



California AFL-CIO News

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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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Labor Trophy Presented at State Fair

The traditional California Labor Federation purse was presented in Labor Day activities at the California State Fair at the Cal Expo site in Sacramento.

The Federation trophy and purse were presented to the winner of the feature race by Federation Vice President Harry Finks, Director of Public Relations, and Tom Blair, manager of the State Fair. A record crowd was on hand for Labor Day events at the Fair.

The one mile event for three-year-olds and up was won by Great Pretender of the Yolita Stables, with Jockey Gonzales up.

World Church Council Backs Grape Boycott

The World Council of Churches praised the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee this week and endorsed the UFWOC's California grape boycott.

In a resolution adopted Wednesday by the Protestant body's policy-making central committee in Canterbury, England, the Council urged its affiliates throughout the world to support the table grape boycott and pledged the World Council's help.

Affiliates of the World Council within the United States have already endorsed the boycott but worldwide assistance is needed, the Protestant Council said, because of grower attempts "to dispose of California grapes on the international market."

The Council's resolution said that the efforts of the UFWOC
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Fed Asks 'No' Vote On Haynsworth

Vigorous opposition to Senate confirmation of federal Judge Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr., as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice is being urged by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, on grounds that Haynsworth's "judicial record makes him unworthy of a seat on the nation's highest court."

That was the stand taken by Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the State AFL-CIO, in letters sent to California's two U. S. Senators, Alan Cranston and George Murphy, last Friday.

Pitts pointed out that normally the AFL-CIO does not oppose Presidential nominations for posts in the executive or judicial branches of the federal government even if it does sometimes disagree with the

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Pitts Hits Gov. Reagan for Opposing Medicare for All

"Medicare for all would help rather than hurt union health programs," Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said today in repudiating a claim made by Governor Ron-

ald Reagan Tuesday at the annual Governors' Conference in Colorado Springs.

While the vast majority of the nation's Governors voted for a proposal made by New York's Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller for a federal program of health insurance for all to help people pay their hospital and private doctors' bills, Reagan opposed it, saying "I cannot support compulsory health insurance."

Responding to Reagan's claim that such a plan would eliminate many health programs developed by labor unions, Pitts said:

"This is nonsense. The AFL-CIO strongly supports a federal program to provide medical care for all. Such a program
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Is Mrs. Valory Consumers' Friend or Foe?

When the Office of Consumer Counsel was created by the Legislature in 1959, the idea was to have someone look after the interests of all California consumers.

The legislation creating the
(Continued on Page 3)

Only 35% of Wage Underpayments Collected

The Labor Dept. collected \$31.7 million in fiscal 1969 out of the \$89 million it found employers had unlawfully underpaid their workers. This was

about 35 cents per dollar of wages due.

The department's Wage-Hour public Contracts Division said the collections on behalf of

Fed Bill To Get Labor's Role in Texts Signed

Another California Labor Federation bill, passed by both houses of the Legislature, has been signed into law by the Governor. Senate Bill 342 is Chapter 971 of the 1969 Session.

SB 342 was authored for the Federation by Senator Albert Rodda (D-Sacramento). It mandates adequate and fair representation of Labor's contributions to the economic, educational and cultural life of California and the nation in appropriate textbooks in public schools and colleges of the state.

As we go to press, a number of bills are still pending on the Governor's desk, awaiting his action prior to the return of the Legislature on September 8.

The principal business of the balance of the 1969 session will be consideration of the Governor's veto actions on legislation adopted prior to the "constitutional recess."

Op. Engineers OK New Pact

Some 23,000 members of Operating Engineers Local 12 were back on their jobs this week at construction sites throughout Southern California
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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY

World Church Council Backs Grape Boycott

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under the leadership of Cesar Chavez are "a necessary, non-violent means of bringing about equal negotiations between workers and their employers."

Noting that the UFWOC is "composed primarily of Mexican-American, Filipino-American and Afro-American farm workers who suffer from racial and economic exploitation," the World Council's resolution declared that the UFWOC "has become a powerful force for self-determination among farm workers and for non-violent social change . . .

"The life possibilities of all farm workers in the USA are linked to the success (or failure) of this movement," the resolution said.

The resolution also said that: "Additionally, the future of non-violent social change in the USA is closely related to the sacrificial efforts of Cesar Chavez and the farm workers with him."

Op. Engineers OK New Pact

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following settlement of their six-week strike.

The membership overwhelmingly approved a five-year contract which will provide the engineers who operate most of the heavy equipment used in the construction industry an 85 cent an hour increase in wages and fringe benefits for each year of the contract at a meeting at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on August 27.

The strike, which began July 19, affected most of the construction industry in Southern California with the exception of San Diego County where a separate contract was negotiated.

Some 6,000 AFL-CIO plumbers, who were forced to strike July 1, are still on strike.

Recession Looms

"Housing starts are going down while interest rates are going up. We are heading for a recession. I don't know how it can be avoided. . . ."—Senator Jacob K. Javits (R-New York).

Court Reverses Ruling In Hand Bill Conviction

The right of trade unionists to engage in informational picketing on private property that's used as a public thoroughfare has been upheld in a recent unanimous decision by the State Supreme Court.

The decision, which reversed a ruling handed down by a Contra Costa Municipal Court in October, 1967, came in a case involving Donald Robert Lane, first vice president of Mt. Diablo Typographical Union Local 597 and a union member for more than a decade.

Lane was arrested June 17, 1967 while distributing handbills and urging people not to patronize the Calico Market in Concord because it was advertising in a newspaper involved in a labor dispute with the union.

He was charged with violating Concord city ordinances against remaining on private property after being told to leave and distributing handbills without the store owner's consent.

The lower court conviction levied a fine against him of \$110 on each count but payment was held in abeyance pending appeal.

In reversing the conviction, the state's high court said:

"Certainly this sidewalk is not private in the sense of not being open to the public.

"The public is openly invited to use it in gaining access to the store and in leaving the premises. Thus in our view it is a public area in which members of the public may exercise First Amendment rights."

Only 35% of Wage Underpayments Collected

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The AFL-CIO Dept. of Research noted that not much more than a third of the wages withheld from employees by cheating or careless employers ever is collected, and charged that prosecution of offending employers is not vigorous enough.

Recently AFL-CIO President George Meany called for more wage-hour investigators to uncover law violators. Meany told Labor Secretary George P. Shultz that the \$89 million in underpayments to more than 477,000 workers last year cannot be blamed on employer "ignorance" of wage-hour laws and

that "information" programs alone are not an adequate solution.

Although 50 per cent more business places were made subject to the law in 1966, Congress has failed to appropriate funds to hire additional staff investigators.

Calif. Carpenter Apprentices Win

Three California carpentry apprentices marched off with first place honors in the International Carpenters' Apprenticeship Contest held in Chicago last month.

James O. Kenny of Carpenters' Local 642, Richmond, won first place in the carpentry trade competition. John Schmitt, Local 721, Los Angeles, won first place in the competition for millmen and cabinet makers, and Robert E. (Bob) Erwin, of Millwrights Local 1607, Los Angeles, won in the millwright classification.

To qualify for the international contest, the three had already won local, areawide and statewide competitions.

Their victories are all the more prestigious since the com-

petition was expanded three years ago and now includes contestants from most of the United States as well as a number of Canadian provinces. It was formerly limited to apprentices from the western states. The competition was held in Chicago August 14-15-16.

Charles F. Hanna, chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards of the State Department of Industrial Relations noted that while it is not unique for California apprentices to win national competitions, the fact that the three California carpenters won speaks highly of the supervision and attention given to carpentry apprenticeship by the various joint apprenticeship committees composed of labor union and employer representatives.

Orders Asked For Fact Sheets

Three fact sheets—on occupational health and safety, manpower training, and consumer protection—are currently being prepared by the AFL-CIO Department of Legislation.

Hearings on the occupational health and safety issue are scheduled to begin in both the House and Senate in mid-September and a strong outpouring of grass roots support will be needed to get action on this issue during this session of Congress.

Local unions and central bodies are urged to inform the national office in advance of the quantity of these three fact sheets they need to distribute to their membership. Orders should be sent directly to the AFL-CIO Department of Legislation, 815 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

TV Special on 1968 Election Set Sept. 9

A CBS special on Theodore H. White's new book, "The Making of the President—1968," is expected to be carried on most CBS TV outlets in California on Tuesday, September 9, from 9:30 to 11:00 p.m., PDT.

The filming of the show began 15 months ago at the New Hampshire primary and culminated on election night.

With the critical 1970 elections just around the corner, California trade unionists may find this TV special well worth viewing.

Average U.I. Benefits

The average weekly unemployment insurance benefit paid in 1939 was \$10.94. In 1968, weekly benefits averaged \$43.43.

Pitts Hits Gov. Reagan for Opposing Medicare for All

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could substantially strengthen existing union health plan benefits.

"Most industrialized western democracies have had such coverage for years yet we, the wealthiest nation in the world, deny many of our own citizens access to adequate medical care.

"Governor Reagan is apparently still sticking to the views he held in the early 1960's when he assisted the American Medical Association in its campaign against medical care for the aged.

"The fact that the Governor of California should take a stand so clearly opposed to the best interests of practically all Californians should be a cause of deep concern to all California voters," Pitts said.

Rockefeller's proposal suggested the imposition of a system of cost controls to help curb skyrocketing hospital prices. While full details of the program were not immediately available it was reported that the proposal was modest and would rely on private enterprise

medicine.

In responding to Reagan's prediction that insurance firms would vigorously protest the proposal, Pitts said:

"The insurance industry also bitterly fought the advent of social security in this country 35 years ago but experience has shown that the insurance industry itself benefitted vastly from the social security program because it enabled many citizens to provide additional supplemental benefits for themselves.

"The likelihood is that both private physicians and the in-

surance industry itself would similarly benefit substantially if the health protections of all Americans were undergirded by a federal health insurance program," Pitts said.

The Governors' Conference health insurance proposal would cover an employee and his family and be financed by contributions from the employee and his employer.

It calls for utilizing the "existing private enterprise medical system" and letting private insurance companies be the insurers.

50,000 Getting Job Training In California

Some 50,000 of California's poor, unskilled, and jobless are currently enrolled in major training programs of the U.S. Department of Labor, according to Kenneth C. Robertson, the U.S.D.L.'s western regional director.

The 50,000 figure represents nearly 10 percent of the national total, Robertson said, making California the leading state in federal job-training efforts.

On a program by program basis, the trainees are distributed as follows in California:

Manpower Development and Training Act (MDTA), a program to help the unemployed gain new skills either on the job or in school, 7,693.

Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC), to help in-school and out-of-school youngsters either stay in school, return to school, or get work experience, 12,512.

Operation Mainstream, which provides pay for older workers in small towns and rural areas to work on public improvement projects, 308.

New Careers, which opens up new types of jobs leading to careers for the poor and underemployed, 328.

Concentrated Employment Program (CEP), which provides one-stop service for all manpower and related programs services required by areas

Is Mrs. Valory the Consumers' Friend or Foe?

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office directs the Consumer Counsel to recommend to the Governor and the Legislature the enactment of such legislation as is "necessary to protect and promote the interests of the people as consumers."

It also authorizes the Consumer Counsel to appear before governmental commissions and other agencies to be heard on consumers' interests and to cooperate and contract with public and private agencies to get statistical surveys, printing and other similar information.

But Governor Reagan's appointee to the Consumer Counsel's post, Mrs. Kay Valory, clearly has a different idea of what the post entails.

She made this clear in an address to a meeting of Young Republicans in San Francisco last week when she unleashed a bitter attack on consumer spokesmen such as Ralph Nader and spoke disparagingly of the magazine "Consumer Reports," charging that it was just propaganda put out by "people who back consumer protection legislation," which, she said, "is dam-

aging to the free enterprise system."

She said she thought that the magazine was "very narrow, giving you only their opinion."

(Normally the magazine has its investigators examine the dependability, durability, etc. of various brand name products and assigns a rating to them to aid the consumer in purchasing various products).

After giving short shrift to "Consumer Reports," Reagan's Consumer Counsel said:

"There are other sources of information. The National Association of Manufacturers has a handbook on tips to the consumer. I must admit they haven't tested many of the products. We have to take the word of the manufacturers."

In attacking "Nader's Raiders" and other "phony champions" of consumer rights, Mrs. Valory declared:

"While the pseudo-protectors and dubious defenders of the consumer flail about punching the bubbles in bread, jumping up and down on two-ply tires or from the rooftops scream that

the hot dog is un-American or too fat or too skinny or there is ground styrofoam in our hamburgers . . . I shall continue to act in the capacity, not as one of Nader's Raiders but as one of Reagan's reconcilers . . . without chipping away at what's left of the free enterprise system."

Instead of more laws and regulations to prevent firms from taking unfair advantage of consumers, Mrs. Valory called simply for "consumer education on fraud and dishonesty."

She also told the young GOPers that she slashed her own staff from 13 to 2 shortly after taking office in 1967 and declared:

"I want to see business more involved in making consumer legislation and fighting it."

Then, somewhat rhetorically, she observed: "Perhaps I could accomplish more working for industry." But she said she would stay in Sacramento because:

"I don't want people to lose faith in state government."

Fat chance of that, eh?

and people most in need, 4,643.

Work Incentive Program (WIN), which moves people from welfare to jobs through training and employment, 21,101.

Job Opportunities in the Business Sector (JOBS), in which government and business work together to hire hard core unemployed who receive intensive supportive services as they are trained on the job, 3,168.

Pact Ends Coleman Boycott

The national boycott against products manufactured by the Coleman Company of Somerset, Pa., is over.

The firm, manufacturers of camping equipment such as sleeping bags, lanterns and stoves, has come to terms with the AFL-CIO United Steelwork-

ers of America.

In announcing the settlement and the end of the consumer boycott, the Steelworkers Union expressed deep appreciation for the unity and cooperation received from all elements of organized labor during the strike.

Study Backs Up Labor's Call For U. I. Standards

An independent study by a university professor strongly corroborates the AFL-CIO's call for improved jobless pay benefits and adoption of federal minimum standards of benefits.

The study, titled "Financing Jobless Benefits" was written by Taulman A. Miller, professor of economics at Indiana University, and appears in the August, 1969 issue of "Manpower."

While noting that the total reserves of the nation's unemployment insurance system "increased from \$5.8 billion at the end of 1961 to \$11.7 billion at the end of 1968" and that the average annual insured unemployment rate dropped from 5.6 percent in 1961 to 2.3 percent at the end of last year, Miller says nonetheless that:

"It is not difficult to identify one aspect of unemployment insurance that is an urgent problem with obvious implications for benefit financing.

"Benefits are inadequate.

"In 1967, the average weekly unemployment payment was less than 35 percent of the average weekly wage of workers covered by the system.

"An unemployment insurance system which yields such results has fallen short of a reasonable replacement of wages lost due to unemployment.

"Enactment of federal minimum standards offers the best hope for resolution of this problem."

The professor also said that "there are grounds for doubts about the sufficiency of reserves in a number of states to meet the burdens of a recession similar to the ones the nation experienced in 1958 and 1961."

The Time Has Come

"The time has come when we can no longer delay upgrading the general quality of American life. We are now paying for years of neglect and subservience to special interests. Our air is dirty; our water is dirty; our landscape is scarred and blighted."—I. W. Abel, President, AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department.

Fed Asks 'No' Vote On Haynsworth

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choices made.

But in the case of Judge Haynsworth, Pitts wrote:

"We feel compelled to ask you to oppose Senate confirmation."

Pitts said that Haynsworth "apparently was involved in a clear conflict-of-interest situation when he cast the crucial vote in the Deering, Milliken & Co. case while holding stock in Carolina Vend-A-Matic Co., a company with installations in Deering, Milliken plants."

FULL PROBE URGED

The California labor leader called for a thorough investigation of "this apparent conflict-of-interest," including "an exacting probe of Judge Haynsworth's financial affairs."

In addition, Pitts charged that Haynsworth's decisions "have been consistently hostile to workers and Blacks" and cited several cases in point.

"Surely at a time when this nation suffers from tremendous internal stress, a person lacking understanding of the legitimate needs and aspirations of workers and minorities does not belong on the Supreme Court," Pitts declared.

EXAMPLES CITED

As examples of Judge Haynsworth's "hostile" judicial record, Pitts cited:

- His decision in the famous Darlington, South Carolina, textile mill case in which he and other judges ruled the company had the utter right to close the plants solely to avoid unionization. The U. S. Supreme Court unanimously reversed this decision.

- His decision that the National Labor Relations Board does not have the right to order any employer to bargain with the union on the basis of signed authorization cards. Only three months ago the U. S. Supreme Court unanimously overruled Haynsworth and other judges of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in this case.

- His oft-stated position, until the U. S. Supreme Court clearly indicated otherwise, that Southern school districts were not ob-

ligated to integrate schools as long as they did not impose compulsory segregation.

In view of Haynsworth's record, Pitts said, opposition to his confirmation by the Senate "is not only desirable, but necessary for our nation." He urged both Senators to oppose Haynsworth's confirmation.

In addition, Pitts called on all Federation affiliates to wire, phone or write Senators Cranston and Murphy immediately to urge them to oppose Haynsworth's confirmation.

Haynsworth's nomination is expected to come before the Senate Judiciary Committee next Tuesday, September 9. Wires or letters to Senators Murphy and Cranston should be sent to: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

MEANY'S STATEMENT

Late last month, AFL-CIO President George Meany announced the National AFL-CIO's opposition to the Haynsworth nomination saying:

"The decision of the President to nominate Judge Haynsworth . . . is a matter of grave concern to the AFL-CIO and we intend to oppose his confirmation by the Senate.

"We trust that the Senate . . . will weigh the record of Judge Haynsworth with care. Certainly the Senate's deliberation should take into account the total record, including the caliber of the judge's decisions, and his lack of understanding of the aspirations of workers and minorities.

"We believe that it is a record which does not merit reward and which does not qualify Judge Haynsworth for the nation's highest court."

OPPOSITION MOUNTS

Opposition to the Haynsworth appointment was also mounting in other quarters. For example the Sacramento Bee said that Haynsworth's nomination raises "a question of propriety."

Asserting that "the Senate should exercise the same fine-tooth-combing of his (Haynsworth's) financial affairs which it properly gave resigned Judge

Highest 1968 Tax Hike For Californians

California taxpayers got slapped with the highest average tax increase of any state in the nation in 1968—\$74 per person, according to a survey just released by the Chicago-based Commerce Clearing House.

The survey found that U.S. citizens paid \$67.5 billion in state and local taxes in 1968, an average of \$338 per person. But in California the average was 44 percent higher or \$488.

The Golden State's average per capital tax load was second only to New York's \$503. Next in line were Nevada, \$429; Hawaii, \$421; and Wyoming, \$405.

Increases in the average tax per person ranged from \$1 in Arkansas to \$74 in California, the survey disclosed.

The fact that Californians bear the dubious distinction of being saddled with the biggest increase in taxes is due in no small measure to the excessive \$1 billion plus tax hike imposed by the Reagan administration in 1967, the biggest tax hike ever imposed by any state in the nation's history.

Abe Fortas," the Bee editorial said:

"Consider the facts: A judge owned stock in Company A. Company A enjoys a profitable business contract with Company B. The success in the continued well-being of Company B hence is of direct concern to Company A.

"Then Company B runs afoul of labor difficulties with the National Labor Relations Board. Company B appeals from an adverse decision by the NLRB and the aforesaid judge participates in a 3-2 decision upholding Company B and reversing the NLRB. . . .

"The Senate cannot ignore the similarities between this and the Fortas case if Supreme Court Justices are to be 'above suspicion,'" the Bee's editorial concluded.