



# California AFL-CIO News

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## Top U.S. Officials To Address AFL- CIO Convention

Three members of President Nixon's cabinet are scheduled to address the eighth national convention of the AFL-CIO which opens next Wednesday, October 2, at the Traymore Hotel in Atlantic City, N. J.

In announcing some of the principal speakers, AFL-CIO President George Meany said that President Nixon indicated he was obliged to decline an invitation to address the convention himself due to the demands of his official schedule.

Cabinet members who have accepted invitations to present the administration's views to an anticipated 1,000 delegates of AFL-CIO unions from throughout the nation are: U.S. Secretary of Labor George P. Schultz; Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird, and Secretary of State William R. Rogers.

Other major speakers on the program will include former  
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## Unemployment In Cal. Up 20,000 To 380,000

Unemployment in California totaled 380,000 last month, 20,000 higher than in August 1968 and the state's seasonally adjusted jobless rate rose to 4.6 percent.

This means that California's jobless rate is now 31 percent higher than the 3.5 percent rate of the nation as a whole.

It also means that, although California has a little less than 10 percent of the nation's population, it currently houses better than 13 percent of the nation's jobless workers. Last month unemployment nationally totaled 2.9 million.

The state's total civilian em-  
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## Meany Hits Paradox In Nixon's Civil Rights Stance

"Fifteen years after the Supreme Court made its decision on school desegregation, we find the national administration officially asking for more delay. And at the same time they are taking every possible opportunity they can to get out the horse- whip and wave it over the building trades."

This paradox in the Nixon administra-

tion's posture on civil rights was pointed out by AFL-CIO President George Meany in an address to delegates representing 3.5 million union construction workers at the national convention of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department in Atlantic City, N.J., on Wednesday.

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## UFWOC Asks Resumption Of Grape Grower Talks

The AFL-CIO United Farm Workers' Organizing Committee has initiated a new effort to bring industrial peace to California's table grape fields by offering to reconsider earlier union demands for a minimum pay floor of \$2.00 an hour.

But in a wire sent to J. Curtis Counts of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service last Thursday, September 18, UFWOC director Cesar Chavez emphasized that the union would not budge on its insistence on protections for farm workers against pesticides.

"This is the major issue, more important than money.

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## Bakery Unions Map Merger

Merger of the AFL-CIO American Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union and the Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union has been unani-

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## 700,000 May Lose Jobs in Inflation Fight

The Nixon Administration had indicated that it will accept a boost in unemployment as part of the cost of curbing inflation.

Now the word "unemployment" is a nice impersonal word. For the most part it fails to conjure up any inkling of the real hardships imposed on the average family of four when the paychecks suddenly stop coming in.

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## House Approves Direct Vote For President Plan

The U.S. House of Representatives last week approved a proposed U.S. constitutional amendment to let the people elect a President by direct, popular vote.

But California's newest congressman, Rep. Barry Goldwater, Jr., voted against it.

Thirty-two of California's 38-man House delegation, which includes 21 Democrats and 17 Republicans, voted for the measure. It passed by an overwhelming 339 to 70 vote.

In voting against the direct election amendment, Goldwater aligned himself with Rep. James B. Utt, an ultra-conservative Orange County Republican who was reported as paired against the measure. Three other California Congressmen, B. F. Sisk (D-Fresno), Edward Roybal (D-Los Angeles) and Charles Teague (R-Santa Barbara) were paired in favor of the measure.

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## Metal Trades Hit Unfair Foreign Competition

A joint effort by elements of organized labor and management in the western steel industry to fight "unfair foreign

competition" was announced this week.

Pointing out that foreign steel mill products now take 30

per cent of the West Coast market compared to only about 16 per cent of the national market, Thomas Rotell, president of the AFL-CIO Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council headquartered in San Francisco, and George Leonard, of Northwest Steel Rolling Mills of Seattle,

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## Appeals Court Rules State's 'Buy U.S.' Act Void

California's Buy American Act has been held unconstitutional by the State Court of Appeals.

The act, which requires materials used in public projects to be manufactured in the United States, was held to be an unconstitutional encroachment on the federal government's exclusive power over foreign affairs in a decision handed down Sept. 18 in Los Angeles by Acting Presiding Justice Clarke E. Stephens.

"The California Buy American Act, in effectively placing an embargo on foreign products, amounts to usurpation by this state of the power of the federal government to conduct foreign trade policy," the decision said.

"Only the federal government can fix the rules of fair competition when such competition is on an international basis. Foreign trade is properly a subject of national concern, not state regulation.

"State regulation can only impede, not foster, national trade policies. The problems of trade expansion or non-expansion are national in scope, and properly should be national in scope in their resolution," the decision said.

The act, Sections 4300-4305 of the State Government Code, was enacted in 1943.

In a footnote, the court pointed out that there is a federal Buy American Act but noted that the federal law, unlike the state law, appears to serve as an equalizer considering foreign invitational bids, rather than as an embargo altogether on such bids.

The decision resulted from two suits brought by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Bethlehem had tried to get an injunction to force compliance with the state Buy American Act after it had been outbid on two projects by companies that planned to use Japanese steel. But the Superior Court ruling denying the injunction has now been upheld by the appellate court.

## Metal Trades Unit to Fight Unfair Foreign Competition

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said Monday that they have just formed the Labor-Management Committee for Fair Foreign Competition.

The purpose of the committee will be to develop and furnish pertinent information to congressmen and legislators in the western states in an effort to seek governmental action to make fair foreign competition possible.

The committee is composed of union representatives from the Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council, the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers, and the United Steelworkers of America along with management representatives of West-

ern steel mills, steel service centers and other segments of the steel industry.

Rotell said that the Executive Committees of both the Metal Trades and the Maritime Port Trades Councils have passed a resolution calling on Congress to enact legislation setting quotas on the importation of steel and steel fabricated products from foreign nations.

Copies of the resolution have also been sent to the 1969 conventions of the Metal Trades and Maritime Trades Departments which are currently convening at Atlantic City, N. J., as well as to the convention of the National AFL-CIO which will open in the same city on October 2.

## Will Inflation Fight Cost 700,000 Workers' Jobs?

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Likewise, the phrase "an increase in unemployment" common to the monthly state and federal reports on the plights of thousands of U.S. citizens searching vainly for jobs also minimizes the very real, individual human and social problems created by such a rise.

Since some economists are now predicting that the nation's jobless rate could climb from its present 3.6 percent to 4.7 percent within the next year if the Nixon Administration's present restrictive fiscal and monetary policies continue, maybe it's time for workers to ask:

What would such an increase in unemployment mean in terms of actual people?

**The answer is: 700,000 more jobless workers!**

Instead of having 2,900,000 U.S. workers actively searching for jobs, we may have 3,600,000!

Since California houses roughly 10 percent of the nation's population and has enjoyed a hefty slice of federal spending for aerospace, defense and federal installations, there is a pretty good possibility that California's jobless ranks will rise by 70,000 or more within the year.

And, in the light of Nixon's recent order of a 75 percent

cutback in federal construction spending, a number of skilled workers as well as workers in unskilled and minority groups are liable to wind up within those jobless ranks.

Meanwhile:

- The Nixon Administration deplores workers' wage increases, particularly in the building trades, but remains mute when corporate giants in our basic industries like steel and copper hike their prices.

- Nixon's Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans makes special allowances for the nation's automobile manufacturers saying their price increases are "a consequence of the inflation we are fighting, not a cause."

- Bank profits skyrocket while the Nixon Administration lets interest rates climb to their highest level in a century. Prime interest rates rose 36 percent—from 6¼ to 8½ percent within six months after his election in November 1968.

The Nixon Administration ignores the fact that price inflation, which has risen to between six and seven percent, makes most union negotiated wage increases quite modest, particularly if weighed against industrial profits and dividend payments.

The truth of the matter is

## Top U.S. Officials To Address AFL-CIO Convention

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Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey; J. Curtis Counts, director of the Federation Mediation and Conciliation Service, and Col. Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., who was the second man to set foot on the moon.

The conventions of a number of AFL-CIO constitutional departments and related bodies will be held preceding and concurrent with the national AFL-CIO convention. These include the Building and Construction Trades Dept., Sept. 22-24; the Industrial Union Dept., Sept. 25-26; the Metal Trades Dept., Sept. 25-26; Maritime Trades, Sept. 29-Oct. 1; Union Label, Sept. 29-30; and Intl. Labor Press Assn., Sept. 28-Oct. 1.

that under present conservative economic policies the bulk of the burden of curbing inflation is being foisted off on middle and low income workers while the rich get richer.

And the trouble is most of us can't see the forest for the trees until we're the ones pounding the bricks in search of a job, isn't it?

## Bakery Unions Map Merger

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mously approved by the Executive Boards of the two unions.

The first step to ratification of the merger agreement will be taken at the B & C convention in Miami Beach which opens October 6. If approved, both unions will hold special conventions in the same city and then join in a merger convention, according to ABC President Daniel E. Conway and B & C President Max Kralstein.

Amalgamation of the two unions would heal a breach existing since 1957 when AFL-CIO delegates expelled B & C on grounds of domination by corrupt interest. The leadership that existed at that time is no longer in office. The merger would create an organization of more than 150,000 members with some 266 local unions.

# UFWOC Asks Resumption of Grape Grower Talks

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"What good is money if you can't have your health?" he asked.

In his wire, Chavez asked the Mediation Service to try to bring representatives of "the entire grape industry into the negotiations."

Negotiations between the UFWOC and 12 major table grape growers were recessed by the Mediation Service last July 3 after an impasse developed over two principal issues: wage rates and the UFWOC's insistence on special protections from the pesticides sprayed on growing grapes.

The UFWOC is seeking "a complete ban on DDT," creation of joint worker-employer committees to supervise the use

of pesticides and other safety measures.

Chavez asked the Mediation Service to contact the growers to see about reopening the negotiations.

Gilbert Seldin, Deputy Director of the FM&CS in Washington, D.C., said his office was "studying the request seriously."

And just last Tuesday it was reported that Al Caplan, attorney for the growers previously involved in the talks, is scheduled to meet with the growers next Friday, October 3, in Riverside County to decide whether the growers will rejoin the negotiations.

Contrary to the grape growers' repeated claims that present pesticide practices are safe

and adequately controlled by government regulations, the State Department of Health last week released data developed in the course of a six months investigation that showed "ample evidence" that many farm workers became ill from pesticide poisoning.

Dr. Thomas Milby, who is involved in a pilot study in the Valley areas seeking to identify pesticide problems, said that figures based on information obtained from doctors who treated workers poisoned by pesticides showed 233 cases of poisoning in 1966 and an average of one death a year.

The study will also seek to discover whether a substantial number of cases of pesticide poisoning go totally unreported.

Chavez said the UFWOC has "hundreds of documented cases" that demonstrate the severe adverse effects of pesticides on farm workers.

One of the insidious dangers of pesticide poisoning is that a number of the symptoms of pesticide poisoning may be attributed by the worker to other causes and therefore go unreported.

He said the UFWOC is receiving a mounting volume of reports from workers of ailments believed caused by pesticide poisoning, including shortness of breath, dizziness, headaches, nausea, weight loss, speech impairment, vomiting, nosebleeds, stiffening joints, sore eyes, and loss of fingernails.

## Calif. Letter Writer's Protest May Change Law

Do you think "it doesn't do any good" to write your Senator or your Congressman in Washington?

Think again!

Linda A. DeCoss of 7350 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito (Contra Costa Co.) wrote U.S. Senator Alan Cranston last April to complain about a legal quirk that gives greater benefits to volunteers who serve overseas in the Peace Corps than to those who help at home through Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA).

And now there's a good chance the law will be changed.

Miss DeCoss, 24, served with VISTA for a year working with younger children in the poverty areas of the District of

Columbia.

Now the claims authorizer at the San Francisco payment center of the Social Security Administration, Miss DeCoss tried to get her VISTA time credited toward her government leave and retirement program. But she discovered that it couldn't be done. The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which created VISTA, didn't allow it.

But she found that former volunteers in the Peace Corps, which was created under a different act, could get such time credit.

"How come?" she asked.

After investigation, Senator Cranston wrote: "This disparity in treatment between two very

similar types of voluntary self-help services is one for which I have been unable to discover any substantive justification."

So Cranston introduced an amendment to let people like Miss DeCoss have their VISTA service added to their federal employment time "for purposes of retirement, seniority, reduction in force, and lay-off rights, leave entitlement and other privileges based upon length of service."

The amendment is now being considered by the Employment, Manpower, and Poverty Subcommittee and "stands a good chance of adoption" by the full Labor and Public Welfare Committee, Cranston said.

## Unemployment In Cal. Up 20,000 To 380,000

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employment climbed to 8,096,000, reflecting an over-the-year increase of 231,000 or 2.9 percent.

A report released recently by William C. Hern who was named acting director of the State Department of Industrial Relations to replace the late Peter Weinberger, noted, however, that "the downtrend in the aerospace manufacturing industry (aircraft, electrical equipment, ordnance and instruments) continued in August."

It said employment in this complex, now at 565,000, is some 50,000 lower than at the end of 1967 when cutbacks began.

On the national level, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said that in the past six months non-farm payroll employment "has slowed down substantially."

Monthly increases averaged 145,000 in the March-August period in contrast to a 250,000 average pickup during the previous six months, the report indicated, noting that the slowdown has run through most major industries and that construction employment has continued a steep decline.

## U.S. Prices Rise Again And Real Wages Buy Less

Consumer prices rose less sharply in August than in recent months but the real wages of rank-and-file workers' paychecks continued to buy less than last year, according to the Labor Dept.

The Consumer Price Index climbed by four-tenths of 1 percent to 128.7, meaning that it cost \$12.87 in August to buy goods and services that cost \$10 in the 1957-59 base period.

Arnold Chase, assistant commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, said he was "encouraged" that the rate of

increase was not going up. The CPI jumped by five-tenths of 1 percent in July and by six-tenths in June.

Chase emphasized, however, that he was not drawing any conclusions from a decline in the rate of increase. "It's quite possible we may have some smaller increases in the coming months, but we might get some larger ones," he added.

Gross average weekly earnings of production and non-supervisory workers rose by 61 cents in August to a new high of \$116.43, due entirely to a

two-tenths of an hour increase in the workweek. Average hourly earnings were unchanged at \$3.04.

Weekly take-home pay for the worker with three dependents rose to \$101.38, a gain of 46 cents. The increase for the worker with no dependents was 44 cents to \$92.29.

When expressed in 1957-59 dollars to adjust for price changes, take-home pay was \$78.77 for the worker with three dependents and \$71.71 for the worker with no dependents, unchanged from July.

# Meany Hits Paradox In Nixon's Civil Rights Stance

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In rebutting an attack on the construction unions' efforts to bring in more minority group members that was delivered to the convention Tuesday by Richard Van Dusen, Undersecretary of President Nixon's Department of Housing and Urban Development, Meany said that while there's always room for further improvement, construction unions have done a better job in bringing in blacks and other minority group members than the Nixon administration, the Congress, or the banking and newspaper industries.

## ONE PERCENT IN SENATE

"There is one Negro in the United States Senate. That is one percent, one out of a hundred.

"And when President Nixon looks around his Cabinet, I don't think he sees any black faces there, either," Meany said.

"But," he added, "we in the building trades are singled out as being the last bastion of discrimination."

Earlier, the convention delegates adopted a resolution denouncing the Nixon administration's so-called "Philadelphia Plan" which would require contractors to hire a higher percentage of minority group members on federal construction projects.

The union delegates said the Nixon administration's hiring plan is an illegal quota system under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

## MINORITIES GAIN

Moreover, it is unnecessary, they said, because construction unions have increased minority group apprenticeships to 7.2 percent nationally and have already thrown open their membership rolls to all qualified minority group journeymen.

"We cannot accept the simplistic idea that the arithmetic of a population ratio shall become the standard for selection and entry into employment in the building and construction industry," the resolution, which was drafted by the organization's executive council, declared.

The so-called Philadelphia

Plan is "high-handed, ambiguous and in definite conflict with the Civil Rights Act of 1964," the resolution said.

Asserting that the B&CT Department's training programs and job opportunities "have exceeded the requirements of laws and regulations," C. J. (Neil) Haggerty, the Department's president, said that the Philadelphia Plan is "unworkable, unnecessary, and ill-conceived with the intention of harassment."

Last August 6, Elmer B. Staats, the U.S. Comptroller General who serves as the congressional watchdog over federal spending, ruled that the Philadelphia Plan is illegal because it amounts to setting up hiring "quotas" which are outlawed under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

## DATA DISPUTED

Meany also took issue with Labor Department data claiming that less than two percent of skilled craftsmen in the Philadelphia area are Negroes. He said the figure is closer to 12 percent.

Citing federal figures indicating that building trades unions have taken in some 4,000 minority group apprentices in just the past two years, Meany said:

"The solution of these problems of both discrimination and opportunity for minority group citizens is important but it cannot be solved by reducing skill standards or undercutting wages . . .

"We have not finished the job, but we have made some progress in ending the separate racial locals, in opening up apprenticeship and training programs to minorities and in breaking down discriminatory practices and seniority systems," Meany declared.

Meany also made it clear that organized labor will not cooperate with militant groups that threaten violence or demand control over apprenticeship programs.

According to the Labor Department, the Philadelphia Plan applies to a five-county

area which encompasses that city. It seeks to set hiring goals requiring contractors to boost minority group representation in six trades — plumbing and pipefitting, ironwork, steamfitting, sheetmetal work, electrical work, and elevator construction — to five to nine percent in 1970, nine to 15 percent in 1971, 14 to 20 percent in 1972 and 19 to 26 percent in 1973.

Comptroller General Staats said that the executive order could not be used to require an employer to "abandon his customary practice of hiring through a local union."

But President Nixon's Attorney General John N. Mitchell, a southern conservative, contends that the law doesn't require an employer to accept job referrals only from unions.

Mitchell, who as Attorney General, can either push or stall school desegregation cases in the South, and appears to have opted for delay, insists that the employer, if necessary, could get qualified applicants from other sources."

## UNION-BUSTING PLOY?

Ironically, the upshot is that this plan, represented by the Nixon administration as a move to improve job opportunities for minority workers could easily deteriorate into an all-out union busting effort that would adversely affect the rights of workers of all races.

This might be pleasing to many of the anti-union southern employers and segregationists who supported Nixon's choice of Mitchell as Attorney General but it's unlikely to bring about the benefits it claims to be seeking in behalf of minority group workers.

## More Women Workers

Recent Department of Labor research shows that 9 out of 10 girls will work some time during their lives; nearly half of the women in the population between the ages of 18 and 65 are currently in the labor force, and this percentage continues to rise rapidly.

# House Approves Direct Vote For President Plan

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Another Republican, Rep. Glenard P. Lipscomb of Los Angeles, failed to indicate his position on the issue.

As approved by the House, the AFL-CIO-backed constitutional amendment, which was drafted by a big, bipartisan majority of the House Judiciary Committee, would:

- Assure the election of the candidates for President and Vice President with the most popular votes nationwide if the winning ticket received at least 40 per cent of the popular vote.

- Provide for a runoff election between the two top slates if no presidential ticket received at least 40 per cent of the popular vote.

Shortly before the House acted on the measure, AFL-CIO Legislative Director Andrew J. Biemiller wrote each Congressman to urge approval of "this long-overdue reform of our present antiquated electoral system."

To become effective, however, the measure must be approved by a two-thirds vote in the U.S. Senate and then ratified by 38 of the 50 states.

An analysis of the House vote found that a majority of the congressional delegations from 36 states supported the direct election proposal on the final roll call vote on September 18. Five delegations were tied and nine had a majority in opposition.

It should come as no surprise to union members that seven of the nine state delegations in which a majority opposed direct, popular election of the President are so-called right-to-work or compulsory open shop states. These were: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Nevada, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Tennessee. The other two were Alaska and Louisiana.

Congressmen in Idaho, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Utah were split 50-50 on the issue.

If finally approved, the article would take effect one year after the 21st day of January following ratification.