



# 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

At our deadline, SB 832 was still pending action by the Assembly Committee on Public Employment and Retirement. This is a bad public employee bill which Labor opposes. It passed the Senate last week on a 21 to 16 tally, barely enough to move the bill. SB 832 would destroy local control by state employees throughout California, making it possible to place their labor relations in the hands of organizations centered in Sacramento where they could be subject to remote control administratively from outside the immediate membership.

\* \* \*

SB 342 by Senator Albert Rodda (D-Sacramento) was given a "do pass" recommendation by the Assembly Education Committee this week and sent to Ways & Means Committee. This is a California Labor Federation bill which would assure Labor of adequate coverage in the state's public school textbooks at all grade levels.

The Senate Finance Committee has given a "do pass" recommendation to AB 271 by Assemblywoman Yvonne Brathwaite (D-Los Angeles) and sent the measure to the Senate for action. This is a bill introduced on behalf of the California Labor Federation. Its objective is to prevent attachment or garnishment of wages for debt prior to judgment.

\* \* \*

An anti-labor teacher bill, SB 382, was stopped for this session when it was referred to interim study by the Assembly Education Committee this week. This bill passed the Senate last week 21 to 15. It would deprive certificated and academic em-

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## SB 1192 Hearing Aug. 4 By Commerce Committee

A hearing on SB 1192, a vicious anti-labor bill which, although aimed at the printing trades, could adversely affect all of organized labor, has just been scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Monday, August 4 before the Assembly Commerce and Public Utilities Committee.

Normally, the measure, which deals di-

rectly with labor relations between employers and workers in the printing trades, would have been assigned to the Labor Relations Committee.

But instead, it was held at the desk in the Assembly, following Senate passage on July 16, from July 17 until last Tuesday,

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## Fed-Opposed Measures Fail to get Committees' OK

Two bills opposed by the California Labor Federation failed to clear their respective committees after hearings during the waning days of the 1969 session of the Legislature.

SB 770 would have made it a misdemeanor for an unemployed father to refuse to accept assigned public works training or a work incentive program post if his family was on public assistance. This would have imposed a jail term on the "offender."

### Conservatives' Control of PUC Tightens

Conservative control of the State Public Utilities Commission, already secure, was tightened this week when Governor Ronald Reagan named Vernon L. Sturgeon to the five-man board to replace Frederick P. Morrissey who resigned.

In announcing the appointment, Reagan said he was accepting Morrissey's resignation with "a deep appreciation for the decade of diligent service

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Criminal Procedure Committee Chairman Assemblyman Frank Murphy (R-Santa Cruz) opposed the bill and raised questions concerning its constitutionality.

Assemblyman John Miller (D-Oakland) said that it was "difficult to find the crime" in the bill. He stated that California stood to lose millions of dollars from the federal government if such a law as SB 770 was adopted.

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## Pitts Hits Reagan's IWC for Stalling Aid to Domestic

The State Industrial Welfare Commission's decision this week to delay again any action on the adoption of minimum wage and working condition standards to protect thousands of household domestic workers in California was roundly denounced today by Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

"This agency is specifically charged with the responsibility of preventing the gross exploitation of women and minors. For it to take nearly two years to set up a wage order that would afford minimum wage and hour protections for the largest single group of women presently denied them amounts to gross neglect of the public responsibilities with which the IWC is charged," Pitts declared.

"The simple fact is that this

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## State Law Protects Farm Union Rights, Court Rules

California farm workers are protected by the State Labor Code from being fired for joining a union, according to a

precedent-setting unanimous decision handed down Monday by the State Court of Appeals.

The three-judge court's de-

cision, written by Judge Winslow Christian, has the effect of providing "a partial National Labor Relations Act protection for California farm workers," according to a statement issued by California Rural Legal Assistance, which carried the case in behalf of eight farm workers who were fired by Martin

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## Labor at the Legislature

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ployees of public schools and state colleges of tenure and years credited toward tenure when they go out on strike.

\* \* \*

Public sales and service of alcoholic beverages during statewide election days will no longer be illegal under terms of a bill signed Monday by the Governor. AB 817 by Assemblyman Carlos Bee (D-Hayward) is now Chapter 614 for this year's session. It repeals the section of the B&P Code which made it a misdemeanor to sell alcoholic beverages while a state election was in progress.

\* \* \*

The Assembly, by an overwhelming margin, on July 25 approved SB 1228 by Senator George Moscone (D-San Francisco). This is a good consumer bill, which was supported by Labor. It deals with added protections to the buyer under retail installment contracts covered by the "Unruh Act."

\* \* \*

The Assembly passed and returned to the Senate SB 273 on July 24. The vote was 43 to 25. This measure will remove the mandatory provision that copies of employment applications be given to employees automatically and makes them available upon request. Labor opposed SB 273. Opposition was led on the floor by Assemblyman David Roberti (D-Los Angeles), who stated there was no demonstrated need for the bill and that workers were entitled to receive the documents in question. He was assisted in the debate against the bill by Assemblyman John Vasconcellos (D-San Jose) and John Dunlap (D-Vallejo).

### Birchers Stand Bared?

Now that the John Birch Society has come out foursquare against fluoridation and sex education in our schools, we have a clue to what they're FOR: More illegitimate children with rotten teeth.

## SB 1192 to Be Aired Aug. 4 By Commerce Committee

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July 29 when it was assigned to the Commerce and Public Utilities Committee, the committee expressly preferred by the bill's backers, the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

This suggests that the time was used by the bill's promoters to "shop" among the Assembly committees to assure the most favorable and sympathetic setup for the bill.

SB 1192 is vigorously opposed by the California Labor Federation and organized labor in general because it injects state government as a third party in collective bargaining on the side of employers. It would also establish a very dangerous precedent for other industries and other collective bargaining situations in which employers and unions agree by contract that any work the employer's employees are capable of doing shall be done by them.

In short, SB 1192 represents a real threat to orderly, peaceful negotiations in labor relations.

Assemblyman John Burton (D-San Francisco) succeeded this week in thwarting a motion make by Assemblyman Robert E. Badham (R-Newport Beach) to waive the three-day rule so that SB 1192 could have been heard last Wednesday. Burton withheld unanimous consent and Badham's motion was defeated by a 29 to 24 vote.

With the legislature now driving hard toward adjournment, quick action by all Federation affiliates is imperative to notify members of the committee as well as all Assemblymen of labor's opposition to SB 1192.

Members of the Commerce and Public Utilities Committee are: Assemblymen Badham (Chairman); Mike Cullen (D-Long Beach); Henry Arklin (R-Mission Hills); John Collier (R-South Pasadena); Tom Hom (R-San Diego); Leon Ralph (D-Los Angeles); Kent Stacey (R-Bakersfield); Larry Townsend (D-Gardena); and Assemblywoman March Fong (D-Oakland).

## Fed-Opposed Measures Fail to get Committees' OK

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The "do pass" motion by Assemblyman Floyd Wakefield (R-Downey) failed on a voice vote.

AB 1961 failed to muster sufficient support to get out of the Senate Finance Committee when it was heard on July 24. This proposal would have set up a large commission to devise means for the introduction of private employment for inmates in California prisons.

Opposition developed over hidden cost factors, the inclusion of prisoners on the commission, a \$35,000 appropriation lately amended into the bill and questions of the constitutionality in the contract use of convict labor.

Senator Stephen Teale (D-Railroad Flat) was acting chairman and, after a voice vote on a "do pass" motion, announced that AB 1961 had failed to secure the necessary votes for committee recommendation.

## '68 Pay Pacts Higher Than in Past, Study Finds

Settlements were concluded during 1968 for at least 4.5 million of the 10.7 million workers covered by major collective bargaining agreements.

All measures of change in wages and benefit expenditures resulting from these settlements were larger than in preceding years.

According to preliminary estimates of the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, contracts negotiated during 1968 provided a median wage and benefit package increase of 6.0 percent a year, assuming changes went into effect at equal intervals during the life of the contract, as compared with 5.2 percent for 1967.

## NBC-TV Show To Feature AFL-CIO Work

A news feature on the operations of the AFL-CIO Department of Legislation and its director, Andrew J. Biemiller, is scheduled to be broadcast on the National Broadcasting Company's Frank McGee Reports program next Sunday, August 3.

The program is to be carried at 6:30 p.m. (P.D.T.) on most major NBC-TV stations in California including: KRON, Ch. 4, San Francisco; KNBC, Ch. 4, Los Angeles; and KCRA-TV Ch. 3, Sacramento.

## 1st Union Pact Ends Boycott of Casket Co.

Fifty workers at the Pine Bluff Casket Company in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, are now protected by their first union contract, thanks in part to a nationwide labor boycott.

The workers, members of the AFL-CIO United Furniture Workers of America (UFWA) returned to work after ratifying a one-year contract that includes wage hikes, a dues check-off and the first paid holidays ever granted by the casket manufacturer.

The contract was approved only after management agreed that the strikers could return without penalty, according to UFWA President Morris Pizer.

The successful conclusion of the strike ends the boycott of the Pine Bluff Casket Company. Pizer expressed thanks for the help of unions throughout the country and the AFL-CIO Union Label and Service Trades Department for assistance in the boycott effort.

The union had won a National Labor Relations Board election last January and was certified as the legal bargaining agent. The strike was called only after the workers had sought repeatedly but in vain to get the company to bargain in good faith, according to UFWA Union Label Director James Griesi.

## SIU Spells Out Stand On Tuna Boat Seizures

The U. S. State Department must not "submit to blackmail" in negotiations with Ecuador, Peru and Chile over the illegal seizures of U. S. fishing trawlers, the AFL-CIO Seafarers International Union declared this week.

The union spelled out its position Tuesday, the day before a conference between U. S. officials and representatives of the three South American countries was scheduled to get underway in Buenos Aires, to Donald L. McKernan, Special Assistant to U. S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers.

### POSITION EXPLAINED

In explaining the SIU's position following the meeting with McKernan, SIU Vice Presidents Frank Drozak of San Francisco and Steve Edney of Los Angeles said:

"We take the position that the conference at Buenos Aires should limit itself to resolving the issue of the illegal seizures of American fishing vessels which jeopardize the lives and the livelihood of American fishermen whom we represent."

In the past eight years at least 80 U. S. fishing boats have been seized by the three Latin American countries and fines totaling more than \$900,000 for alleged violation of fishing zones have been levied against them.

### COASTAL RIGHTS ISSUE

While most nations accept the practice of limiting their national fishing rights to 12 miles off their coasts, Ecuador, Peru and Chile claim a 200 mile fishing zone.

"We are opposed," Drozak and Edney said, "to the inclusion in the conference of any discussion of Latin American requests to reduce American tariffs on tuna fish shipments by the Latin American countries or any changes on bonita as it is presently packed and marked."

"For the government to enter into any negotiations with these countries on the subject of tariffs or imports would be to submit to blackmail," they declared.

Drozak is the SIU's West Coast representative. Edney is Chairman of the SIU's Fish and

## Pitts Hits Reagan's IWC Stall on Aid for Domestics

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Reagan-dominated State Commission is unwilling to establish wage and hour protections for domestic workers.

"Instead, rather than give the proposed domestic worker wage order a speedy death, the commissioners apparently plan to kill it in stages by delay, delay, delay," Pitts said.

The State AFL-CIO official pointed out that the Commission voted 23 months ago, in September, 1967, to establish a wage order for domestics.

"The next step," he said, "was to appoint a wage board of experts to make a preliminary determination of what type of coverage was needed. But this was put off for over a year. Once the wage board was appointed in October, 1968, it took just two months to draft and submit its recommendations to the IWC."

"But it took the Commission another four months, until mid-April, 1969, to get around to holding public hearings on the wage board's recommendations. Since that time the Commission has met twice, in June and July, in executive session, and each time did nothing but engage in further delays," Pitts charged.

"The vote Wednesday to indefinitely delay action was 4 to 1 with only the Brown-appointed Commissioner, J. J. Rodriguez, executive secretary of Butchers' Local 563, Los Angeles, voting against it."

"California trade unionists and other concerned citizens should recognize this recent IWC action for what it is: a sorry example of what happens to public bodies created to protect the workers' interests when they are stacked by appointees who are antipathetic to the workers' interests," he asserted.

## Huge Error in U.S. Surplus Points Up Need For Real Tax Reform This Year

Disclosure this week that the Nixon administration wound up with a \$3 BILLION surplus—three times more than the \$900 million estimated by Nixon's Budget Director, Robert P. Mayo, as recently as May 20, 1969—is just one more reason why all trade unionists and other concerned taxpayers should write their Congressmen immediately to oppose any extension of the 10 percent surtax until real, meaningful tax reforms are effected.

Tax experts have pointed out that if the Nixon administration's estimates on the budget for the current fiscal year are as far off as its estimates barely a month ago of this year's surplus, the new budget could be balanced without continuation of the surtax.

While government officials blamed the astronomical under-estimate of the tax "take" on "traditional treasury conservatism," they also disclosed that the surplus resulted in part be-

cause receipts from personal income taxes climbed \$2.8 billion while corporate tax payments dropped \$1.4 billion.

This suggests that the various loopholes, such as the oil depletion allowance, by which the corporate community escapes paying a fair share of the cost of government are working better than ever.

And this means the individual taxpayer is getting socked all the harder.

Trade unionists are urged to write their Congressmen and both of their U.S. Senators immediately to oppose extension of the surtax until real tax reforms are enacted. The Congressmen should be urged to fight for elimination of the oil depletion allowance, curbs on the capital gains loopholes and the tax exempt status of state municipal bonds.

They should also be asked to increase the maximum standard deduction from \$1,000 to \$2,500

In general, the AFL-CIO tax proposals are aimed at affording real tax relief for all taxpayers with incomes below \$20,000 and to benefit those at the bottom rung of the income

## Conservatives' Control of PUC Tightens

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by Mr. Morrissey to this Commission."

Morrissey, a moderate Republican and a Reagan appointee himself, served on the Commission for only 2½ years.

Sturgeon, owner-operator of a milk distributorship plant in Paso Robles served in the State Senate from 1963 through 1966 when he was defeated by Senator Donald L. Grunsky in the primary.

During his last legislative session in 1965, Sturgeon voted right twice and wrong six times, including votes to cripple adequate financing of the state's disability insurance program and against reforms and improvements in the state workmen's compensation and jobless insurance programs. He also voted to saddle teachers with an ineffective representation procedure that thwarted the development of responsible collective bargaining procedures for California teachers.

Since 1967, Sturgeon has been serving as legislative secretary to the Governor.

A. W. Gator is the only remaining Brown appointee on the Commission.

The change in the composition of the board in recent years undoubtedly warms the hearts of the corporate officials and stockholders of utilities regulated by the PUC but it's also likely to result in rate increases that lighten the wallets of trade unionists and other consumers who pay for the service such public monopolies provide.

ladder most.

The Nixon administration is currently pushing hard to extend the 10 percent surtax throughout this year and to continue it at five percent for the first six months of 1970. Once the surtax is extended, much of the steam is liable to go out of the push for tax reform.

So now's the time to get those letters in the mail. Real tax reform can only be accomplished if your Congressmen and U.S. Senators feel the heat directly from you.

# State Law Protects Farm Union Rights, Court Rules

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Produce, Inc., of Salinas after being warned not to join Cesar Chavez' AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

The workers charged that two local grower associations, the Growers Farm Labor Association and the Grower-Shipper Vegetable Association, had conspired to prevent Salinas Valley farm workers from joining the union and, on discovering that a number of them had joined the union, ordered them summarily fired.

The workers are seeking damages and injunctive relief against the growers for violation of Sections 922 and 923 of the State Labor Code.

A Salinas court had rejected the workers' suit but the appellate court said that if the workers' allegations can be proved, they can collect damages.

CRLA Attorney Robert Gnaizda hailed the appellate court's decision saying:

"The court decision, in providing a form of 'mini-NLRA coverage' to farm workers, finally insures the union protection to the farm worker that was long ago guaranteed to every blue-collar and white-collar worker.

"This precedent-setting decision has thus opened the door toward providing equal protection for farm workers, and it should encourage an atmosphere of frank and mutually beneficial negotiations between growers and farm workers."

Since the National Labor Relations Act specifically excludes farm workers from its protections, the sections of the California Labor Code on which the court based its decision that farm workers cannot be fired for union activity are important to all California trade unionists. These sections, enacted in 1937, read as follows:

"Section 922. Coercing agreement not to join labor organizations: misdemeanor. Any person or agent or officer thereof who coerces or compels any person to enter into an agreement, written or verbal, not to join or become a member of any labor organization, as a condition of securing employment or continuing in the employment of any such person is guilty of a misdemeanor."

"Section 923. Public policy as to labor organizations. In the interpretation and application of this chapter, the public policy of this state is declared as follows:

"Negotiation of terms and conditions of labor should result from voluntary agreement between employer and employees. Governmental authority has permitted and encouraged employers to organize in the

corporate and other forms of capital control. In dealing with such employers, the individual unorganized worker is helpless to exercise actual liberty of contract and to protect his freedom of labor, and, therefore, to obtain acceptable terms and conditions of employment. Therefore it is necessary that the individual workman have full freedom of association, self-organization, and designa-

tion of representatives of his own choosing, to negotiate the terms and conditions of his employment, and that he shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives or in self-organization or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection."

## L.A.-Orange Co. Union Drive Tops 138,000

The AFL-CIO Los Angeles-Orange Counties Organizing Committee has topped the 138,000 mark in its six-year drive for new union members and similar campaigns are now getting under way in other areas of the state.

These were the highlights of a recent report on the Committee's efforts by William L. Gilbert, AFL-CIO Assistant Regional Director for Region 22 of the AFL-CIO Department of Organization.

"The concept of the organizing committee is finding support all over the state as well as in other parts of the country," Gilbert said, adding:

"We have been pleased to join with Dan Flanagan, our AFL-CIO Regional Director, in efforts to encourage the formation of new organizing committees to solve mutual problems and avoid possible conflicts in organizing goals."

Noting that the committee is now in the middle of its seventh year and that the "organizing concept has proven its worth," Gilbert said:

"The pace is still too slow to suit any of us but the unions are working together and steady progress is being made."

The 1,453 elections and nearly 800 voluntary recognitions the committee has participated in, on top of public employee recruiting, has resulted in membership growth for both smaller and larger unions and has brought unionism to employees of small, medium and large employers.

"As a result, we can now turn our attention to spreading the organizing committee method beyond our original two-counties boundaries," he said.

Two years ago a similar com-

mittee, known as the Research and Organizing Council (ROC) was set up in San Diego.

During the latter part of last year a Conejo Valley Coordinated Organizing Conference was formed to encompass union campaigns in the rapidly expanding industrial territory that spills over from Los Angeles County into Ventura County, Gilbert reported.

And just last February an organizing committee was set up and is currently functioning in the Riverside-San Bernardino area, he said.

In addition, a statewide campaign to increase AFL-CIO membership in the state's three naval shipyards has just been announced. The campaign, to be headed by Charles Hogan of the AFL-CIO Regional Staff, is aimed at expanding the membership of unions affiliated with the Metal Trades Councils in California's naval shipyards.

AFL-CIO Representatives Ed Lingo and Gene DeCristofaro have been assigned to this campaign. Lingo will work in Southern California and DeCristofaro will work in the San Francisco Bay Area yards. The campaign is part of a national program of the AFL-CIO Metal Trades Department and the Department of Organization headed by William L. Kircher.

Gilbert said the 138,000 membership gain includes figures for both the private and governmental sectors of industries and services and are the result of NLRB election victories, voluntary recognitions by employers and growth among public employee unions.

In the public employee union category, he cited a series of elections among Los Angeles County employees that have

recently been won by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, representing superior court clerks and probation officers, and by Local 434 of the Service Employees International Union, representing pharmacists.

These are only two of a number of unions that have filed petitions for elections to represent various employee "units" under the provisions of the new Los Angeles County employee relations ordinance, Gilbert reported.

He also paid tribute to the "forward looking and active role of the Advisory Board of officers and representatives of various unions affiliated with the Los Angeles-Orange Counties Organizing Committee." The officers are Chairman G. J. Conway, assistant to the director, United Steelworkers; and Co-Chairmen George Smith, International Vice President of the Bookbinders; and Manny Coute, IBEW International Representative.

## Withholding Taxes Not Paid To U.S. Up 32%

During 1968 U. S. employers withheld \$339,428,000 from their workers' paychecks that they did not turn over to the U. S. Treasury as required by law, according to U. S. Senator John Williams (R-Del.).

Making what he called his "15th annual report on the inventory of delinquent taxpayer accounts," Williams said that the illegally kept withholding taxes last year represented an increase of 32 percent over 1967.