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THOS. L. PITTS 151 September 12, 1969
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Reagan Speech Raises Some Key Questions

"There is only one really basic, major cause of inflation—government spending, the high cost of government."

Do you believe that?

Do you believe that price-fixing in the drug or electrical industries has nothing to do with inflation?

Do you believe that interest rates, which have increased 40 percent since President Nixon was elected and which have resulted in soaring bank profits, and a deepening depression in the construction industry, have nothing to do with inflation?

Do you believe that corporate management's insistence on greater and greater profit margins—they've risen from roughly 6 to nearly 10 percent in little more than a decade—have nothing to do with inflation?

Well, apparently Governor Ronald Reagan believes all of those things.

For in an address to some 800
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Plant Workers' Hourly Pay Up, Weekly Down

The average hourly earnings of California factory workers climbed to \$3.65 in July, 19 cents higher than a year earlier and three cents above June, 1969.

But the factory workers' weekly earnings, which average \$146.73, were slightly below the record set in June, 1969, according to a report just released by the State Department of Industrial Relations.

On an over-the-year basis, the
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2 More Fed Bills Signed Into Law

Just prior to the deadline for action, the Governor signed into law two California Labor Federation bills passed during the 1969 session of the Legislature.

AB 271, carried for the Federation by Assemblywoman Yvonne Brathwaite (D-Los Angeles), deals with the attachment of wages for debt. Its provisions will prohibit garnishment for an indebtedness prior to final order or judgment of a court.

AB 837, authored by Assemblyman John Miller (D-
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Pitts Urges Reagan Not To Cut State Building Jobs

The State AFL-CIO is urging the Reagan administration not to cut back on state spending for construction as suggested by the Nixon administration last Friday.

"California's seasonally adjusted jobless rate of 4.5 percent for July—the latest figure available—is already 25 percent higher than the 3.6 percent national average and any major slash in state spending for construction will inevitably result in the loss of jobs by thousands of building trades workers as well as clerical and other workers in related fields," Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-

CIO, warned in a wire sent to Reagan yesterday.

"The likelihood is that California will be one of the states hardest hit by Nixon's order for a 75 percent cutback in federal construction," he said, "because of the many federal projects and installations in the golden state."

"To compound that by additional slashes in state construction could mean financial disaster for thousands of California workers," Pitts said.

"The real villains in the current inflationary spiral are the still uncurbed and excessive profits of big business, the price hikes in our basic indus-

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Fed Plans Special Parley on Tax Justice Nov. 6-7

If you want real tax justice, reforms that can really fatten your pay check, you've got to work for them.

And that's just the purpose of a special two-day educational conference on "Taxes and the Economy" just scheduled by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, to be held Thursday and Friday, November 6-7, 1969 at the Del Webb TowneHouse in Fresno.

In announcing the conference in a letter to all affiliates this week, Thos. L. Pitts, the Federation's secretary-treasurer, noted that "the cry for tax justice already has resulted in significant new tax legislation passing the U. S. House of Representatives."

But he warned that the House-passed bill, although par-
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U.S.F. Labor School To Open

Eight courses designed to assist union officials and other trade unionists in carrying out their jobs are being offered in the Fall session of the University of San Francisco's Labor Management School this year.

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Haynsworth 'Unfit' for Post, Meany Says

Judge Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr., "is not fit to be an associate justice" because "he has demonstrated a lack of ethical standards while on the bench."

That was the charge made by

AFL-CIO President George Meany this week in testimony prepared for hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee on President Nixon's nomination of the South Carolina judge as an associate U.S. Su-

preme Court justice.

The Judiciary Committee hearings had been scheduled to get underway last Tuesday but were postponed until next Tuesday, September 16, because of the death of Senate Minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen last Monday.

Earlier, in a network television interview, Meany said that Haynsworth should be re-
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A Look at So-Called
RTW Laws—Page 3

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Computer Eyes 100 Pacts to Aid In Bargaining

A computer analysis of 100 major collective bargaining agreements covering some two million workers has just been completed by the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department.

Copies of the analysis, which is intended for use as ammunition for union spokesmen in contract negotiations, may be ordered from the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department, 815-16th Street, Washington, D.C. 20006 for \$2 each.

Plant Workers' Hourly Pay Up, Weekly Down

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factory workers' average weekly wage climbed \$8.33 or 6 percent, lagging behind the average of nearly seven percent in price increases over the same period.

Although the factory workers' workweek shrank from 40.6 hours in June to 40.2 hours in July, it was 0.2 hours more per week in July, 1969 than a year earlier.

Overtime in manufacturing as a whole (excluding canning), the report said, averaged 3.5 hours weekly for each worker, 0.3 hours higher than a year earlier.

The report said that the \$146.73 weekly average wage reflected the variety of California manufacturing activity noting that weekly earnings ranged from an average of \$89.78 in the apparel industry to \$180.17 in petroleum refining.

Ordinance, shipbuilding, and petroleum refining topped the other industries in the size of year-to-year gains and about two-thirds of the various industrial categories set new highs in July, it said.

40,000 in Training

More than 40,000 unemployed persons are enrolled at any one time in various job-training and work-experience programs under the Department of Labor's Manpower Administration.

2 More Fed Bills Signed Into Law

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Oakland, includes agricultural workers and employers in the scope of the California Fair Employment Practice Act.

AB 271 is Chapter 1529 and AB 837 is Chapter 1539. Both were finally adopted in the closing hours of the regular session.

Earlier, the Governor had signed AB 252 by Assemblyman John Foran (D-San Francisco), a Fed measure to re-establish the priority of wage claims in the transfer transaction of an alcoholic beverage license.

Reagan Speech Raises Some Critical Questions

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business leaders at the annual Sacramento Host Committee breakfast at the El Dorado Hotel in Sacramento last Friday, Governor Reagan declared:

"We know there's only one really basic, major cause of inflation—government spending, the high cost of government. Runaway inflation is the terrible companion of runaway government spending."

Granted all taxpayers—Democratic and Republican alike, union members and non-union members—believe in, want, and demand efficiency and economy in government.

But it's quite another thing to set up "government spending" as the sole whipping boy for the cause of inflation.

This kind of distortion and oversimplification may be sweet music to the ears of the 800 businessmen listening to the Governor because it subtly suggests that decisions made in the private sector of our economy are as clean as the driven snow and have nothing to do with the causes of inflation.

On the one hand, some readers may think that's pretty cunning politics—and maybe it is.

But Governor Reagan has been responsible for govern-

ment spending in California for nearly three years yet a recent analysis of state general fund spending—the spending over which California Governors can exert the most control—found the average yearly percentage increases in general fund spending under the Reagan administration to be 13.9 percent compared to only 11.4 percent under his predecessor, Governor Edmund G. Brown.

Thinking voters might well ask how these impartial statistics square with Reagan's almost daily claims of great economies in government. Do they make for a feather or an arrow in Reagan's Stetson?

They may also question at whose expense and at what human and social cost a number of Reagan's cutbacks and attempted cutbacks—such as those in the mental health and medicaid fields and the gross underfunding of the state's educational institutions—have been made?

Similarly, with California's next gubernatorial election a little more than a year away, the state's eight million wage and salary earners might well begin to question whose interests are best served—public or private—when such agencies as the state Public Utilities Com-

Fed Plans Special Parley on Tax Justice Nov. 6-7

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tially closing some major loopholes, still affords a number of unjust tax benefits to oil companies, real estate speculators and those who profit from capital gains.

He also pointed out that on the state level, although Governor Reagan has repeatedly pledged tax reform, "nothing of consequence has yet been enacted, except a further reduction in the business inventory tax, which, of course, does not help the average taxpayer."

Asserting that the "battle to enact real tax reform in California will reach a peak next year," a gubernatorial election year, Pitts said:

"The purpose of the conference is to probe deeply how best our federal, state, and local tax structures can be reformed to help hard-pressed homeowners and middle-income wage earners."

He urged all affiliates to circle the dates of November 6-7 on their calendars and to plan now to have representatives at the conference.

Nat Goldfinger, the AFL-CIO's director of research, and other state and national experts in the tax field are expected to be on hand for the conference.

Registration and hotel reservation forms will be mailed to all affiliates later this month, Pitts said.

Union Labels Now 95

The Labor Department reports that union labels have been in use for 95 years. The Cigar Makers International Union was the first to use one back in 1874.

mission, the State Industrial Welfare Commission and the State Labor Commissioner's office are stacked with, or filled by, representatives of conservative business interests?

While no one in his right mind would minimize the importance of "economy in government" or "law and order" to a healthy society, thoughtful voters know that both may become meaningless if they are bought at the expense of social justice.

'Right To Work' Laws Misleading, Fresno Editor Warns

By GERARD E. SHERRY

Labor Day is normally a time when we are tempted to analyze the virtues and the shortcomings of the labor movement in this country.

This year it also reminds that in this State a very heavily financed effort is going on to get Legislative backing for so-called "Right to Work" laws which prohibit Union Shops and generally thwart the security of the workers.

Nineteen states now have such "Right to Work" laws—but the title misleads. These laws do not give anybody the right to work but rather give him the dubious right to be unorganized and at the mercy of any employer who wishes to exploit him.

MOST IN DEEP SOUTH

Almost all the states of the Deep South are among those with "Right to Work" laws. And these laws were enacted mainly to attract industries from the North which wanted to avoid the pressures of labor unions and the high wages enjoyed by those in union shops.

Even today, those firms that pay over the Federal minimum in the South are normally those which have their head offices in the North, the East or the Far West. Few home-based industries in the South have bothered to seriously try sharing the fruits of productivity with their employees. And they have been protected in their exploitation by "Right to Work" laws, which cripple union efforts to properly organize the workers.

BOAST PUNCTURED

Still, supporters of "Right to Work" laws are apt to boast that in the states which have these laws, workers have greater wage gains than in many of the states which permit union shops. This is true. What they fail to say is that the wage base was so low to begin with that to get it (in some cases) even to the federal minimum, shows a tremendous percentage gain.

Rather than take "Right to Work" propaganda (on these so-called wage gains) one ought to take a look at the government figures starting back to before "Right to Work" up to the latest figures released by the Department of Labor and Commerce.

One would see impressive

During the past two years efforts by conservative and reactionary forces to whittle away at workers' rights have been mounting and a well heeled propaganda effort is clearly underway to try to discredit unions and propagandize California voters in an attempt to impose compulsory open shop legislation on California's work force. The following article, published Aug. 29, 1969, was written not by a labor editor but by Gerard E. Sherry, managing editor of the Central California Register, the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Fresno. It drives to the heart of the matter and should be of interest to all California workers, union and non-union alike.

gains all right as far as percentages go. But the most telling evidence against wage rates in "Right to Work" states is to compare them with the highly industrialized states which don't have "Right to Work" laws. Only one or two out of 19 "Right to Work" states can compare.

WHAT IS IT?

What is the Union Shop? Simply put, it is a voluntary agreement between a company and the union that all employees represented by the union in a plant should become members of the union.

Notice that it is a voluntary act, which has as its basis a principle that a worker who benefits from union collective bargaining should pay his share and not be a freeloader.

It is not a question of "compulsory unionism" a phrase which the advocates of "Right to Work" bandy about with abandon. Workers who are independent are not involved. Only those who are engaged in a joint productive effort, such as in factories and plants, are affected.

An individual in a plant has every right to the freedom of choice, but this right is restrained by the rights of the employer whose facilities he uses and the rights of his fellow workers whose needs may be paramount to his own.

SOCIAL OBLIGATION

What is involved here is a social obligation to the common good. We have often said that individual rights and property rights are not absolute. Any competent reading of the Papal social encyclicals confirms this.

The opponents of the union shop put great stress on its al-

leged compulsory nature, and they say that no government has the moral right to impose it on any individual. Yet we do accept many things of a compulsory nature imposed on us by Federal, State and Local government.

Taxes are compulsory, yet we don't like to pay them; education is compulsory, yet some people would much prefer to send their kids out to work to earn some money; passports for travel abroad, drivers licenses, auto registration, auto inspection; all these things are imposed upon us for the good of the community, and we have accepted them in the best interest of society.

PARALLEL SITUATIONS

Those arguing about the Union Shop might clarify their ideas if they examine the parallel situation prevailing in many of the professions. How many doctors are successful outside membership in medical associations? How many lawyers attempt to practice without joining one of the bar associations?

The same goes for teachers in their professional groupings. Of course, there are some in these professions who refuse to join recognized organizations and most of them suffer for it economically or otherwise.

To single out the Union Shop as some terrible imposition on the right of workers seems farcical when the question is examined thoroughly. No one can deny that the Union Shop has brought about better wages, improved working conditions, pensions, more vacation time and an increase in productivity.

How does the Catholic Church stand on all this? There is no official viewpoint, only some

Catholic views. Significantly, the majority of these opinions are against "Right to Work" laws and for the Union Shop.

Not one American Bishop has publicly spoken in favor of "Right to Work" laws, but many of them have publicly spoken out against them. And of the recognized American priest, sociologists, I know of only two who have aligned themselves against the Union Shop; and they are known supporters of ultra-conservative causes.

Some suggest that opposition to the Union Shop is based on the fear that labor will abuse its right and extend racketeering and corruption. Of course, there is this risk as in any organization. Government investigators, sometime back, exposed a lot of racketeering in the top echelons of some unions, but government and congressional reports also reveal that most union leaders are honest men, dedicated to serving their members.

DOUBLE STANDARD?

Proponents of "Right to Work" laws are forever talking of the greed and avarice and corruption of labor unions and their leaders. But they remain very silent when employers in the management of industrial corporations are charged with price fixing, stock manipulations and a host of other crimes against the national well-being and the common good.

There is corruption in some labor unions, but it is no more than in some businesses. It is part of the price of being human.

I believe that management has a right to a just return for its investment. I believe profits are important to the survival of the business. But I am also sure that Papal teaching backs me when I point out that the justice of a living wage takes precedence over the quest for excessive profit.

Ability Counts

A Department of Labor survey discloses that handicapped workers compare favorably with their able-bodied co-workers in production, efficiency, safety, and attendance. Their turnover rate in jobs is much lower than that of able-bodied workers. Ability counts.

Haynsworth 'Unfit' for High Court, Meany Says

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jected by the Senate because he failed to live up to the code of ethics expected of jurists when he kept silent about a conflict of interest and took part in a decision in a major labor case.

In 1963 Haynsworth cast the deciding vote in a 4th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that upheld the right of the Deering Milliken Textile chain to close its Darlington, South Carolina mill to punish workers for voting for union representation.

DEEPLY INVOLVED

At the time, Meany said, Haynsworth was deeply involved in a vending machine company that had a contract with Deering-Milliken Mills and was seeking additional business. Haynsworth had been a founder of the firm, its vice president and a major stockholder, Meany noted.

Just this week, it was reported that Haynsworth has filed a statement with the Judiciary Committee which, among other things, seeks to explain how the judge's capital investment in 1950 of less than \$3,000 in a firm known as Carolina Vending-Matic skyrocketed to an equity that he sold for about \$450,000 in 1964.

"When the case came before him," Meany said, Haynsworth "didn't take himself out of the case. He didn't inform the litigants of his interest . . . despite the canon of ethics of the American Bar Association . . . and I say he was unethical to sit on a case where his own financial interests were involved in one of the litigants."

RULING OVERTURNED

In a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision, Haynsworth's appellate court ruling was subsequently overturned. The Supreme Court said that a company could not close down one of its plants if the intent were solely to discourage unionization of its other plants.

Opposition to the Haynsworth nomination has been growing during the past week, particularly among minority groups.

Last Friday Cesar Chavez, director of the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers' Organizing Committee, wired Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield

to urge the Senate to reject the Haynsworth nomination.

Said Chavez:

"The American principle of equality and the American concept of collective bargaining through unionism are well established today. Judge Haynsworth has a very questionable record in both of these areas and does not merit consideration for a place on the nation's highest court.

"Most of us farm workers are of the brown and black minority. Today we are engaged in a bitter struggle to help ourselves and our families through the American self-help machinery of unionism. It is difficult, under the best of circumstances, to break the tradition

of humiliation and frustration which results from social discrimination and to rise above the poverty that is inflicted through economic discrimination.

"Prejudice and animosity toward us is bad enough in its present form. It should not be represented on any judicial bench," the wire, signed by Chavez but sent in behalf of the UFWOC's Executive Board, said.

Additional opposition to Haynsworth's appointment came from the Jewish Labor Committee, an organization representing more than half a million Jewish workers in the trade union movement.

In a letter sent to Senator

James O. Eastland, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, JLC President Charles S. Zimmerman pointed out that Haynsworth has ruled in favor of perpetuating racial segregation in a number of cases dealing with public schools and declared:

"Our country's efforts to give Black Americans and other minorities a feeling that they are first-class citizens will be seriously impaired by this appointment.

"If the Senate confirms this appointment, Blacks and other Americans who espouse equal rights for all of our citizens may have good reason to question the Senate's credibility on this issue," he added.

Pitts Urges Reagan Not To Cut State Building Jobs

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tries that go unprotected by the national administration, and the outrageously exorbitant interest rates, which, with the prime rate now at 8½ percent, are the highest in more than a century of this nation's history.

"It makes no sense economically, socially, or morally to require workers to bear the full brunt of the fight against inflation while bankers and investors pocket higher and higher profits and big business isn't even asked to pull in the reins on price increases," Pitts declared.

Immediately after President Nixon ordered the 75 percent cut in federal construction spending on Thursday, September 4, Governor Reagan held a

special cabinet meeting on the subject of construction contracts and, according to Paul Beck, the Governor's press secretary, "instructed all departments to begin a review of every project they have that will help California comply with the President's request."

Following that conference, James Moe, the state's public works director, imposed a temporary freeze on any new highway construction contract awards and any calls for bids on road projects.

It is not known at this time just what funds or projects were affected by the temporary freeze but Moe disclosed that \$180 million in highway projects had been scheduled for advertisement for bids between now and the end of the year.

Record Keeping Rules Change Studied

A proposed revision of recordkeeping regulations affecting more than 350,000 employers, employment agencies, and labor organizations under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, has been announced by Wage-Hour Administrator Robert D. Moran.

Labor organizations are required, under the revised

proposal to keep current records identifying members by name, address and date of birth, and also to keep for one year a record of the name, address and age of any individual seeking membership in the union.

Interested parties have until September 26, 1969, to submit written data, views or arguments about the proposed rules.

U.S.F. Labor School To Open

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Courses offered include: Democratic Meetings; Union Operations; Collective Bargaining and Public Employment (limited to public employees); Labor Law — Action on the Job; Grievance and Arbitration Clinic; Industrial Alcoholism—a Labor-Management Responsibility; Public Speaking; and, Your Income—It's Determination and Value.

The classes, which vary in length from one to two hours, are held Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:25 p.m. starting October 8 and extending through December 3. Key experts from labor, management, and government as well as faculty members of the University of San Francisco serve on the school's staff.

Registration and tuition for a two hour course costs \$25 and for a one hour course \$13. Although the courses carry no college credits, a certificate of completion is awarded to those who fulfill the school's requirements. No previous educational attainments are required to attend.

Registration will be held on the first night of class, October 8, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. and daily prior thereto from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Campion Hall on the USF campus on Fulton Street at Parker Avenue in San Francisco.