



California AFL-CIO News

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JOHN F. HENNING
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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Labor at the Legislature

From The Capitol Office
Of The Executive Secretary

SB 436, a Federation-supported bill to regulate warranties on consumer products, won state Senate approval by a 22 to 5 vote on July 1 and has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Commerce and Public Utilities. The bill, introduced by Senator Alfred H. Song (D-Monterey Park), would require the manufacturer to bear the cost of repairing any defects, unless he clearly labels his goods to be sold on a "as is" or "with all faults" basis.

"Right now, advertisements for automobiles, appliances and many other products emphasize that the goods are covered by warranties. If you buy one of these products and it doesn't work, you may find that the warranty only applies to a few parts, or is only good if you have sent the manufacturer a registration card, or doesn't give you any protection at all," Senator Song said.

"My bill says that if the product doesn't work, the manufacturer is responsible despite what his paper warranty may say," he explained.

Pointing out that the bill is "strongly opposed by the Cali-

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COMMITTEE FAILS TO ACT BUT . . .

Jobless Rise Stresses Need To Update U.I. Program

"The snowballing rise in joblessness in California reported by state agencies this week underscores the urgent need for immediate action to modernize unemployment insurance benefits and eligibility requirements to meet the state's burgeoning unemployment crisis," John F. Henning, executive officer of the State AFL-CIO, de-

clared this week after a series of bills aimed at updating the program were held in committee in the Assembly.

Citing state figures indicating that unemployment in California soared to a nine-year high of 540,000 last month and that the state's jobless rate remained at 5.9

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Crucial Fight Nears Over Strong Worker Safety Bill

The battle lines for a crucial congressional fight later this month over legislation to provide strong health and safety protections for all American workers are already sharply

drawn and an intensive letter-writing campaign will be essential to win passage of the measure, John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the State AFL-CIO said this week.

The measure, HR 16785, sponsored by Rep. Dominick Daniels (D-N.J.), would establish and enforce federal standards for occupational health and safety.

But the AFL-CIO Legislative Department reports that the Nixon Administration and business management led by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers and their allies in the House have served notice that they will use every possible means to kill the Daniels bill

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Reagan Funds Dwarf Unruh's In Primary

Governor Ronald Reagan, although unopposed for the Republican nomination in the June 2 primary, spent nearly three times as much as Democrat Jess Unruh who ran in a contested race, and wound up with

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Frontlash Aide Sets Up HQ In State COPE Office

David Jessup, Western State's organizer for Frontlash, has just moved into offices in San Francisco provided by the State AFL-CIO, John F. Henning, executive officer of the California Labor Council on Political Education, announced this week.



David Jessup

Henning said that the Frontlash program, which affords students and other youths an opportunity to become involved in constructive political action through voter registration and education efforts, would be available to supplement the voter registration efforts of lo-

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Wilson Riles -- An Able Man for State's Top School Post

"The local property taxpayer cannot continue to carry the burden of paying for the schools. The state must again assume at least 50 percent of public school costs."

That's just one of the reasons why Wilson Riles, one of the nation's ablest educators and administrators, is running for the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Riles, 52, worked his way up in the State Department of Edu-

cation from a consultant to Deputy State Superintendent over a 12-year period during which his exceptional capabilities both as an educator and an administrator were repeatedly recognized by consistently more

difficult assignments.

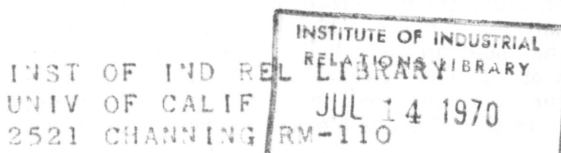
As Director of the State's Compensatory Education Program, for example, he was responsible for a \$100 million project which has been recognized as the best in the nation.

Riles is currently chairman of President Nixon's Task Force for Urban Education and served President Johnson in a similar post.

But during the eight years he has served under incumbent Max Rafferty, Riles became increasingly distressed at being "forced to witness the deterioration of California's schools."

Rafferty's failure to provide effective leadership was under-

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Wilson Riles -- An Able Man for State's Top School Post

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scored last March when state legislative analyst Alan Post, a public servant long respected by members of both parties for his non-partisan objectivity, took the unprecedented action of recommending the freezing of millions of dollars in educational funds "solely because the incumbent State Superintendent had not fulfilled his responsibilities to the legislature and the State Board of Education," Riles pointed out.

In contrast, Post lauded the compensatory education program directed by Riles as being a model of administration.

Post's report said Rafferty's Department was almost devoid of objectives, priorities, and evaluation procedures and that administrative costs were running as high as 7 percent when under 1 percent was more appropriate.

Post also challenged a report made by Rafferty on reading test scores that seemed to suggest that some progress had been made. Said Post:

"Although the Department . . . indicates substantial progress in the improvement of reading test scores . . . we do not believe that documentation submitted substantiates this conclusion."

As the Department of Education's credibility gap became more and more abysmal, Riles became convinced he had to leave or fight.

Riles, a veteran of three years' service with the Army Air Corps in World War II, decided to fight.

In the primary election last June 2, Riles, along with Julian Nava, won the endorsement of the California Labor Council on Political Education for the state's top educational post. Subsequently, Riles defeated Nava by a better than 2 to 1 margin in an eight-man race to challenge the incumbent.

But in the runoff election next November 3, he faces a stiff uphill battle against Rafferty, whose campaign against former U. S. Senator Thomas H. Kuchel in 1968, has been described as "an all time low in California politics."

Despite his repeated use of his high public office as a political platform, Rafferty was defeated by Alan Cranston in the 1968 Senate race.



WELCOMING A FRIEND — Grade school pupils rush to greet Wilson Riles, the labor-backed candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction who taught school 14 years before moving into executive and administrative posts such as the Director of California's Compensatory Education Program and Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In view of the fact that organized labor has been in the forefront of the fight for free, high quality education since 1829 when the Workingmen's Party in New York City included as one of its principal planks a demand for a school system "that shall unite under the same roof the children of the poor man and the rich, the widow's charge and the orphan, where the road to distinction shall be superior industry, virtue and acquirement without reference to descent," all California workers should have a vital interest in this race. It affects their pocketbooks, their property taxes, and their children's hopes for a decent education.

Riles, virtually unknown to the general public prior to his entry into the race last March because of his inclination to shun publicity, today faces the major task of getting his position on vital education issues before the public in barely four months and offsetting the name-recognition advantage that the incumbent has built up through eight years of publicity releases, TV exposure and public speaking.

Besides that, Riles is black.

Guided by the view that "tomorrow is in school today," Riles is determined, if elected, to take politics out of education and return the Department of Education to its rightful task of building the finest educational system in the nation.

Below are Riles' views on some of the critical, controversial issues confronting California's school system. Consider them, and if you agree that these are the words of a sincere, dedicated educator capable and determined to do the job all Californians desperately need done, then pitch in and help him win election next November.

SCHOOL BUSING—"As Superintendent of Public Instruction, I will never force a school district to choose busing as the method of desegregation. Busing is but one approach that a community may choose to adopt. I will not tell a school district to adopt—or reject—any one approach. Experience has shown that busing will be successful only where the parents and children are convinced that there is a good school and a good program at the end of the

line. Thousands of parents willingly bus their children to school every day—for purposes other than desegregation—in order to allow the children to enjoy enriched programs not otherwise available. But all parents rebel at busing their children to a substandard school or a substandard program."

TEACHER QUALITY—"A good education is dependent upon teacher competency. Every parent has the right to demand that his child's teacher has had the best preparation available. As Superintendent of Public Instruction, I will take advantage of my position as a Regent of the University of California and Trustee of the California State Colleges to work to improve teacher training programs."

ACCOUNTABILITY—"I will institute accountability at all levels of California education. You have a right to hold us accountable for what we promise—quality education for every child. We will set clear objectives for our schools; objectives that parents and teachers understand." (As Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Riles kept the administrative costs of a program under his Administration to less than one percent—\$764,079 of a \$79 million program while Rafferty's administrators spent \$968,114 to run a \$14 million program—nearly 7 percent.)

SCHOOL FINANCE—"If we are to improve our schools, it is imperative that we solve the financial crisis that threatens the quality of California education. My department will pressure the legislature to reinstitute the full partnership between the state and local districts in school support. The state must pay at least 50 percent of school costs. The tax burden must shift from property owners to the state and federal levels. The quality of every child's education should not depend on where he lives.

(Under Rafferty's rule, the state's share has dropped from 41.2 percent to 36.6 percent statewide. In Los Angeles, the state's largest school district, it has dropped to 28%.)

PRE-SCHOOL—"The expansion of our pre-school program is essential. Head Start and

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Labor at the Legislature

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fornia Manufacturers' Association," Song said that the bill's approval by the Assembly Commerce and Public Utilities Committee "is far from certain."

* * *

President Pro Temp Jack Schrade has appointed Senate Democratic Majority Leader, George Moscone, to the Senate Committee on Industrial Relations. The appointment of Senator Moscone helps bring a better balance to this important committee which acts on many of the bills vital to the interests of California workers.

* * *

The legislature has approved and sent to the Governor a \$6 million bill designed to provide nutritious school meals for the children of parents obliged to accept welfare assistance.

The measure, AB 750, is designed to provide low-cost school lunches for malnourished children and those in danger of suffering from malnutrition. It calls for guaranteed year-to-year state financing of the program, sets the price of lunches at 5 to 20 cents, and prohibits schools from publicly identifying children who receive the meals.

Meet Wilson Riles -- An Able Man for State's Top School Post

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California pre-school programs are successful in preparing disadvantaged children for school. But only a fraction of the children who need these classes are presently enrolled."

STUDENT UNREST — "The violent few must be dealt with swiftly and effectively. However, the dramatic increase in campus chaos during the Raftery regime indicates that after-the-fact reaction is no solution. Today's youth are creative, intelligent and idealistic. We cannot treat them as passive receptacles into which we pour facts. We should involve them more as active participants in their own education and prepare them for the responsibility of leadership that they will soon assume. Literally, tomorrow is in school today."

Crucial Fight Nears Over Strong Worker Safety Bill

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when it comes up for a vote.

This week Henning wrote to all members of the California delegation in the House of Representatives urging support for the bill saying:

"HR 16785, a bill of vital concern to the working people of America, has been reported by the House Committee on Education and Labor and is expected to be voted on later this month. This bill by Rep. Dominick Daniels of New Jersey would establish and enforce federal standards for occupational health and safety.

"California labor strongly backs this measure. I urgently request your support and affirmative vote for this important legislation. As President Meany of the AFL-CIO has pointed out, 'Workers should never be called upon to pay for their jobs with their health or their lives.'"

Henning also wrote to all central labor and craft councils in California to alert them to the battle and urge them to generate all possible support for this much needed bill.

Opponents of the measure are expected to attempt to press for a weak, inadequate substitute for the Daniels bill, some versions of which have already

been voted down by the Select Labor Subcommittee of the House and by the full Education and Labor Committee when it reported the bill out on June 16.

Among other things, the Daniels bill would:

- Vest full authority in the Secretary of Labor to issue occupational health and safety standards and to use these standards to protect the workers, with full procedural safeguards to both management and workers, including recourse to the federal courts.

- Authorize the Secretary of Labor to enforce the act, which provides penalties against violators and persons who warn management of an impending inspection, and to shut down any plant or process in which an inspector finds an imminent danger which may result in injury or loss of life.

- Require management to monitor toxic or hazardous substances and give workers information necessary to identify and protect themselves from such substances.

The bill would also assure the right of the employee's representative to accompany the inspector when he visits the establishment and the right of the worker to leave the job without management discrimination if

Reagan Funds Dwarf Unruh's In Primary

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more left over than Unruh's entire campaign budget.

According to primary campaign expenses reported to the Secretary of State's office as a result of a campaign contributions disclosure law authored by Unruh last year, Reagan supporters raised \$1,245,235 and spent \$860,179, leaving a balance of \$385,056.

In contrast, Unruh reported contributions of \$383,337, and expenditures of \$320,042.

Even allowing for the diversion of \$120,000 of Reagan's funds to the fight against Proposition 8, the figures still show that Reagan spent nearly twice as much per vote as Unruh—39.4 cents versus 20.3 cents.

But Reagan undoubtedly benefited from the \$120,000 spent against Prop. 8. If this is included, then the gap between the amount spent per vote jumps to 45.9 cents for Reagan and 20.3 cents for Unruh.

he is exposed to hazardous substances above levels which are defined by lists to be developed by the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare as being harmful to him.

The business-Nixon Administration coalition opposing H.R. 16785 wants an industry-dominated board to have charge of developing and issuing business-produced occupational safety and health standards.

It also wants to water down the AFL-CIO-backed bill by having a so-called Occupational Safety and Health Court handle enforcement matters and by having imminent danger situations referred to federal courts for injunctions before the condition can be remedied.

In addition, opponents want no provisions requiring business management to monitor concentrations of toxic materials in the plant.

Enactment of H.R. 16785 is clearly in the interests of all U.S. workers. The State AFL-CIO urges all workers to write their congressmen immediately to fight for passage of H.R. 16785 without crippling amendments.

DRUG ABUSE—"Drug abuse is a major social problem. Schools alone cannot solve this problem—but they can play a major role. By working with parents, the community, and other public agencies, schools can provide a comprehensive information program that gives youth facts about drugs."

Riles, married and the father of four grown children, has also pointed out that while California is sixth in the nation in per capita personal income, it is 21st in per pupil expenditure.

"We must begin putting our money where our future is—in our children," he says.

Prior to his more recent executive and administrative posts, Riles served as an elementary school teacher for 14 years.

He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Northern Arizona University and an honorary doctorate of laws from Pepperdine College. He has also served on the National Advisory Committee on the Teachers Corps, and on the Advisory Board on Educational Tuition and the Voucher System for Harvard University.

New UCLA Center Chief

Ted Ellsworth has been appointed to replace Arthur Carstens as head of the Center for Labor Research and Education at the U.C.L.A. Institute of Industrial Relations. The Center was set up at the urging of the State AFL-CIO six years ago. Carstens retired June 30. Ellsworth's title will be Administrator of Labor Programs.

Frontlash Aide Sets Up HQ In State COPE Office

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cal COPEs. The Frontlash program has been endorsed by the national AFL-CIO, he added.

Frontlash programs are already underway in Los Angeles, San Jose, Oakland, San Francisco and Sacramento and new programs are being developed in San Mateo, Marin, Sonoma, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties.

Prior to joining Frontlash, Jessup, 29, who earned his M.A. in Sociology at the University of California at Berkeley, served in the Peace Corps in Peru for two years and subsequently organized an Inter-American Youth Conference in Bogota, Colombia, that was held January 1, 1970, with the support of organized labor.

Jessup's San Francisco headquarters are at the State COPE offices at 995 Market St. (415-986-3585).

In small-scale voter registration efforts mounted prior to the June 2 California primary election, Frontlash volunteers succeeded in registering some 7,500 citizens. Between now and the September 10 voter registration deadline for the November 3 General Election it hopes to multiply that figure many times.

Of California's total population of nearly 20 million, an estimated 12 million are potentially eligible voters. As of the June 2, 1970, primary only 8,053,389 were registered.

In short, the target for both the local COPEs and Frontlash non-partisan voter registration drives is nearly four million unregistered California citizens.

Air Traffic Controllers Vote To Join M.E.B.A.

The Professional Air Traffic Controllers Association has voted by an overwhelming 92 percent majority in favor of joining the AFL-CIO Marine Engineers Beneficial Association in a nationwide referendum.

John Leyden, PATCO president, said he was "greatly enthused by the vote" and noted that the merger "brings us new resources, including the MEBA's very considerable experience in labor-management

COMMITTEE FAILS TO ACT BUT . . .

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percent, the same as a month earlier, even though the national rate dropped from 5.0 percent in May to 4.7 percent in June, Henning said:

"The crunch caused by the current recession is making tens of thousands of haplessly jobless workers painfully aware of the inadequacies of the state's unemployment insurance program.

"Benefit levels are inadequate, the duration of benefits is inadequate, disqualification provisions are harsh and discriminatory, hundreds of thousands of workers lack coverage and the amount of wages an unemployed worker may presently earn without suffering a cut in his weekly benefits is unrealistically pegged at only \$12."

A series of Federation-sponsored bills introduced by Assemblyman Leon Ralph (D-Los Angeles), designed to modernize the program were reported by the Subcommittee on Unemployment Insurance and Disability Insurance of the Assembly Finance and Insurance Committee on Wednesday, July 8, but all were held in committee.

The series of bills, AB 842 through AB 848, also include a measure to finance the improvements by increasing the present woefully outmoded \$3,800 maximum taxable wage base. Henning and other labor representatives were present at hearings on the measures earlier this year.

The same committee also failed to take affirmative action on three other federation bills introduced by Assemblyman Jess Unruh, AB 763—AB 765 which are designed to improve the State's disability insurance

relations for professional people."

Jesse Calhoun, president of the MEBA, said he expects both groups will reap "great dividends from working together to improve the status and well-being of professional and technical people in many varied occupations."

program.

To provide some inkling of the shortcomings of the State's existing unemployment insurance program, Henning pointed out that when originally enacted in 1935 the weekly benefit was 50 percent of the average weekly wage and that this rose to 58 percent in 1940.

But last year the State's present \$65 maximum weekly benefit amounted to only 44 percent of the average weekly wage in covered employment and the average weekly benefit actually paid last year dropped to only 35.5 percent of average weekly wages, he said.

"With California's jobless rate now 27 percent higher than the national average and Nixon Administration spokesmen predicting a further rise in the national rate of nearly a full percentage point to 5.6 percent, the need for immediate positive action to modernize California's jobless pay program should be obvious to all California legislators," Henning said.

The state reports attributed

the whopping 68,000 over-the-month increase in joblessness to, among other things, further layoffs in the aerospace industry and a less than usual rise in construction employment.

Despite the drop in the U.S. jobless rate, unemployment nationally rose 1.3 million over the month to total 4.7 million in June. The Labor Department attributed this seeming contradiction to the fact that the number of adult women and teenagers seeking employment fell below expectations. This could be because they lost all hope of finding employment during the current recession and dropped out of the job market.

The June figures indicate that although California houses less than 10 percent of the nation's population, 11.5 percent of its residents are jobless.

The nation's total civilian labor force rose 2.3 million to 84.1 million in June and California's total labor force was pegged at 8,733,000, some 251,000 higher than a year earlier.

"WE DON'T PATRONIZE"

Here are the firms currently on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. Firms are placed on the list in response to written requests from affiliates upon approval of the Federation's Executive Council.

Affiliates involved are urged to inform the Federation of any future contract settlements or other developments that would warrant the removal of any of these anti-union firms from the Federation's list.

Coors Beer.

Giumarra Vineyards, including products marketed under such various labels as: Grape King; ARRA; Uptown; Mr. G.; GBC; Honeybunch; Ar-Cal; Blue-Jay; Del-Ora; Haddad; J.J.; Pow Wow; and Royal K.

MacMillan Ring Free Oil Company.

Tennessee Plastics of Johnson City, Tennessee.

The Nut Tree and the Coffee Tree Restaurants, on Highway 40 between San Francisco and Sacramento.

San Rafael Independent Journal.

The following San Diego area motels:

Bahia Motel and Motor Lodge
Catamarran Motor Hotel and Restaurant

Islandia Hotel and Restaurant

In addition the Federation is supporting such national AFL-CIO consumer boycotts as those in progress against non-union California table grapes; the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner and the Kingsport Press of Kingsport, Tenn., publishers of the "World Book" and "Child Craft" series.