



# California AFL-CIO News

Published weekly by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO,  
995 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94103—Second Class  
Postage Paid at San Francisco, Calif.—Subscription: \$3.50 a year

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October 3, 1969  
Vol. 11—No. 40

## Cranston Due At Fed Parley On Tax Reform

U. S. Senator Alan Cranston will be one of the principal speakers at a two-day Educational Conference on "Taxes and the Economy" to be held at the Del Webb Townhouse in Fresno, on November 6-7.

The conference, sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, is designed "to probe deeply how best our federal, state, and local tax structures can be reformed to help hard pressed homeowners and middle and lower-income wage earners," according to Thos. L. Pitts, the Federation's secretary-treasurer.

Cranston is scheduled to address the conference at a dinner session Thursday evening, November 6. His topic will be: "A United States Senator's

(Continued on Page 2)

## GOP Solon Calls For Withdrawal Of Haynsworth

The AFL-CIO-sparked campaign to block President Nixon's nomination of Federal Judge Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr. to the U.S. Supreme Court gained additional bipartisan support this week when Republican Senator Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts urged Nixon to withdraw the nomination.

In a letter to the President, Brooke explained that his opposition to Haynsworth was based on the South Carolina Judge's "treatment of civil rights issues" and the "appearance of conflict" between his judicial duties and his business involvements.

Brooke said that "a sizeable and growing number" of Republican Senators as well as a "large" number of Democrats have already indicated to him

(Continued on Page 2)

## Pitts Protests Anti-Union Drive by Blue Cross Brass

Reports that managerial personnel of the Blue Cross Hospital Service are attempting to badger their employees into voting against union representation have prompted a strong protest by Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO.

Some 791 employees of Blue Cross, an or-

ganization which presently enjoys a huge volume of union health and welfare business, will be eligible to vote in an election to be held October 15-16.

But management bulletins to employees, instead of taking a hands-off attitude and letting the employees decide for them-

(Continued on Page 4)

## Letter Confirms Nixon's Vow To Protect Oil Men

All grounds for public doubt that President Richard M. Nixon pledged himself to protect the special tax privilege enjoyed by wealthy oil men—the 27½ percent oil depletion allowance—apparently in exchange for campaign contributions were swept away last week when the

contents of a letter written in behalf of the President to a county official in Midland, Texas came to light.

The letter, written September 18 by White House aide Harry S. Dent, Deputy Counsel to President Nixon, said that recent testimony on tax reform by Nixon's Secretary of the the Treasury, David M. Kennedy, which strongly defended the House provision cutting the oil depletion allowance from 27½ to 20 percent, would be "corrected very soon."

It was addressed to Mrs. Barbara G. Culver and said:

"The recent testimony given before the Senate Finance Committee is to be corrected very

(Continued on Page 4)

## State Farm Study Points Up Value of Unions

"... workers (in agriculture) who got jobs through a union had a median earnings of almost four times those of the total sample."

This possibly unintentional tribute to the value of unionization for farm workers was one of the findings of a six-year legislative study of farm laborers released this week by the Assembly Agriculture Committee chaired by Republican Assemblyman William Ketchum of Paso Robles. The report noted, however, that most union-recruited jobs were in skilled positions where earnings are generally higher.

The study, which largely corroborates data presented to a number of state and federal committees by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, in the course of the fight to end the bracero program and win union

(Continued on Page 3)

## Guess Who Coal Industry Hires As Its Lobbyist?

Most reasonably well informed trade unionists are well aware that the National Right to Work Committee, like its state-level organization, "Californians for Right to Work, Inc.," are largely financed by employer interests that are bent on weakening the capability of workers to unionize and win decent wages and fringe benefits.

But better than two-thirds of

(Continued on Page 2)

## Murphy Admits 'Mistake' on Pesticide Charge

U.S. Senator George Murphy all but apologized this week for accusing the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers' Organ-

izing Committee of raising the pesticide issue merely "in an effort to further harass the grape industry" after tests run

by Safeway itself found residues of the pesticide "Aldrin" in three out of four samples.

Murphy's charge, made August 12, followed testimony delivered to the Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor on August 1 by UFWOC General Counsel Jerry Cohen.

(Continued on Page 3)

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## Cranston Due At Fed Parley On Tax Reform

(Continued from Page 1)

View on Federal Tax Reform and the Economy."

Other speakers scheduled to participate include State Senator Nicholas Petris (D-Alameda Co.); Nat Goldfinger, director of the AFL-CIO Department of Research; Dr. George Break, Department of Economics, University of California, Berkeley; Dr. Harold Somers, Dean, Department of Economics, University of California at Los Angeles; Arnold Cantor, economist, AFL-CIO Dept. of Research; Dr. Gerhard Rostvold, Consulting Economist, of Claremont, Ca.; and Don Collins, Consultant to the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation.

Registration forms and the program for the conference were sent to all Federation affiliates this week.

In announcing the conference early last month, Pitts urged all affiliates to plan now to send representatives to participate, pointing out that "the battle to enact real tax reform in California will reach a peak next year," a gubernatorial election year.

## Nader To Speak On Consumer Issues in S.F.

Ralph Nader, nationally recognized champion of legislation to protect consumers who was recently attacked by Governor Reagan's Consumer Counsel, Mrs. Kay Valory, will discuss consumer problems and answer questions from the audience at a meeting sponsored by the Association of California Consumers at Marina Junior High School in San Francisco on October 24.

Marina Junior High School is located at 3500 Fillmore Street between Chestnut and Bay.

Information on membership in the Association of California Consumers and on tickets for Nader's appearance may be obtained from ACC headquarters, 3030 Bridgeway, Sausalito (415-332-3667) or in San Francisco by phoning 982-4024.

## GOP Senator Calls For Haynsworth's Withdrawal

(Continued from Page 1)

that they are inclined to vote against confirmation.

Earlier Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) refused to promise that he would support Haynsworth on the Senate floor.

Scott, who is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, indicated that he might back Haynsworth in Committee but said that he is "not prepared to say yet" what he would do in terms of the Senate floor vote.

AFL-CIO President George Meany voiced strong opposition to Haynsworth on grounds that he is "hostile to workers and Negroes" in a statement issued August 20, shortly after Nixon announced the nomination.

At that time Meany said: "We believe that it (Haynsworth's record) is a record which does not merit reward and does not qualify Judge Haynsworth for the nation's highest court."

Since then Meany and a number of other labor and civil rights leaders have attacked Haynsworth for failing to take himself out of cases in which he had either a direct or indirect financial interest involving one of the litigants.

One such case involved the anti-union Deering Milliken Textile chain which sought to close its Darlington, S.C., mill to punish workers for voting for union representation.

Haynsworth cast the deciding vote in a Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals decision in 1963 that upheld the textile chain's action. Subsequently the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously reversed the appellate court's decision.

Haynsworth had invested some \$3,000 in the Carolina Vendamatic firm which was involved in business dealings with Deering Milliken mills in 1950. In 1964, he reportedly sold his interest for about \$450,000.

In testifying on this point before the Judiciary Committee, Meany pointed out that "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."

Early last month, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation wrote California's two U.S. Senators Alan Cranston and George Murphy and urged them to oppose Haynsworth's nomination.

"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 said.

Pitts also cited a number of other cases in which Haynsworth's decisions favored business interests at the expense of workers and minority groups and noted that these decisions were also reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Senate Committee hearings on Haynsworth's nomination have also brought out the fact that the Judge bought 1,000 shares in the Brunswick Corp. after voting for the company in a case but before the decision on the case had been announced.

And just last week Irving Abramson, general counsel of the AFL-CIO International Union of Electrical Workers, raised serious ethical questions about Haynsworth's qualifications when he pointed out that the 56-year-old jurist had participated in a number of cases while on the bench of the U.S. Court of Appeals that involved companies that at sometime had been clients of his former law firm in Greenville, S.C.

Haynsworth's apparent insensitivity or disregard of the niceties of judicial ethics contrast sharply with the action taken by former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg who did not sit on the Darlington Textile case because he felt it would be improper for him to do so since he had been counsel for the Textile Workers' Union a number of years earlier.

A Senate Judiciary Committee vote on sending Haynsworth's nomination to the floor was put off this week when Senator Birch Bayh (D-Indiana)

## Guess Who Coal Industry Hires As Its Lobbyist?

(Continued from Page 1)

wage and salary earners in California as well as throughout the nation are not union members and many are often duped by NRTWC propaganda which casts the NRTWC as the workers' champion.

For them, an item in the September 19, 1969 non-partisan Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report should be of interest:

"John L. Kilcullen, who registered in 1965 as a lobbyist for the National Right to Work Committee, filed (as a lobbyist during August, 1969) for the Coal Industry Committee on Mine Safety, which is fighting proposed legislation to eliminate the distinction between 'gassy' and 'non-gassy' mines in setting mine safety requirements."

Apparently some big coal mine operators don't want to be bothered with having to comply with stricter federal safety standards in their mines.

So who do they turn to? A hireling of the National Right to Work Committee!

Workers with "champions" like that don't need any enemies, do they?

disclosed that he had sent an investigator to South Carolina to look into Haynsworth's real estate and stock records dealing with the period from 1957, when Haynsworth was first named to the federal district court, to 1964. Haynsworth's stockbroker had supplied such records only going back to 1964.

## Education Benefits In Dollars and Cents

Education pays some of its dividends in higher wages, says the U.S. Department of Labor.

A person with an eighth grade education can expect to earn about \$246,525 during his lifetime, but if he can get a high school diploma, his earnings increase by 38 percent to \$340,520.

The college graduate can average 50 percent greater income than a high school graduate for a lifetime total of \$541,911.

# Sen. Murphy Admits 'Mistake' in Pesticide Charge Against UFWOC

(Continued from Page 1)

Cohen testified that two bunches of Thompson seedless grapes purchased at a Washington, D.C., Safeway Store contained quantities of the chemical Aldrin which were 180 times the established tolerance level for human beings according to tests conducted by the C. W. England Laboratories in Washington.

In an attempt to repudiate Cohen's testimony in the findings of the independent laboratory, Murphy had suggested that the UFWOC had falsified a sample of table grapes to show a dangerous level of pesticide residues.

"The grapes presented to the England Laboratory had somehow achieved strange qualities which I find very difficult to explain," Murphy said, adding, "and it seems possible that a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate has been the victim of duplicity."

Murphy introduced a statement from the owner of a ranch from which the UFWOC-tested grapes had apparently come—the Bianco Food Corp., of the Delano-Arvin-Thermal area in California—which said that no Aldrin has been "authorized for use" on his property for the past six years. The statement was signed by Anthony A. Bianco, Jr.

Murphy also had obtained a letter from the manager and owner of the Southern Valley Chemical company which has handled the application of pesticides for the Bianco Food Corp. for the past six years stating that no Aldrin had been applied.

In addition Murphy submitted the results of a series of tests run by the Food and Drug Administration which reported no residues of Aldrin.

But last Monday Murphy's charges fell apart at the seams when it was disclosed that Safeway had since conducted its own tests using a number of independent laboratories and had found evidence of Aldrin in three of four cases studied.

This prompted Subcommittee Chairman Walter F. Mondale to ask Food and Drug Administration officials why they had not bothered to check reports from two of the three independent labs that made the

tests for Safeway.

Pointing out that an FDA chemist had gone over the notes compiled by Dr. Harold M. Windlan who conducted the tests for the UFWOC and had claimed to have found errors in procedures, Mondale suggested that the FDA's failure to test the reports from the other independent labs suggested that the FDA was more interested in defending its own findings than in checking the possibility that the other independent laboratories had been able to find Aldrin when the FDA could not.

Last Tuesday, in the wake of Safeway's disclosure, Mondale read several of Murphy's statements accusing the UFWOC of misleading the committee with "a vicious type of deceit" and with engaging in "an attempt to mislead the subcommittee by presenting false testimony."

Initially Murphy asked Mondale where he was getting his quotes and Mondale explained

it was from Murphy's letter requesting the hearing.

"This is a personal letter from me to the chairman, isn't it?" Murphy asked.

Mondale conceded that it was but pointed out that it was released to the press and that it made a "serious charge."

In response, Murphy said:

"Let's say that I was mistaken. I intended no accusation. I am not in the habit of accusing without facts and knowledge. Let's get on with the hearing. If the chairman has any complaints about me, I think we should take them up at a different time."

## Misuse of Pesticides Cited as 'Walking Death'

UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez, in testifying before the subcommittee on Monday, accused growers of recklessly disregarding the health of farm workers and said that Mexican-

American grape pickers have even coined a name for pesticide sickness.

They call it "La Muerte andando" — walking death" Chavez said.

"The issue of the health and safety of farm workers in California and throughout the United States is the single most important issue facing the UFWOC," he said.

"Growers consistently use the wrong kinds of economic poisons in the wrong amounts in the wrong places in reckless disregard of the health of their workers in order to maximize profits," he charged.

On Wednesday, Chavez led some 200 grape boycotters in picketing the Food and Drug Administration in the nation's capital.

The FDA is "more interested in protecting the growers, not the consumers and workers," pamphlets distributed by the pickets said.

## State Farm Labor Study Points Up Value of Unionization

(Continued from Page 1)

recognition and bargaining rights for farm workers, found that the average earnings from farm employment among just the 486,700 persons who earned more than \$100 in total farm wages in 1965 was only \$763.

And even when this income was supplemented by income from other non-farm jobs, the median individual earnings came to only \$1,368 in 1965.

"This study supports the widely held opinion that chronic involuntary unemployment is common among farm workers," the report said.

The study, begun in 1964 by the Agriculture Committee's Advisory Committee on Farm Labor Research, included a survey of the earnings, family status and living conditions of 3,488 workers.

The low earnings uncovered by the survey generally substantiate the state AFL-CIO's position that, contrary to grower claims of a labor shortage, the real shortage in California agriculture has been—and still is—a wage shortage—a shortage of growers willing to offer wage levels high enough to attract the workers they need.

In releasing the report, Ketchum said:

"For the first time in history, reliable and detailed information on the state's farm labor force is now available."

The report found that 742,300 persons had some farm earnings in California in 1965 but 256,000 of these earned less than \$100. Those earning less than \$100 were generally housewives and students and others who were not seeking full time farm employment, the report said.

Among other things, the study disclosed that:

- "Only 41 percent of the sample were fully employed for 27 or more weeks during 1965."

- In connection with farm labor housing in California, the survey data "suggests" that "overcrowding is common."

- About 75 percent of farm worker families had a total income of less than \$5,000 and "most . . . appear to have little prospect of becoming owners of adequate homes." In this connection, it noted that "low income plus the prospect of lengthy periods of unemployment for many make them un-

attractive clients for mortgage lenders."

- Better than 20 percent of farm worker families are obliged to seek welfare payments or other income supplements.

On the welfare issue, the report appeared to minimize the importance of welfare payments to farm workers. It said:

"Welfare payments and other income supplements play a minor role in the support of such families."

And, it added, "if family units headed by workers over 64 years of age are eliminated from consideration, about 76.4 percent of farm labor families receive no income from such supplements."

The state AFL-CIO has pointed out repeatedly, however, that workers in unionized, seasonal jobs in other industries command higher wages because of the seasonality of their work and that the failure of California's multi-billion dollar agribusiness industry to offer decent wages to farm workers simply results in requiring California's general taxpayers to subsidize wealthy grower interests through welfare payments.

# Pitts Protests Anti-Union Drive By Blue Cross Brass

(Continued from Page 1)

selves, are urging the employees to vote against union representation and using loaded phrases to attempt to discredit the union's legitimate efforts to contact employees and explain the advantages of union membership.

For example, one management bulletin says:

"We agree with the way many of you have expressed yourselves—and want to end the union's continuous propaganda barrage and get their organizing activities behind us

—such as hand billing, trespassing, and invading employee privacy through direct approach to their homes."

Pitts responded to these tactics in a letter sent last Thursday, September 25, to Blue Cross President J. Philo Nelson in Oakland saying:

"In behalf of hundreds of thousands of AFL-CIO trade unionists in northern California, I am writing to express deep concern at reports that your organization is presently engaged in an intensive anti-union campaign to discourage

the unionization of your own employees.

"Most union members learned the hard way that they could not get a fair deal—either in terms of wages and fringe benefits or in terms of the adjudication of legitimate grievances—if they left themselves subject to the mercy or benevolence of their employers regardless of how well intentioned their employers may have been.

"This fact was pointed up recently by figures from the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics indi-

cating that on a national basis the average worker in private non-farm employment with a union contract earned about \$2,371 a year more than non-union employees in 1966.

"Thousands of California union members presently utilize Blue Cross Services, but as you must know, organized labor cannot support organizations that engage in selfish campaigns that deny workers their right to unionization and independent representation in matters vitally affecting their economic and social well being.

## HALT URGED

"Therefore I urge you to call an immediate halt to any anti-union campaign that may be underway in your organization and to inform your employees that representation by a union would be in the best interests of all concerned."

Joe Nedham, senior business agent for Office and Professional Employees Local 29 which began the organizing effort at Blue Cross last Spring, said that despite management's propaganda campaign, the union is confident it will be chosen bargaining agent by a majority of Blue Cross employees.

But he urged Blue Cross-covered unions to send letters protesting management's anti-union propaganda campaign to J. Philo Nelson, President, Blue Cross Hospital Service of California, 1919 Webster Street, Oakland, Ca. 94612.

## \$300 A MONTH

When the organizing drive began, salaries were as low as \$300 a month and, ironically, the health organization offered substandard fringe benefits, including health care.

Since then, pay levels have been increased slightly, with the low now about \$335 a month. And, with the union election staring them in the face, management has promised that big improvements will be made in the employees' health care coverage.

Twenty Blue Cross employees in a small San Francisco unit will vote October 15 and the balance of the employees at the regional office in Oakland and at other Blue Cross offices in San Jose and Sacramento will vote on October 16.

# Letter Confirms Nixon's Vow to Oil Men

(Continued from Page 1)

soon by the Secretary of the Treasury. The President continues to stand by his campaign commitments.

"As you may know, the House did vote to lower the oil depletion allowance but this was an action of the House of Representatives and not of the President."

Nixon's press secretary, Ronald Ziegler confirmed to newsmen on September 24 that Dent had written the letter.

Dent said that he wrote "on behalf of the President."

Nixon has now indicated, however, that he would sign a tax reform bill containing a cut in the depletion allowance.

Elimination of the special deduction for depletion of oil and other mineral resources beyond the cost of the mineral property would result in an estimated annual revenue gain of \$1.6 billion to the federal government, according to former U.S. Senator Paul H. Douglas, who is now chairman of the National Committee on Tax Justice.

Some idea of the huge bonanza the big brass in the nation's oil industry enjoy because of special tax treatment is reflected in the fact that for the year ending September 30, 1968, the oil industry paid only 13 percent of its profits in federal taxes while all other manufacturing industries paid 45 percent—or more than three times as much.

It is also reflected in the

fact that in 1967 the oil industries' profit per dollar of sales (10.9 percent) was more than twice that of manufacturing corporations (5.0 percent.)

Even President Nixon's own Secretary of the Treasury Kennedy alluded to this bonanza for oil men in the course of his testimony before the Senate Finance Committee on September 4 when he said:

"When you get down to brass tacks, they (the big oil men) know they have a good thing going."

Essentially the oil depletion allowance, which has been locked in the tax laws for 43 years, lets gas and oil operators deduct 27½ percent of the value of their wells from their pre-tax income year after year.

Since its elimination would bring in an estimated \$1.6 billion to the federal government, it seems safe to assume that its perpetuation is worth a comparable sum to the nation's oil magnates.

And since the labor-backed candidate for President in 1968, Hubert H. Humphrey, refused to pledge himself to protect this special bonanza for the oil industry, trade unionists and other citizens interested in good government might well wonder to what extent this single issue affected campaign spending for the Presidential slates of the two major parties in 1968.

This is an issue which should be of increasing concern to all

voters since statistics recently compiled by the Federal Communications Commission disclosed that the Nixon-Agnew ticket spent more than twice as much for radio and TV time during the 1968 Presidential campaign (\$12.6 million) than did the Humphrey-Muskie ticket (\$6.1 million).

Although Republican party candidates generally have been able to outspend Democratic candidates, the two-to-one gap established in last year's campaign was by far the greatest.

In 1964, for example, Republican candidates outspent Democrats \$13 million to \$11 million. And in 1960 the gap was \$7.6 million to \$6.2 million.

Just for the sake of argument, let's suppose the oil industry put up the difference between the \$6.1 million spent by the Democrats' Presidential slate and the \$12.6 million spent by the GOP slate. That's a difference of \$6.5 million.

But as a percentage of the \$1.6 billion tax bonanza that the oil depletion allowance affords the oil industry, it's only four-tenths of one percent.

And if you were an oil mogul that would be a pretty good investment, wouldn't it?

## It's 'Inequitable'

"The present tax treatment of capital gains and losses is both inequitable and a barrier to economic growth."—John F. Kennedy, in a special message to Congress on tax reduction and reform on January 24, 1963.