol Office Of The Executive Secretary

Three bills, supported by Labor and authored by State Senator Anthony Beilenson (D-Los Angeles) were approved by the Assembly this week.

SB 722 was presented to the Assembly by Assemblyman Alan Sieroty (D-Los Angeles). This measure expands the definition of "food crop" for purposes of provisions dealing with growing and harvest sanitation to include all fruits and vegetables intended for human consumption.

SB 293 allows credits for courses completed in regional occupational center programs to be applied toward fulfillment of requirements for a high school diploma. SB 295 authorizes opportunity schools to confer a diploma upon any student who has completed the prescribed course of study of the school district. Both these bills were presented in the Assembly by Assemblyman Bill Greene (D-Los Angeles).

The Senate Judiciary Committee has given "do pass" recommendations on AB 1763 and AB 1764, both by Assemblyman James Hayes (R-Long Beach). The California Labor Federation supports these proposals, designed to protect consumers in the area of credit card issuance.

AB 1763 provides that the issuer is liable for any unauthorized use of a credit card which does not reach the person to whom it was sent. It also provides that if the card is lost or stolen, the cardholder is not liable for unauthorized use provided specified notice is given the issuer.

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Public Employee RTW Bill Set for Hearing on July 8

Senate Bill 1119 this week was drastically amended and is now a "right to work" measure affecting public employees throughout the State.

As originally introduced April 8, SB 1119 would have imposed "right to work" provisions in agricultural labor relations.

The author, Senator John Schmitz (R-Tustin) amended the bill and this week moved it be withdrawn from the Senate Agriculture Committee and re-referred to the Senate Labor & Social Welfare Committee where it is scheduled for a hearing on Tuesday, July 8, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 3191.

The California Labor Federation is vig-

orously opposed to all "right to work" measures. SB 1119 is a very bad anti-labor bill and should be defeated by the committee.

Members of the Senate's nine-man Labor and Social Welfare Committee are:

Senators Lou Cusanovich (R-Sherman Oaks), Chairman; John L. Harmer (R-Glen-dale), Vice Chairman; Clair W. Burgener (R-La Mesa); George Deukmejian (R-Long Beach); Mervyn M. Dymally (D-Los Angeles); John Nejedly (R-Walnut Creek); Nicholas C. Petris (D-Oakland); Alfred H. Song (D-Monterey Park); and Howard Way (R-Exeter).

Pitts Hails High Court Ban On Pre-Hearing Garnishments

U.S. Supreme Court action invalidating wage garnishments prior to hearings was hailed this week as a "significant affirmation of the basic rights of working people" by Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Wood Wins Key Assembly Seat

Republican Robert G. Wood won election to a vacant Monterey County Assembly District seat this week, defeating former Monterey County State Senator Fred Farr, a Democrat, by a vote of 26,274 to 19,651.

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"Organized labor has long been fighting for legislation at both the federal and state levels to correct this obvious inequity in the law," Pitts said.

The U.S. high court's 7 to 1 decision was handed down in a Wisconsin case (Sniadach vs. Family Finance Plan) in which a Milwaukee woman assembly line worker, Mrs. Christine

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Support Mounts For Striking Iron Workers

A strike by some 2,000 union iron workers against 61 iron and steel fabricating firms in Southern California moved toward its third week this week with union morale high and practically all of the struck plants shut down as tight as a steel drum.

W. N. (Neal) Coleman, General Organizer of the AFL-CIO International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers Union, said that the picket lines of Shopmen's Local Union No. 509

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UFWOC-Grower Talks To Start Today

An historic meeting that could well mark the beginning of the end of the long depriva-

tion of economic rights suffered by California farm workers was scheduled to get under

way at 10 a.m. today in Los Angeles when representatives of 10 major California table grape growers gather at the bargaining table with officials of the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee to negotiate a contract to pro-

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Labor at the Legislature

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AB 1764 requires credit card issuers to separately state and label all fees, charges and penalties when they are assessed against the card holder. Both bills passed the Assembly on June 2.

* * *

The Federation - sponsored AB 271 by Assemblywoman Yvonne Brathwaite (D-Los Angeles) comes before the Senate Labor and Social Welfare Committee on June 24. This bill would prohibit termination of employment because of garnishment for an indebtedness. It has already been approved by the Assembly and must be approved by the committee before being considered by the Senate.

* * *

On June 24, the Senate Labor and Social Welfare Committee also has on file AB 182, which would make the California FEP Act applicable to discrimination because of sex. Labor supports AB 182 by Assemblyman Charles Warren (D-Los Angeles).

The Federation opposes AB 591, relating to terms of employment, which is also scheduled before the same committee meeting.

AFL-CIO Does NOT Back Travel Service

AFL-CIO President George Meany has just advised all central bodies that a letter apparently being put out for general circulation by a travel service called "Union Travel International" which announces "exclusive 1969 union tour programs" does not have the endorsement of the AFL-CIO or any connection with the AFL-CIO.

Meany's action came in response to an inquiry from a local central body because the initials "AFL-CIO" are printed in the lower right hand corner of the letter.

Who's United?

"These capitalists generally act harmoniously, and in concert, to fleece the people."—Abraham Lincoln, 1837.

Pitts Nails High Court Ban On Pre-Hearing Garnishments

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Sniadach, protested after the finance company got a garnishment order in Wisconsin courts and served it both on her and her employer on the same day. The employer withheld half of the \$63.18 in wages due her.

Mrs. Sniadach maintained this procedure violated the due process clause because no hearing was held before her pay was partially frozen.

Although the Wisconsin County Court, the Milwaukee Circuit Court, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled against her, the U.S. Supreme Court majority opinion, written by Justice William O. Douglas, upheld her saying:

"Where the taking of one's property is so obvious, it needs no extended argument to conclude that absent notice and a prior hearing . . . this pre-judgment garnishment procedure violates the fundamental principles of due process."

The majority decision also noted that, although the worker had a chance to win back what was taken from him if he sued later and won, "in the interim, the wage earner is deprived of his enjoyment of earned wages without any opportunity to be heard and to tender any defense he may have, whether it be fraud or otherwise."

This, Douglas said, is "a taking of property without that procedural due process that is required by the 14th amendment."

The 14th amendment, ratified in 1868, specifies that no state shall "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

Noting that the Wisconsin law is similar to California's wage garnishment law, California State Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch observed:

"Under the Supreme Court's decision, California's present garnishment system which does not provide for a hearing prior to garnishment is apparently unconstitutional. This decision will require the immediate attention of the legislature."

He urged the legislature to enact a law to end wage garnishments prior to a court order in line with the high

court's decision.

Last Friday Lynch initiated a suit to implement the high court's ban on garnishment before hearings. For convenience the suit is directed at the Los Angeles Superior and Municipal Courts, the Los Angeles County Sheriff and Marshal with similar courts and officers in the state's 57 other counties being added as "John Does."

Lynch's suit charges that the courts are continuing to issue writs of attachment to garnish wages and that the sheriffs and marshals are continuing to serve them.

In hailing the high court's decision, Pitts said that California's existing garnishment law represents "a situation in which an alleged debtor is considered guilty until proved innocent."

"This has worked a particular hardship on thousands of low income workers for years," he added.

The decision, handed down Monday, June 9, is expected to invalidate garnishment laws in 17 states, including California, and the District of Columbia that are similar to Wisconsin's garnishment law.

Pitts pointed out that the California Labor Federation adopted a resolution at its convention last year which protested the fact that the method of garnishment of wages in California "creates a discrimination in the collection of debts between those owed by the wage earner and by the non-wage earner." It called for "allowing garnishment of wages only following a court judgment."

He also noted that the national AFL-CIO has been campaigning for the abolishment of wage garnishment and other harsh collection methods for years and that it adopted a resolution at its 1967 convention which observed that hundreds of thousands of workers lose their jobs because of garnishment which also causes many cases of bankruptcy.

The national convention resolution urged enactment of a federal law to protect workers' wages from this "vicious and too-long sanctioned evil."

Support Mounts For Striking Iron Workers

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were proving "very effective" and added that the union is heartened by the mounting support it is receiving from all segments of organized labor.

The strike has won the sanction of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor as well as the sanction of Central Labor Councils in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

The local struck the Steel Fabricators Assn. of Southern California, Inc. on June 6 after the employer's association refused to come up with any meaningful improvements in wages and fringe benefits, Coleman said.

It is prepared for a long hard strike, if necessary, to win a settlement sufficient to offset the severe price inflation of recent years, he declared.

At present, he explained:

"We're at complete loggerheads on all matters relative to economic issues and there are some administrative provisions also at issue."

Specifically, he pointed out that the employers presently allow the workers no sick leave or jury duty pay and that better vacation benefits and health, welfare and pension provisions are needed.

The employers' proposals to date have been "totally inadequate," he declared.

Union and management spokesmen met separately with representatives of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service twice last week.

The first joint meeting of FMCS officials and union and management spokesmen was scheduled for yesterday, too late to report on this week.

Coleman said the union will greatly appreciate any assistance that can be given to assure the continued honoring of the union's picket lines and to help find work for its members for the duration of the strike.

336,000 N.Y.C. Jobs

A total of 336,000 jobs will be available for disadvantaged high school-age youth this summer through more than 1,000 Neighborhood Youth Corps projects.

NLRB Chief Raps Rise in Employer Unfair Practices

Unfair labor practices by employers have doubled in 10 years and amount to a "crime wave" in industrial relations.

This was the observation made by Frank W. McCulloch, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, in addressing a panel session of the first Collective Bargaining Forum sponsored by the Institute of Collective Bargaining and Group Relations.

These violations, McCulloch said, are often by companies—and their attorneys—who are "cynically engaged in calculated and deliberate violations of the law."

800 PARTICIPANTS

The forum, held in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York last month attracted some 800 participants. It is scheduled to be an annual event.

The premise underlying the convening of the conference, which is supported by both labor and management, is "a belief that there is no viable alternative to collective bargaining for the settlement of disputes between workers and their employers and that the most effective means of preventing strikes is by improving the techniques of bargaining and the skills of the practitioners."

AFL-CIO President George Meany told the forum that America's biggest and hardest battle in generations is being fought along "the raw frontiers of collective bargaining."

FARM FIGHT CITED

He was referring to the fight involving farm workers in California, hospital workers in South Carolina, and the "far too many" groups of working poor who need the help of the trade union movement to achieve a share of America's prosperity.

While just about every management spokesman worked in a reference to the great danger to the country of inflationary wage increases and decried government intervention in the bargaining process, Arthur J. Goldberg, who helped negotiate steel contracts, the AFL-CIO merger and the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, declared that no administration can remain disinterested in the results of bargaining.

"Any administration worth

its salt," he said, "must move unhesitatingly to deal with disputes affecting the national health and safety."

Goldberg disclosed that he had urged that wage-price-profit controls be imposed three years ago when the decision was made to step up America's involvement in Vietnam.

The failure to do this, not the results of collective bargaining, he said, was a prime cause of inflation.

On the issue of public employee strikes, two of the nation's best-known arbitrators—Theodore W. Kheel and David L. Cole—took opposite positions.

"Collective bargaining cannot exist," Kheel declared, "if employees may not withdraw

their services. . . . Collective bargaining is the best way of composing differences between workers and their employers in a democratic society. So if we believe public employees should have bargaining rights, we must accept the possibility of a strike and consider how best to guard against it."

He suggested that cities and states adopt the emergency disputes provision of the Taft-Hartley Act if the community's health or safety is involved. But, he emphasized, "When all strikes are barred, collective bargaining or joint determination is out."

Cole, who helped to draw up New York's labor relations law that includes penalties against unions and union members for striking, disagreed.

"Why should we deliberately revert to the primitive days of labor relations," he asked, "when there are alternatives to strikes?"

But Jerry Wurf, president of the State, County, and Municipal Employees, said that he has come to the "disquieting conclusion that the very same public official—arbitrator—academician—who enthusiastically supports full and unhindered collective bargaining in private industry, is perfectly willing to accept the most biased, slanted, one-sided system when it involves public workers."

"Too often," he charged, "government has been allowed to cling to the right to be exempt from reasonableness and responsibility in its own labor-management relations."

Wood Wins Key Monterey Co. Assembly Seat

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The victory gives the Republican Party a clear 41 to 39 vote majority in the Assembly and marks the first time in 13 years that the GOP has had a clear majority in both houses of the Legislature during a legislative session. The GOP controls the Senate 21 to 19.

It also puts the Republican Party in a strong position to control the reapportionment of the State's Congressional, State Senatorial and Assembly Districts that will follow the 1970 decennial census next year.

Wood, a 53-year-old Greenfield apricot grower and County Supervisor who describes himself as a moderate Republican, said following the election that he plans to vote his own mind.

"I don't intend to be a rubber stamp Republican. If it's a good bill by a Democrat, I'll vote for it," he said.

Complete but unofficial results from the district's 178 precincts indicated a voter turnout of 66.8 percent of the district's 70,254 registered voters.

Last Friday, just four days before the June 17 special election, Russell Hansen, co-chairman of the Fred Farr Campaign and business manager of the District Council of Carpenters, charged that "unknown persons operating under a cloak of anonymity and often in the dark of night," were trying to give the Farr campaign a bad

name.

Hansen said that antagonistic telephone calls were being made to Monterey County residents in the name of the Farr campaign and that Farr posters were posted improperly—"sometimes illegally by persons in no way connected with our campaign."

In a complaint that had a familiar ring to workers for labor-endorsed candidates in recent regular and special elections in Los Angeles, Stanislaus and Contra Costa Counties, Hansen said:

"A large number of voters in Monterey County have received rude and abrasive telephone calls from persons misrepresenting themselves as Farr campaign workers. I am told that this technique of using a telephone campaign to anger voters against an opposing candidate has been used widely in various Los Angeles campaigns—unfortunately, with some success."

In connection with the illegal sign posting, Hansen added:

"Unknown persons have been posting without authorization our candidate's signs on telephone poles, trees and natural preserves."

"This is clearly an attempt to smudge Fred Farr's reputation as one of the leading conservationists not only in the state of California but the nation," Hansen said.

He pointed out that Farr had fought the Southern California billboard interests throughout the years he served in the State Senate and added that it would be "deplorable indeed if such shady tactics were to become a standard part of campaigning in our country."

Wood replaces the late Republican Alan Pattee, who was killed in an automobile accident earlier this year.

Although Gov. Reagan and other state Republican leaders visited Monterey County repeatedly to boost Wood's candidacy, Farr declined similar assistance from various leaders of his own party, campaign observers said. They also noted that Wood enjoyed the endorsement and support of practically every newspaper published in the district.

Women Moving In

That women have been infiltrating what have long been considered men's fields is demonstrated by union membership figures for 1966, the latest reporting year. The Labor Department reports that of 2.9 million female union members, 8,000 were members of the Carpenter's union; 2,250, Fireman and Oilers; 942, Woodworkers; 2,800, Boilermakers; 16,000, Distillery Workers; 2,006, Painters; 2,407, Seafarers; and 403, Rural Letter Carriers.

UFWOC-Grower Talks To Start Today

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tect an estimated 2,000 farm workers.

The meeting, the latest development in the major breakthrough scored late last week when the 10 growers first offered to negotiate, was set up by Edwin W. Scott, Regional Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in San Francisco Wednesday.

Scott acted after FMCS Director J. Curtis Counts announced in Washington, D.C., earlier the same day that the FMCS had agreed to "lend its services" to the negotiations in response to a request made by the UFWOC and the growers involved earlier this week.

The meeting is to be held at the FMCS office in the Federal Building at 300 North Los Angeles Street, Scott said.

FULFILLS KEY AIM

The growers' offer to negotiate fulfilled one of UFWOC's major aims in the nearly four-year-old strike—union recognition.

Participating in the meeting will be representatives of the UFWOC, a number of the growers and their representative, Al Caplan, as well as Commissioner Joseph M. Vierra of the Los Angeles FMCS staff who has been assigned to the case, Scott, and Gilbert J. Seldin of the FMCS Washington, D.C., staff.

The offer to negotiate was made by six growers from the Arvin-Lamont area in the San Joaquin Valley and four from the Coachella Valley late last week and was promptly accepted by the UFWOC.

COURAGE PRAISED

Larry Itliong, UFWOC's assistant director and Delores Huerta, a union vice president, issued a statement at a press conference held at the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor Building in Los Angeles last Saturday which praised the growers for having the courage to ask for negotiations and said:

"We stand ready to meet immediately. We intend to bend every effort in the very best of good faith to reach a quick agreement.

"Protracted negotiations are not necessary. The issues in disagreement are neither great

in number nor complexity. If both sides wish a settlement then little time needs to be consumed reaching it."

In commending the growers for asking for negotiations, the union statement said that these 10 growers "have assumed the leadership in their industry," and added:

"Their actions serve now as a challenge to other table grape growers who say that the only solution to the strike and boycott is to destroy our union."

The union statement also emphasized that "until a contract has been negotiated and signed, the strike and boycott will continue. In fact, it will be escalated against those growers who refuse to negotiate."

In sharp contrast to the claims of some adamant anti-union growers that the UFWOC table grape boycott has not hurt them, Lionel Steinberg, a co-chairman of the growers' group offering to negotiate, conceded that the international boycott has "definitely been hurting us."

The growers who have offered to negotiate produce about 15 percent of the state's total table grape crop, includ-

ing more than a third of the grapes shipped from the Coachella Valley in Riverside County and about one third of those shipped from the Arvin area in Kern County.

The 10 grower firms involved in negotiations are:

David Freedman and Co., Inc., Bianco Fruit Co., Karahadian Ranches, Heggblade-Marguleas Co. and Mel-Pac Ranches, all of Thermal, and John J. Kovacevich, El Rancho Farms, Eugene Nalbanbian, Inc., William Mosesian Corp., and S. A. Camp Farms, all of Arvin.

The grape harvest is already under way in the Coachella Valley and will begin shortly in the Arvin area.

Union spokesmen said negotiations would include such issues as wages, working conditions, the use of pesticides, sanitation, housing and grievance procedures.

Before the FMCS announced that it would lend its services to the negotiations, the union had made it clear that it was not convinced of the need for FMCS assistance and that it was willing to negotiate directly with the growers.

Shell Boycott Still in Effect, Union Says

Despite Shell Oil Company's attempts to convince its credit card customers that its dispute with the AFL-CIO Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union has been settled, the consumer boycott against Shell is continuing unabated, according to OCAW President A. F. Grospron.

"Management is sending a form letter to each person who returns his gasoline credit card to the company," Grospron noted, "and this is confusing a few people into thinking that the dispute has been resolved."

"It is not settled and we are continuing to urge our friends to mail Shell credit cards to the company at P.O. Box 80, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and to refrain from buying Shell products," he emphasized.

Shell has also developed trouble on other labor fronts in its worldwide operations, the union said, noting that the violent strike in Curacao, in the Dutch West Indies, is against a Shell refinery. Another Shell refinery in Vancouver, B.C. is also being struck, it said.

Suit Challenges Two-Thirds Rule for School Bonds

A suit challenging the California constitutional requirement of a two-thirds vote to pass school bonds has been filed in Sutter County Superior Court by the California Rural Legal Assistance.

The suit, filed June 13, maintains that the two-thirds requirement gives people voting "No" twice the influence of those voting "Yes" and therefore violates the "one man, one vote" rule.

Plaintiffs in the case are parents of children attending the Yuba City Unified School District where many of the children are presently on double sessions due to crowded conditions and inadequate funding. A recent school bond election in the district won the approval of 57 percent of the voters but failed because of the two-thirds rule, the CRLA pointed out.

Elimination of the two-thirds rule would obviously result in a substantial improvement of education facilities available to

California children and at the same time significantly increase job opportunities for California building tradesmen.

A recent statewide survey for the fiscal year 1968 found that 79 school bond issues passed and 96 failed. Of the 96 that failed, the will of the majority was frustrated in 79 cases since more than one-half of the

voters approved the bond issues in those 79 cases.

The CRLA said that California's two-thirds majority rule for the passage of school bonds is unique in the United States. It noted that only Idaho, Kentucky, and Mississippi have similar requirements and that the Idaho requirement was recently held unconstitutional.

Union Members and Families Back Leadership, Poll Shows

Union members and their families have given trade union leaders a strong vote of confidence, according to a survey just completed by Sindlinger & Co., a professional polling firm.

The survey, conducted last April, disclosed that "union members overwhelmingly believe that the leaders of labor organizations are concerned with the interests of the rank and file."

The nationwide sampling of union members found 73.9 percent agreeing and only 3.9 percent disagreeing with the view that union leaders are concerned with the interests of union members. The remaining 22.2 percent either declined to answer or qualified their replies.