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Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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Labor at the Legislature

From The Capitol Office
Of The Executive Secretary

SB 832, dealing with state employee organizations, was stalled in the Assembly Committee on Public Employment & Retirement as the 1969 session neared its close. This proposal was opposed by the California Labor Federation since it would have favored dominance by organizations centered in the Capital, breaking down the autonomy of local employee units to deal with their own problems. Tied to SB 832 by negotiation and amendments was AB 2246, which likewise was under submission in the Senate Committee on Governmental Efficiency.

* * *

The Assembly has overwhelmingly passed SB 721 by Senator Anthony Bielsen (D-Los Angeles) which was backed by the Federation. SB 721 gives added strength to laws providing sanitary facilities for agricultural workers in the field. It will, if signed by the Governor, give greater protection to the workers on the job and to the ultimate consumers of field crops.

* * *

Another Labor supported bill affecting farm labor has been sent to the Governor after passage by the State Senate. AB 1993, by the late Assemblyman Alan Pattee of Salinas, increases the surety bond for labor contractors from \$1,500 to \$5,000, for the more adequate protection of the wage earners involved.

* * *

Companion bills, AB 1763 and AB 1764, by Assemblyman James Hayes (R-Long Beach) have been adopted by both houses and sent to the Governor.

(Continued on Page 2)

Anti-Consumer Bill Gets OK

The Assembly on Wednesday gave final approval to AB 2218, a bill which will, if signed, remove the requirement that individual hospital, medical or surgical insurance policies contain on their face either a schedule of coverages or a brief description of the policy.

This is a bad consumer bill and it was opposed during the session by Labor.

In the Assembly originally, compromise amendments were put in to put a notice on the face of the policy concerning "exceptions." In this form it passed the Assembly but in the Senate the author, Assemblyman Jerry Lewis

(Continued on Page 2)

AFL-CIO Hits Inaction, Cites U.S. Needs in Convention Call

Warning that the "law and order" issue that's become a watchword of recent political campaigns "can be corrupted into a pretext for tyranny," the AFL-CIO this week issued the call for its Eighth Constitutional Convention with a strong indictment of the present national administration's failure thus far to come to grips with the critical problems confronting the nation.

Meany to Seek Further Action In Her-Ex Fight

AFL-CIO President George Meany conferred with representatives of the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner Joint Strike-Lockout Council and international presidents of the striking and locked out unions involved in the dispute in Washington, D.C., last week and assured them he would take the situation up with the full AFL-

(Continued on Page 2)

The call, signed by AFL-CIO President George Meany and Secretary-Treasurer Lane Kirkland, also stressed the importance of next year's crucial elections and spelled out the AFL-CIO's analysis of some of the major problems adversely affecting the economy.

"The current dangerous imbalances in the nation's economy are clearly due to long-range federal income tax in-

(Continued on Page 3)

SB 342, To Tell Labor's Role in Texts, to Gov.

On August 5, the Assembly gave final passage to SB 342 and it now awaits action by the Governor. This bill was introduced for the California Labor Federation by Senator Albert Rodda (D-Sacramento).

SB 342 will, if signed into law, mandate that Labor's role in the development of the American political system and the free enterprise economy be adequately presented in all appropriate textbooks throughout California schools.

The measure had previously been approved by two committees in each house and had passed the State Senate.

Battle Against SB 1192 Pivots On Assembly Action

At our deadline, the legislative battle continues over SB 1192, which is being vigorously opposed by a united Labor movement. As we go to press, the matter was still pending on the Assembly floor.

This is the bill which would impose legislative process and bureaucratic control in the middle of collective bargaining affecting all Labor, particularly between the newspapers and workers in the printing trades. It is one of the worst anti-labor bills of the session.

A complete round-up of the outcome on this measure will be reported in our next edition.

State Fed Council Urges Support for Farm Workers

A statement pledging support to the farm workers' fight for union recognition and urging "responsible elements in the grower community" to negotiate contracts now with

the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee was adopted by the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, at its mid-summer meeting at Konocti Harbor Inn in Lake County this week.

The 37-member State AFL-
(Continued on Page 4)

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Labor at the Legislature

(Continued from Page 1)

nor. Backed by the Federation, these measures are designed to relieve credit card holders from specific liability for unsolicited, unused cards and for unauthorized use of credit cards which have been lost or stolen. Labor support was based on the bills' concern with the rights of the consumer.

* * *

Another consumer bill supported by Labor, SB 1273 by Senator George Moscone (D-San Francisco), has been sent to the Governor. This deals with the buyer's rights in the matter of automobile conditional sales contracts, providing the buyer must be given copies of all pertinent documents before the sale can be consummated. The bill was presented in the Assembly for final passage by Assemblyman John Foran (D-San Francisco).

Booklet Spells Out RTW Perils In 2 Languages

Copies of a bilingual booklet that explains how so-called "right to work" laws result in the exploitation of workers and the perpetuation of poverty in America are available from the AFL-CIO Department of Civil Rights.

The 20-page booklet, co-authored by Cesar Chavez and Bayard Rustin, is entitled "Right to Work" Laws — A Trap For America's Minorities."

It includes a foreword by such civil rights leaders as Martin Luther King, Jr., A. Philip Randolph and Roy Wilkins and an introduction by Bishop Hugh A. Donahoe of the Diocese of Stockton.

Requests for copies of the booklet, which is printed in English with a Spanish translation on adjacent pages, should be sent to Don Slaiman, Director, AFL-CIO Department of Civil Rights, 815-Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Anti-Consumer Bill Gets OK

(Continued from Page 1)

(R-San Bernardino) was successful in having this amendment killed.

On the floor this week, when the Assembly was considering concurrence in the Senate action, opposition was led off by Assemblywoman Pauline Davis (D-Portola). She was strongly backed by Assemblymen Jesse Unruh (D-Los Angeles); Robert Crown (D-Oakland), and Richard Barnes (R-San Diego).

Backing Lewis in urging concurrence in the Senate version

was Assemblyman John Briggs (R-Fullerton).

Assemblyman Unruh used the occasion to call for an investigation of the insurance industry, particularly with reference to the complexity of language in the policies.

Assemblyman Crown tabbed AB 2218 as a "truly iniquitous bill." Noting that the present law is a protection to the policy buyer, he stated that this was a clear-cut anti-consumer bill for the profit of the industry.

The vote to concur in Senate changes was 42 to 19.

TV Film Drama To Highlight Labor's Struggles in 1930s

A special AFL-CIO film drama based on the early days of Frances Perkins' service as U.S. Secretary of Labor during the depression-ridden 1930s will be carried on more than 100 TV stations across the country during the Labor Day weekend.

The film, titled "The Vine and the Fig Tree," traces the campaign to establish a National Recovery Act Code in the steel industry, Mrs. Perkins' historic confrontation with city and steel company officials in Homestead, Pa., and her dramatic meeting with the desperate steel workers there.

Produced by the National Broadcasting Company, the film was presented by the George Meany Foundation as part of the "Eternal Light" series on the NBC-TV network last fall.

California TV stations that have already announced plans to show the film sometime during the Labor Day weekend include:

City	Station	Day	Time
Bakersfield	KERO-TV	Sunday, Aug. 31	5:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	KCET-TV	Monday, Sept. 1	11:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	KABC-TV	(To be announced)	
Sacramento	KVIE-TV	Monday, Sept. 1	7:30 p.m.
San Diego	KOGO-TV	Sunday, Aug. 31	3:00 p.m.
San Francisco	KQED-TV	(To be announced)	

Internship Available for So. Cal Unionist

A three-month internship is available from the Institute of Industrial Relations at UCLA for a trade union member who needs time off to undertake studies related to union problems or to undertake or complete a trade union-related research project.

Limited to union members in Southern California, the Lucy Lang Memorial Internship includes a sum of up to \$1,800 to cover lost wages and books for a three-month period between

Sept. 1, 1969 and June 15, 1970. The trade unionist chosen would be expected to get a leave of absence from his job and his union for the internship period.

Further information may be obtained by writing to the Lucy Lang Memorial Internship Program, Center for Labor Research and Education, Institute of Industrial Relations, Los Angeles, California 90024.

The internship honors Lucy Robbins Lang who worked tire-

Meany to Seek Further Action In Her-Ex Fight

(Continued from Page 1)

CIO Executive Council this week.

In the course of the conference, Meany asked what was needed by the Council to continue and expand prosecution of the crucial battle against Hearst's strikebreaking effort.

Participants at the conference stressed the need for an enlarged and continued advertising campaign to keep the strike before the public in Los Angeles.

They also pointed out the continuing success of the campaign to get advertisers out of the paper, noting that 59 advertisers withdrew from the the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner in July, topping the previous month's record of 30.

JSLOC Director William R. Robertson, who presented the story of the strike to Meany, said that Meany clearly recognizes the threat posed to the entire labor movement by Hearst's union-busting attempt and that Meany assured the delegation that the AFL-CIO fully supports the striking and locked out workers.

Others participating in the meeting were: Pressmen's Union President A. J. DeAndrade; Machinists' President Floyd E. Smith and the IAM's General Vice President Robert E. Simpson; International President James H. Sampson of the Stereotypers; Robert Coulter of the IBEW; ITU International Rep. George Duncan; and Fred Yeager, President of the Los Angeles Stereotypers.

Also in attendance were Lane Kirkland, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer, and James Gildea, Meany's executive assistant.

lessly throughout her life for labor movement causes alongside such leaders as Samuel Gompers, William Green and Eugene Debs.

As George Meany put it: "Throughout her entire life, Lucy Lang worked for the advancement of workers and the American labor movement. We will always cherish and remember her for her contribution to the causes of labor. . . ."

AFL-CIO Hits Inaction, Cites Needs in Convention Call

(Continued from Page 1)
equities, exorbitant interest rates and a disproportionate share of income being shifted from wages and salaries to profits through higher prices," the convention call said.

"The way to curb inflation without recession is to roll back interest rates and curb profits," it declared.

While allowing that it may be "too early to tell the course the present administration is prepared to take in the '70's," the call stated that "it is not too early to tell what has been done so far."

UNKEPT PROMISES

Pointing out that the Nixon administration promised to end inflation, achieve tax reform, improve and liberalize health, education and welfare programs, to cure the urban crisis, achieve peace and vigorously enforce civil rights laws, the call observed:

"None of these promises have been realized."

In substantiating the need for curbs on profits and a roll back in interest rates, the convention call noted that while there is much discussion about the so-called wage-price spiral, the facts show that "current inflation is interest rate-fed and profit-fueled."

The truth of the matter, it said, is that "the average American worker is caught in a price-profit squeeze. Between 1960 and 1968, his after-tax weekly take-home pay increased merely 11 percent."

PROFITS SKYROCKET

"Total after-tax corporate profits in the same period, skyrocketed 91 percent and dividend payments to stockholders soared 84 percent," it pointed out.

The convention will open at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 2 at the Traymore Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Delegates from 121 international unions, six trade departments, 51 state organizations (including Puerto Rico), and 764 local central bodies representing 13.6 million trade union members are expected to attend.

In addressing itself to the "law and order" issue, the AFL-CIO stated its position simply:

"... Law and order, alone,

without regard for justice, can be corrupted into a pretext for tyranny . . .

"Let there be law and order in the cities, but not by creation of a garrison state.

"Let there be law and order in the enforcement of civil rights statutes and the application of other social welfare legislation. Let those who cry for more police in the slums cry also for more jobs, more housing and more schools for the prisoners of slums.

"These, too, are tools of law and order," it declared.

And in stressing the importance of the 1970 elections, the unions' convention call observed that in the 1968 election "union men and women the nation over responded affirmatively to this call to reason."

As a result, it said, although Vice President Hubert H.

Humphrey narrowly lost the presidential election by just six-tenths of a percentage point, "demagogery and racism were rejected."

The conservative forces did not achieve the landslide victory they had predicted. But the bold new legislation and the funding of existing programs which America desperately needs have been slowed down, it said.

Next year's congressional elections, it added, will determine "whether America chooses the road of progress or turns to the right and doubles back into the ruts of reaction." And this will depend on the ability of working men and women throughout the nation to get out the vote and elect progressive and liberal congressmen, senators, governors and state legislators.

"Each of us needs to prepare to withstand a major attack on the basic rights of labor by reactionary employer groups that awaits only a small shift in the political balance and a legislative opportunity," it said.

The convention call also noted that all affiliates of the AFL-CIO need to stand "shoulder-to-shoulder with those unions that will bear the brunt of contract negotiations covering seven million workers during the next 18 months."

Cranston Urges More Funds for Headstart

Calling for a four-fold increase in funds for the Headstart program, U.S. Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) this week urged the administration to support "fully and adequately funded programs in the war on poverty, rather than grand rhetoric and pilot projects."

"That is the test of serious commitment," Cranston declared.

He made the statement before the Senate Employment, Manpower and Poverty Subcommittee which opened hearings Tuesday on a bill by Senator Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.), which Cranston co-sponsored.

The bill, the Headstart Child Development Act of 1969 (S. 2060), asks \$1.2 billion for Headstart for fiscal 1970, four times the amount appropriated last year, and a total of \$15.3 billion over the next five years.

It would also expand the Headstart program to cover children from birth through age five, and would include pre-natal care. The present program concentrates on five- and six-year-olds.

Cranston, a member of the Subcommittee, said the expanded program "would give disadvantaged children a chance to overcome the debilitation and learning impairment which their environment may be producing."

He estimated 1,000,000 children would be covered by the expanded program this year and 4,000,000 by 1974.

'Building Blocks' For Progress

In issuing the call to its 8th Constitutional Convention, the National AFL-CIO pointed out that the nation's needs "are great and growing" and require positive legislative action. Among the building blocks for progress specifically cited in the convention call were the following:

- A \$2 minimum wage to provide all workers an income above the poverty level.

- A massive new jobs program in the public sector to eliminate hard core unemployment.

- Expanded and fully funded educational programs that will provide scholarships, classrooms, dormitories, libraries, laboratories, and decent salary levels for teachers to insure educational opportunities for all youth, regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, or family income.

- 26 million new dwelling units by 1978.

- Low interest and mortgage rates that will permit low and moderate income wage earners to pay for the housing they need and want.

- Urban health care centers and hospitals as well as construction of rural area health

services.

- A 50 percent increase in social security benefits with a monthly minimum of \$100.

- Unemployment compensation that is uniform and adequate both as to benefits and coverage.

- Expanded workmen's compensation with minimum federal standards for injured and disabled workers.

- A welfare program for those unable to work that is based solely on need and which provides a decent standard of living.

- Public transportation systems in our cities that are swift, acceptable, and inexpensive.

- Repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

- Free collective bargaining under the National Labor Relations Act for farm workers.

- Removal of thousands of state, county, and municipal workers from the whims of the political spoil systems of local politicians by giving them the right of union recognition and collective bargaining.

- On-site picketing rights for building tradesmen.

- And new and improved occupational safety laws.

State Fed Council Urges Support for Farm Workers

(Continued from Page 1)

CIO Council's statement reviewed recent developments in the fight for bargaining rights for farm workers and called on all chain stores and other retail outlets to refrain from selling table grapes until the growers sign contracts with the farm workers' union.

It also asked all consumers not to shop at any store where table grapes are sold and called on all affiliates to support the UFWOC "loudly and strongly, by word, deed, demonstration and financial support."

In other actions, the council:

- Took action to support southern California building trades unions currently involved in labor disputes.

- Voiced support for the Insurance Workers strike against the John Hancock Life Insurance Company.

- Adopted a statement commending the California Association of Vocational Industrial Clubs of America for its services to California's industrial youth and urged all Federation affiliates to give the association "all possible support."

- Went on record in opposition to S. 1547, introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Paul J. Fannin (R-Arizona), which would inject the federal government into collective bargaining processes in the printing trades.

- Selected San Francisco as the site for the Federation's 1970 convention which will open on Monday, August 31, 1970.

- Voiced the Executive Council's thanks to Federation Vice President Joseph Mazzola and the officers and staff of UA Plumbers Local 38 for their tremendous hospitality and all-out effort to make the council meeting at the union's Konociti Harbor Inn Resort such a highly successful one.

The full text of the Council's farm union statement follows:

"The struggle of the United Farm Workers' Organizing Committee to achieve economic justice is now practically four years old. The effort, which began with the strike against Delano-area grape growers in September, 1965, has received worldwide support.

"The battle has steadily expanded beyond the Delano area. In fact, the grape boycott has made 'Don't Eat Grapes,' an everyday phrase, and a symbol of trade union solidarity. The farm workers have dramatized as never before the poverty and deprivation common to rural California and have opened society's eyes to many injustices and threats to mankind, not the least of which is the widespread, uncontrolled, and dangerous use of pesticides.

"Farm workers have received strong support not only within the labor movement, but from the clergy, minority groups, housewives, students and concerned citizens in all walks of life. This broad-based support has helped to make the table grape boycott a success.

"Despite the intensity of the struggle, which has seen UFWOC representatives carry the farm workers' cause to cities

throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, the grape growers have remained adamant.

"Instead of sitting down at the bargaining table like reasonable men they have worked ceaselessly to destroy the UFWOC by creating a phony union, widespread use of 'greencarders,' lawsuits, and blatant distortions of the facts.

"The recent hiring of two prominent public relations firms to bolster their poor image, extol grapes, and dismantle the UFWOC, is but another example of their constant attempts to thwart the legitimate aspirations of their workers.

"The growers have been joined in this effort by such notoriously anti-union groups as the John Birch Society, the National Right-to-Work Committee, and the extremely conservative American Farm Bu-

reau Federation. The U.S. Department of Defense also has sided with the growers by greatly expanding its purchase of table grapes while piously proclaiming its 'neutrality.'

"Many conservative grower-oriented politicians, nationally and in California, have become willing partners of the growers and their right-wing supporters in their efforts to thwart the building of a farm workers' union. The growers and their allies are pushing legislation to destroy the effectiveness of the UFWOC.

MURPHY'S BILL HIT

"Particularly destructive is Senator George Murphy's bill, S. 2203, subtly and misleadingly titled the 'Consumer Agricultural Food Protection Act of 1969'. This vicious bill would ban boycotts, organizational picketing, and prohibit strikes. Significantly, Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin supports this bill.

"This bill and other anti-labor legislation, law suits to harass and distract, and the hiring of public relations firms, testify to the success of the grape boycott.

- "We in the California AFL-CIO again pledge our support of the farm workers. We will do all we can to defeat punitive legislation and work to secure passage of meaningful laws to give farm workers the collective bargaining protections that are rightfully theirs.

- "We urge the responsible elements in the grower community to sit down with the UFWOC and arrive at meaningful contracts covering their work forces.

- "We demand that all chain stores and other retail outlets refrain from selling table grapes until the grape growers sign contracts with the farm workers' union and ask all consumers not to shop at any store where table grapes are sold.

- "We again call upon all affiliates to support, loudly and strongly, by word, deed, demonstration and financial support, the UFWOC.

"The farm workers' cause is just. Their struggle is every trade unionist's battle. Justice will be achieved and we will help the farm workers achieve it."

\$89 Million Netted for Workers Gyped by Employers Last Year

Nearly half a million workers were illegally shortchanged of about \$89 million by their employers during the 1968-69 fiscal year, a U. S. Labor Department official disclosed this week.

Robert D. Moran, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, said that the underpayments to 477,434 workers involved violations of the minimum wage, overtime compensation and equal pay requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Public Contracts Act, the Service Contract Act and other laws enforced by his agency.

Chief beneficiaries of the division's investigations, Moran said, were the disadvantaged and the working poor.

"These discoveries have moved thousands of low income persons above the poverty level and have enabled thousands of others below the poverty level to at least attain the basic necessities of life," he said.

Moran noted that a large proportion of the shortchanged employees—207,234—had not received the minimum wage due them. Back wages owed to

such workers amounted to \$27.5 million, an increase of 35 percent over the minimum wage underpayment discovered in the previous fiscal year, he said.

The division's investigators also turned up 16,000 workers who were underpaid in violation of equal pay provisions requiring that men and women performing "equal" work be paid equal amounts. Back wages stemming from these underpayments totalled \$4.6 million, some \$2.1 million more than the previous year.

A total of 33,143 complaints were registered with the division's investigators during the year, seven percent more than in fiscal 1968.

Moran praised "the more than one thousand dedicated wage-hour compliance officers who worked tirelessly and under all types of conditions" to discover violations but he stressed the fact that the division's chief concern is with improving the level of compliance. Toward this end, he said the division is initiating an expanded information and education program and hopes to reduce the number of violations in the future.