



# 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

The Assembly has adopted a concurrent resolution by the Speaker which would set August 6 as the date for the "constitutional recess" of the 1969 legislature. If that date, or another in the same week, is finally agreed on with the Senate this means that all action on pending legislation will have been completed by then. Remaining would be the short session for consideration of items vetoed by the Governor. Under these conditions, this session would convene briefly on September 8 and then adjourn the 1969 session.

\* \* \*

On July 11, the State Senate passed AB 1266 by Assemblyman Jerry Lewis (R-San Bernardino) and returned it to the Assembly for concurrence in amendments before it went to the Governor for approval. AB 1266 had the support of Labor. It would prohibit any licensed insurer in California from discriminating in the handling of policies because of the race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry of the potential insured.

\* \* \*

The Assembly Finance & Insurance Committee has given a "do pass" approval to SB 1273 by Senator George Moscone (D-San Francisco). This is a good consumer protection bill, supported by the Federation. It deals with conditional sales contracts on automobiles, providing that the buyer is entitled to copies of all preliminary documents which were influential in consummation of the sale.

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Action by the Assembly Fi-  
(Continued on Page 2)

## Fed's Bill to Guard Pay Claims Inked

AB 252, a measure designed to protect California's bartenders and culinary workers from being gypped out of thousands of dollars in wages and fringe benefits due them when liquor licenses change hands, became the first bill sponsored by the California Labor Federation in the current session to clear all legislative hurdles when it was signed into law by Governor Reagan this week.

The measure, signed Tuesday, was introduced and ably handled in the lower house by Assemblyman John F. Foran (D-San Francisco). Particularly helpful in winning upper house approval were Senators George Moscone

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## State AFL-CIO Calls for Report on PG&E Rate Bid

In a move to protect consumers from unnecessary or exorbitant gas rate increases, the State AFL-CIO has called on the State Public Utilities Commission to direct the Commission's hearing examiner to issue a preliminary report of

his conclusions on PG&E's demand for a \$30 million rate hike before interested parties in the case are required to file briefs.

The move, made in the form of a petition filed with the State Public Utilities Commission yesterday by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, would also serve to clarify the issues confronting the Commission and eliminate the necessity of much unnecessary repetition in the briefs to be filed by interested parties thereafter, Thos. L. Pitts, the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer, said.

The proposed report, which would be prepared and issued by the PUC's presiding officer,

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## Hancock Ins. Co. Hit for Strike Stand

The John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company was sharply criticized by Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation,

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## Farm Worker RTW Measure Up For Hearing

AB 1333, a vicious anti-union bill introduced by Assemblyman Victor Veysey (R-Brawley) which would impose so-called "right-to-work" conditions on California farm workers, is scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Agricultural Committee at 1:30 p.m., next Monday, July 21.

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## Senate Unit OK's Bill to Tell Labor's Role in Textbooks

A California Labor Federation bill to include coverage of organized labor's role in the nation's development in school textbooks, SB 342, cleared the Senate Finance Committee this week and was sent to the floor with a "do pass" recommendation.

The bill had already been approved by the Senate Education Committee.

Support from Senators Stephen Teale (D-West Point)

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## SB 1213 Beaten

SB 1213 was beaten Wednesday by a vote of 23 Noes to 13 Ayes.

The solid support of organized labor contributed substan-

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## Meany Debunks Grower Claims at Senate Hearing

For years the nation's agribusiness interests have claimed that agriculture could not be unionized because its products

are perishable; because it's a seasonal industry; and that in any event farm workers must never be permitted the right to

strike at harvest time.

So it was no surprise to AFL-CIO President George Meany that these questions came up in the course of his testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Labor on May 16, 1969, when he was testifying on legislative proposals to extend National Labor Relations Act cov-

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## Senate Unit OK's Bill to Tell Labor's Role in Textbooks

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and Jack Schrade (R-San Diego) was helpful in moving the bill.

SB 342 was introduced for the Federation by Senator Albert Rodda (D-Sacramento).

Its purpose is to insure an adequate representation of the role of Labor in the history of our state and nation in state public school textbooks. Emphasis would be given Labor's part in development of the public education system.

## Labor at the Legislature

(Continued from Page 1)

nance & Insurance Committee last week to hold four bills in committee blocked efforts to include agricultural workers under the California Unemployment Insurance program. These included AB 299 by Assemblyman Leon Ralph (D-Los Angeles) which was introduced on behalf of the California Labor Federation. AB 299 would have embraced agricultural workers, domestic, non-profit and public employment within coverage of unemployment insurance laws. Two of the remaining proposals were bad bills which would not have provided meaningful coverage and would additionally have eliminated many workers now covered. The action to hold these bills in committee was recommended by a subcommittee which heard testimony on the subject earlier.

## A Speedy Test

The U.S. Training and Employment Service is developing a 10-minute test that will accurately determine the reading and arithmetic level of a disadvantaged job applicant. It is expected to be in use in all States by mid-1970 as an aid in the U.S. Labor Department's comprehensive manpower training and job placement programs.

## Fed's Bill to Guard Pay Claims Inked

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(D-S.F.) and Milton Marks (R-S.F.). It grants first priority to employees' claims for wages, salaries or fringe benefits when alcoholic beverage licenses are sold.

To help assure payment, it requires the buyer and seller to deposit with an escrow holder who is not a party to the transfer, the full amount of the purchase price or other consideration involved in the transfer and directs the escrow holder to pay "the claims of the bona-fide creditors of the licensee."

The order of priority in which creditors' claims are to be met in the Federation's bill reads:

"First, to the payment of

claims for wages, salaries or fringe benefits of employees of the seller or transferor earned or accruing within ninety (90) days prior to the sale, transfer or opening of an escrow for the sale thereof."

The claims of secured creditors are second in line; U.S. income or withholding taxes third; mechanics lien claims fourth; escrow, brokerage and attorney's fees fifth; claims for goods sold and delivered to the seller sixth; and all other claims seventh. Those in the seventh category are to be paid on a pro-rata basis if there are not sufficient assets for payment in full.

The California Labor Federation worked vigorously to win enactment of the measure.

## John Hancock Ins. Co. Hit for Refusal To Bargain

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tion, AFL-CIO, this week for its refusal to sit down at the bargaining table and hammer out a responsible contract to protect some 7,000 of its insurance agents who have been on strike since July 1.

In a letter sent to Robert Slater, the company's president in Boston, Mass., Pitts observed:

"Essential to the success of this nation's industrial relations system is the free give-and-take inherent in true collective bargaining."

Noting that the John Hancock firm is the nation's fifth largest insurance company with assets of more than \$9.3 billion and life insurance in force of nearly \$53 billion, Pitts said that the company "is damaging its image in California by refraining from sitting down at the bargaining table with representatives of the Insurance Workers' International Union, AFL-CIO."

In terms of wages, hours, and working conditions, Pitts said, the demands of the IWIU "are clearly responsible." And citing the rapid increase in the cost-of-living, he added, "A wage increase of the size requested by the union is needed

to maintain a decent standard of living."

Asserting that the unwillingness of the John Hancock Company "to negotiate in good faith is a major concern to this Federation and its many affiliates up and down this state," Pitts said:

"On behalf of the 1.4 million AFL-CIO members in California I urge you to resume at once negotiations with the IWIU in order that a mutually agreed upon contract can be signed and your business and the work of your insurance agents can return to normal."

The strike, which involves insurance agents in more than 200 cities across the nation, was undertaken only after union members voted late in June by an overwhelming margin—4,921 to 194 — to strike if no satisfactory terms were offered by the multi-billion dollar insurance firm.

Negotiations between the union and the company were initiated more than a month ago and federal mediators entered the negotiations at the request of both sides. But they withdrew for the time being when talks broke down.

When the talks halted, management was offering a wage increase of \$17.31 a week

## Farm Worker RTW Measure Up For Hearing

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All Federation affiliates are asked to wire or personally contact committee members to urge them to vote "No" on this bill.

Committee members are: William Ketchum, Chairman (R-Bakersfield); John Dunlap, Vice Chairman (D-Vallejo); Frank Belotti (R-Eureka); Clare Berryhill (R-Modesto); John Briggs (R-Fullerton); Carl Britschgi (R-Redwood City); Joe Gonsalves (D-Norwalk); Ray Johnson (R-Chico); Ernest Mobley (R-Fresno); Carley Porter (D-Compton); Walter Powers (D-Sacramento); Jesse Unruh (D-Los Angeles); and Bob Wood (R-Salinas).

spread over a three-year contract term while the union was asking for at least \$29.93 a week.

Earlier this week, Lew Fink, secretary-treasurer of IWIU Local 83 asked all AFL-CIO affiliated locals to contribute funds to help support the strike, the first nationwide strike against the John Hancock Company in its history.

Checks should be made payable to the "John Hancock Strike Donations" and mailed to Lew Fink, Secretary-Treasurer, IWIU Local No. 73, 748 North Niagra, Burbank, California 91505.

## SB 1213 Beaten By 23 to 13 Vote

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tially to the defeat of this vicious piece of legislation which would have taken the welfare benefits from the head of a family if he would not walk through a picket line.

The measure was introduced by Senator Clair Burgener (R-La Mesa). Opposing the bill were Senator Alquist (D-San Jose) and Senator Song (D-Monterey Park).

This bill was supported by California manufacturers and employers' representatives.

## SB 1192 Passes Senate, Faces Assembly Fight

SB 1192, a so-called "economic productivity" measure that would adversely affect the job security and bargaining rights of California printing trades workers, was passed by the Senate by a vote of 22-15 this week despite a tremendous fight by the labor movement in California.

Voicing support for the bill were Senators Coombs (R-San Bernardino County) and Richardson (R-Los Angeles County) who claimed that the bill was aimed at eliminating featherbedding. The bill is being pushed by the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

Opposing the bill were Senator Short (D-Stockton) and Senator Moscone (D-San Francisco) who tried to convince the Senators that the measure would very definitely intrude the state into collective bargaining procedures.

The only three Democrats voting for the bill were Senator Burns, Fresno; Senator Collier, Yreka; and Senator Petris, Oakland.

Senator Burns after voting "No" changed his vote to "Aye" and Senator Marler (R-Redding), who voted "No", changed his vote to "Aye."

Because of the change of votes, the passage was by a very narrow margin.

The California Labor Federation will continue to fight this legislation in the Assembly and urges trade unionists throughout the state to do everything possible to oppose the passage of SB 1192 by the Assembly.

This type of legislation could be the opening wedge to destroy the real collective bargaining process in the State of California. It could be the vehicle that could destroy effective contractual relations.

Those Senators voting for SB 1192 were: Clark Bradley (R-San Jose); Clair Burgener (R-La Mesa); Hugh Burns (D-Fresno); Randolph Collier (D-Yreka); Gordon Cologne (R-Indio); William Coombs (R-Rialto); Lou Cusanovich (R-Sherman Oaks); George Deukmejian (R-Long Beach); Richard Dolwig (R-San Mateo); Robert Lagomarsino (R-Ventura); Fred Marler (R-Redding); John McCarthy (R-

## CCHPA Asks for Boards To Rule on Hospital Rates

California hospitals should be required to justify any proposed rate increases before local regulatory commissions composed of a majority of consumer representatives.

Such an approach represents the only hope of stabilizing costs and assuring quality health care for the average citizen, according to the California Council for Health Plan Alternatives, an organization composed of many of the state's biggest union organizations including the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

In letters sent to San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto and Los Angeles Supervisor Ernest Debs this week, CCHPA Executive Director Tom Moore declared:

"We have long since passed the time when hospitals can wrap themselves in a cloak of charitable intent and charge what they please."

Pointing out that although the public uses the hospitals and grants them tax privileges and other special consideration, Moore stressed the fact that the public has no control over the rates.

He called on the San Francisco and Los Angeles officials to help create local, consumer-controlled regulatory commissions to cope with the problem.

At present, he charged, the quality of health care "is frequently compromised by financial considerations, while the public using the hospitals has no way of knowing what quality standards are being applied by hospital management."

The CCHPA spokesman noted that while hospitals are prone to attribute rate increases to increased labor costs, a number of other factors are involved. Among these, he said, are "inefficient administration, unwise investment decisions, and poorly conceived and planned capital investments in

San Rafael); John Nejedly (R-Walnut Creek); Nicholas Petris (D-Oakland); H. L. Richardson (R-Arcadia); John Schmitz (R-Tustin); Robert Stevens (R-Los Angeles); Howard Way (R-Exeter); and James Whetmore (R-Garden Grove).

medical gadgetry and buildings."

So long as hospitals "remain aloof from close public scrutiny," he said, "the consumer is going to be at the mercy of hospital management."

The CCHPA's letters to the San Francisco and Los Angeles officials also pointed out that:

"No other industry of comparable size — certainly no other industry of comparable importance — has as little responsibility to the public for its actions as the hospital industry..."

"The non-profit, community hospital is an unregulated public utility, granted special financial privileges and even protected... from severe competition."

"Rate regulation is a community right and responsibility," the CCHPA's letters declared.

They also noted that they were in effect, seconding a similar proposal calling for the creation of hospital regulatory commissions sent to Mayor Alioto and the Mayors of Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda earlier this month by Mrs. Sylvia M. Siegel, executive director of the Association of California Consumers.

## Join The Food Caravan To Delano July 26

The next food caravan to Delano to help California's impoverished and embattled farm workers is scheduled next Saturday, July 26 and you're invited to come along to learn first-hand what the grape boycott and the fight for union recognition is all about.

The caravan will leave the San Francisco Bay Area in two sections: one section leaves from 568-47th St., Oakland; and the other from the San Francisco Labor Temple at 2940 16th St., at Capp near Mission in San Francisco. Both depart at 7 a.m.

If you need a ride, or have room for food or passengers, call your area number after 7 p.m. or between 8 and 9 a.m. In the East Bay call 655-3256. In San Francisco call 647-7032. Be prepared to take a dip in Lake Wollones and relax among friends!

And remember, if you can't make the trip personally, funds or the declared value of food donated are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to—and sent to—the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, P.O. Box 130, Delano, California.

## Help Youths Find Summer Jobs

This summer more than 13 million youngsters between the ages of 16 and 21 will be looking for jobs.

For many of these young people, success in their job quest will spell the difference between failure and success in life—between an aimless existence on the street corner and a rewarding career.

Tuition is free in our public high schools but a student needs money for clothes and for car fare, supplies and lunches. For many of the students from the poorest families, the lack of needed cash is enough to tip the scale in favor of dropping out of school.

Once a youngster has been labeled "drop out," he has started down the endless road leading toward the senseless, shiftless life of a failure. Without a high school diploma to buttress his search for a job in our technological society, he is headed toward a lifetime of disappointment and bitterness.

Last year nearly 2,000,000 youngsters were disappointed. In many cases, they were the young people who most needed the jobs. The unemployment rate for non-white youngsters was 26 percent — nearly double the rate for white boys and girls.

If each employer produces just one job, if each citizen offers his personal job-hunting help to one student, if each church, union, and civic organization talks up the cause to its own members, the need could be met — to give all of our young people a fair break in life.

# State AFL-CIO Calls for Report on PG&E Rate Bid

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Hearing Examiner Carol T. Coffey, at the conclusion of the marathon hearings on the case which already involve more than 20 volumes of testimony, should state what, if any, increase in rates the Hearing Examiner believes PG&E should receive, he said.

Thirteen other organizations, representing unions, consumer organizations, civic groups and city, county, and state agencies including the State Attorney General's office, have joined in support of the State AFL-CIO's petition.

In commenting on the petition, Pitts said.

"At a time when consumers are getting it from all angles in terms of higher prices, it is particularly important that California wage-earners know what the views of the presiding officer are in the case.

"Only through open disclosures of whether PG&E's massive rate hike request has any merit can the public truly be informed of the basis on which the State PUC decides matters that affect everyone who uses gas and electricity.

"Surely in the present case, where PG&E is seeking to boost the average household gas bill by about \$1.00 a month, a request that the PUC order the presiding officer to draft a proposed report is reasonable.

"After all, while the presiding officer has been in attendance daily and has heard all of the evidence, the same cannot be said of any of the commissioners who must ultimately decide the case."

The Federation's petition for the proposed report points out that the PG&E case has major ramifications for consumers and involves a number of basic public policy issues, such as:

- Should the Commission allow PG&E to pass its federal surtax onto its customers?

- Should the Commission adopt a rate spread that places a good part of any increase on the general service customer as opposed to the industrial user?

- And what is the proper role of advertising for a public utility like PG&E which is essentially a regulated monopoly?

The State AFL-CIO petition also points out that the State

Bar Association, among others, has called for mandatory proposed reports in all cases before PUC and that a PG&E attorney who is active in the current case, John C. Morrissey, was a member of the State Bar Association Committee that called for such mandatory reports.

Pitts recalled that in Phase I of the current PG&E case, the hearing examiner recommended no increase in interim gas rates for PG&E as a result of the increase in charges to it by El Paso Natural Gas Company.

## Meany Debunks Grower Claims at Senate Hearing

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erage to farm workers.

Meany exposed the emptiness of these agribusiness claims in the course of answering the following questions put to him by Subcommittee Chairman Senator Harrison Williams (D-New Jersey):

Senator Williams: "Is that part (the wine industry) of grape growing seasonal industry?"

Meany: "All grape growing is seasonal."

Senator Williams: "The fact that it is seasonal has not brought great calamity to the wine grape growers?"

Meany: "No. You see, Mr. Chairman, on this question of seasonality and the argument of the perishability of the product . . . there is a basic question that is fundamental to our type of society.

### A RIGHT TO QUIT

"If a man has a right to quit his job and to do so collectively with others, and I think that every human being has that right, whether it is covered by law or not, I think you have the right to stop working for somebody else if you don't like the conditions.

"I think you have the right to join with others who feel the same way.

"Now, if that right exists, and I believe it exists, I do not think that Congress under our structure has any right to enact a law to protect some other person from the adverse consequence of the exercise of that right by the individual worker.

"In other words, if you give protection to the grower on the

Despite this, the PUC gave PG&E a \$6.8 million rate hike.

"With this as background, the clear need for a proposed report by Coffey in the current major phase of PG&E's rate hike case is obvious," Pitts said.

"If the present PUC is truly interested in serving California consumers, then the public should be able to expect speedy acceptance of the Federation's petition," he added.

Among organizations supporting the Federation's petition are:

Association of California Consumers; Attorney General of the State of California; California Farmer-Consumer Information Committee; California Rural Legal Assistance; City of Palo Alto; City and County of San Francisco; Consumers Cooperative of Berkeley, Inc.; Consumer's Cooperative Society of Palo Alto, Inc.; County of Marin; Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara County; San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council of California; and the Western Conference of Teamsters.

ground that he might be hurt because the other fellow decides to quit work and do so collectively, I say that is complete class legislation in favor of the grower.

### PERISHABILITY ISSUE

"Now, as to the perishability, as we pointed out in this statement, food is perishable and if workers are not to have the right to strike on the farm because food is perishable, then you had better get around to taking away the right of teamsters to strike or clerks in the stores that sell the products to strike. They have the right to strike.

"The driver who drives the perishable food also has the right to strike and it is quite obvious if he goes on strike, whether the food is harvested or not, it does not reach the market.

### COMPLETE NONSENSE

"So, to deny the right of the workers on the farms because of the perishability of the product is just complete nonsense.

"Now, the way that this problem should be disposed of is through collective bargaining. If there were collective bargaining, I am quite sure it would be normal for both sides to come up with a contract that would cover the period during which the worker is expected to work.

"In other words, they wouldn't have a contract that would apply only to a period when nobody was working. Whatever protections were under the contract the worker would want when he is working.

"So that this would be the first item on the table: that we have a contract to cover the period of time when the worker is working and when the ranch-owner wants his product harvested. So this would very readily be disposed of by collective bargaining and be disposed of in the only way that the farm operator could be sure of having help when he wants to harvest his crops.

### CONTRARY TO U. S. WAY

"But to try to protect the farm operator and to protect his product from this problem of perishability by denying the rights by law to the farm worker is completely ridiculous and is completely contrary to the concept that we have of this American system of equal justice under law for everyone.

"Now there is absolutely no justice in denying these corporate farm workers the same right that every other factory and industry worker in this country has, Mr. Chairman.

"There is no justice in it whatsoever."

## VISTA Volunteers

The U.S. Department of Labor reports that VISTA volunteers will assist with the adjustment of enrollees in the Job Opportunities in the Business Sector (JOBS) program in the Minneapolis area. Working under the supervision of the Minnesota Employment Service—the first state agency to utilize VISTA personnel—the volunteers will live in the poverty areas of Minneapolis.