



California AFL-CIO News

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Grape Boycott End Announced By Meany

AFL-CIO President George Meany announced the official end of the nationwide consumer boycott of California table grapes in the course of his keynote address to the opening session of the California Labor Federation's Eighth Convention on Monday.

Meany said the boycott would officially end the following day, Tuesday, September 1, nearly five years after farm workers in the Delano area walked out of the vineyards to start their historic strike for union recognition and full collective bargaining rights.

Describing the grape boycott and farm workers' strike as an example of what organized workers in the AFL-CIO can do to lend their strength and their material resources "to help people who are unable because of adverse economic conditions to help themselves," Meany said:

"The boycott was a success because of the support of the national unions, because of the support of this State AFL-CIO

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Labor Day Message

By JOHN F. HENNING
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

American Labor's place in an era of social convulsion is of importance not only to the union movement but to the nation itself. Although Labor is no longer acknowledged as the principal agent of social change in the American society, it is the one progressive force with capacity to build a new and nobler nation.

There are those who believe that special forces of protest have taken the stage of history and that Labor's future role

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Calif. Labor Backs Chavez; Unruh Hits at RTW Peril

More than 1,200 delegates representing California's 1.3 million AFL-CIO union members this week pledged their complete support to the efforts of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers' Organizing Committee to bring union contract protections to California farm workers in the course of one of the most enthusiastic State AFL-CIO Conventions held in recent years.

The delegates backed up their pledges with an on-the-spot, pass-the-hat donation of \$1,106.60, adopted a motion calling for an immediate additional \$10,000 donation to the farm workers and urged all paid officers of the AFL-CIO to contribute \$5 per month as long as necessary.

Highlights of the four-day convention
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"WE ARE WITH YOU"—Farm union leader Cesar Chavez and John F. Henning, executive officer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, shake hands and State AFL-CIO President Albin J. Gruhn smiles heartily after delegates at the Labor Federation's biennial convention in San Francisco voted an immediate \$10,000 contribution to the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers' Organizing Committee and pledged their continued solid support to the union's efforts to win union contracts for farm workers in Salinas Valley and elsewhere throughout the state.

Delegates Elect Henning, Gruhn and 2 New VPs

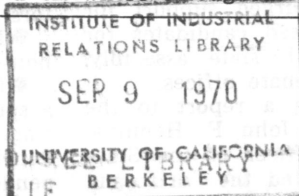
John F. Henning, former U.S. Under Secretary of Labor and U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand, has just been unanimously elected Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, at the organization's Eighth Convention in San Francisco.

Henning, chosen last March 11 by the labor organization's Executive Board to succeed veteran labor leader Thos. L. Pitts who retired due to disability, won his first full two-year term as head of the State AFL-CIO on Wednesday when the 1,200 delegates representing California's 1.3 million union members voted to cast a white ballot in his behalf.

Albin J. Gruhn, incumbent President of the organization, was unanimously re-elected to his sixth term.

Two new regional vice presidents were also elected—Lloyd J. Lea, secretary of Lumber and Sawmill Workers Local 2907 of Weed, Calif., and Steve Edney, president of the Cannery and Industrial Workers Union of the Pacific at Terminal Island in Southern California. Edney becomes the first Black ever elected to the California Labor Federation's 37-member Executive Council.

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Meany Announces End of Boycott of Table Grapes

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Federation, the support of central labor bodies all over the country, local unions and public officials at the state and local levels, and support from enlightened religious and private groups throughout the country."

While noting that organized labor will have to keep "a close watch" on the marketing of union table grapes, Meany said that the fight for rights for farm workers has moved along to the point "where we can see the real end of this road," and he added:

"And as of tomorrow, September 1, the AFL-CIO boycott of table grapes is officially declared to be off."

In reviewing the nation's domestic economic scene, Meany noted that both unemployment and the cost of living are going up and the nation is suffering the highest interest rates in more than a hundred years.

"The high interest rates," he said, "are squeezing the small businessman" and "have brought the housing industry to a standstill at a time when we need not thousands of homes but tens and hundreds of thousands of homes."

And in responding to Vice

President Spiro Agnew's recent assertion that "this idea of recession is just a myth; it doesn't exist," Meany said:

"Well, he should meet some of the people I meet. But I am quite sure that he has in mind that there is no recession with the big corporations or the banks of America."

"The banks, in hiring out their money, are getting the greatest return that they have ever gotten in history. And insofar as credit restrictions are concerned, they don't affect the big corporations whatsoever. They can afford to pay the price on the profits they make, but the small businessman finds himself stifled by this so-called monetary and fiscal policy."

On the question of civil rights, Meany said that "while we've come a long way, we still have a long, long, way to go."

He also cited the need for stronger consumer protection laws and for legislation to protect the threat to the environment posed by air and water pollution, charging that "the most important, life-giving elements provided by nature are being sacrificed on the altar of corporate greed and individual disregard by some of the welfare of others."

He urged the 1,200 AFL-CIO delegates to support California Labor COPE-endorsed candidates "to the very limit."

President Meany's address was followed by the formal opening of the convention by State AFL-CIO President Albin J. Gruhn who noted that the California Labor Federation and the National AFL-CIO are expanding the voter registration, voter education and get-out-the-vote programs.

Gruhn called on the delegates to "help win a great election victory for the people on November 3 by electing Jess Unruh as our next Governor, John Tunney as our next junior United States Senator, and Wilson Riles as our new Superintendent of Public Instruction."

He also urged support for COPE-endorsed candidates for congressional, state assembly, and state senate offices.

Earlier in a report to the convention, John F. Henning, executive officer of the State AFL-CIO cited the "drift and

indecision" of the incumbent state administration and observed that:

"Californians have now experienced nearly four years of conservative government — a government guided apparently by what it believes is the best interests of the selective few, rather than the interests of the vast majority of California's 20 million residents."

Henning called for a "massive state public works" program to help meet California's mounting unemployment crisis; a more vigorous state role in dealing with transportation problems that "threaten to strangle the state's metropolitan areas;" and actions to spur housing construction, improve manpower development programs and curb air and water pollution.

Better Benefits Urged for Workers Hurt on the Job

California's 55-year-old workmen's compensation program providing benefits for workers suffering on-the-job disabilities "is in serious need of modernization," California AFL-CIO trade unionists taking part in the State AFL-CIO Convention in San Francisco declared this week.

Accordingly, in a policy statement on Workmen's Compensation, the Convention delegates called on the California Legislature to raise benefits for both temporary and permanent disabilities, establish a mandatory rehabilitation program and assure benefit payments for life for workers suffering 70 percent or more permanent disability.

Specifically, the delegates called on California's lawmakers to:

- Hike weekly temporary disability benefits from \$87.50 to \$150;

- Increase maximum weekly permanent disability benefits from \$52.50 to \$100;

- Assure free choice of doctors;

- Extend coverage to all household domestics;

- Provide death benefits to a spouse until death or remarriage and provide payments for dependents during their dependency.

Labor Day Message

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will be minor and muffled. There are those who despair of Labor solutions in a time of wrenching change.

The American crisis is real enough. During the past five years the nation has appeared to come apart at the seams . . . war riots . . . burning cities . . . assassinations . . . student vandalism and campus death . . . drug generation . . . youth revolution . . . imposed unemployment . . . poverty . . . intimidation of news media . . . Southern strategy.

Since the President and his Cabinet simply do not understand the causes of social anarchy they can hardly approach solutions. The American conservative has nothing to offer history but passion for the past. This is Mr. Nixon's dilemma.

Thus it is not by accident that the Nixon Administration has separated the minorities and the young and the liberals from the national government. There is no place in the Washington of Mr. Nixon for Americans who dare to question the values of a corporation culture.

Labor must lead America back to social order and social democracy. Labor must remind Washington that the bounty of the richest nation of history must be the possession of the people and not simply the preserve and property of conglomerates.

Labor teachings must be honored if the nation is to enjoy liberal priorities, if the nation is to know full employment, racial amity, academic freedom, adequate housing, decent health and the social services of a contemporary state.

There remains the matter of tactics. Labor opposition to terror and absolutism on the Left must never be taken for approval of a materialistic, grasping system. Labor must never be the apologist for the reactionary powers of our national life. We are committed to the ennobling and not the exploitation of man.

Somehow we must save the nation from the failings that have unsettled the faith of our youth and caused all the world to doubt our destiny.

Delegates Elect Henning, Gruhn, And 2 New VPs

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Thirty-one incumbent State AFL-CIO vice presidents were re-elected without opposition.

The Labor Federation's General Vice President, Manuel Dias of Boilermakers Local 513, was challenged for his post by Art Carter, secretary-treasurer of the Contra Costa County Central Labor Council. Dias won the secret ballot election by a vote of 324,891 to 56,640.

Similarly, the Federation's incumbent Vice President for District 8, Thomas A. Small of Bartenders and Culinary Workers Local 340 of San Mateo, was opposed by Robert O. Delzell, secretary of the San Mateo County Central Labor Council but Small won by a vote of 333,569 to 36,860.

The delegates also selected Los Angeles as the site for their 1972 convention.

Calif. Labor Backs Chavez; Unruh Hits at RTW Peril

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which opened Monday and wound up yesterday, included:

- The announcement of AFL-CIO President George Meany, keynote speaker at the convention's opening session Monday morning, that the highly successful boycott of California table grapes would officially end the following day, Tuesday, September 1, since the grape growers in California are now 90 percent organized (see separate story).

- A quietly passionate review of the farm workers' struggle on Tuesday by Cesar Chavez who stressed the fact the current fight in the Salinas Valley "is not with other unions but with the employers." Chavez, who won repeated bursts of applause, emphasized that "that is where we are going to keep the fight." Chavez also said the farm workers need food to be sent to Salinas.

- Asst. UFWOC Director Larry Itliong's simple but eloquent plea for continued financial support from all levels of the trade union movement.

- A hard-hitting address by Jess Unruh, California Labor COPE-endorsed candidate for Governor, who attacked Governor Reagan for his anti-labor record and for doing nothing in the areas of tax reform or welfare and pointed out that welfare rolls have grown "almost 60 percent under this administration." Unruh warned that there is a "right-to-work" provision on the ballot next November although it's spelled a little different.

"It is the top line of the ballot and it is spelled 'R-O-N-A-L-D R-E-A-G-A-N,'" he said.

- A vigorous indictment delivered by Rep. John V. Tunney, California Labor COPE-endorsed candidate for the U.S. Senate, against the 5½ year record of "ineffective" representation provided by incumbent Senator George Murphy. Tunney cited Murphy's votes against medicare, against federal aid to education, against the farm workers' right to strike and against improvements in the federal minimum wage and said:

"I think it's about time we turned the seat George Murphy occupies in the Senate of the



THE GRAPE BOYCOTT'S OVER — That was the announcement made by AFL-CIO President George Meany that drew prolonged applause in the course of his keynote address to the Eighth Convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO in San Francisco this week. Meany (at left) was welcomed to the convention's opening session on Monday by John F. Henning, the State AFL-CIO's Executive Officer (at right) and Albin J. Gruhn, the State Labor Federation's President. While acknowledging "shortcomings and mistakes," Meany credited the trade union movement during his lifetime with "making more progress for human good for more people here in the United States than has ever been made by any other nation at any time in recorded history."

United States back to the people of California."

- Election of John F. Henning to his first full term as Executive officer of the Federation.

- Bayard Rustin's somber but incisive warning that "the people and the government of the United States are facing the gravest dangers we've been in since the Civil War" because "we're being sold phony answers" on how to deal with such problems as White Fear and Black Rage.

Asserting that the problem of poverty "can only be dealt with at the ballot box," Rustin said that Vice President Agnew is "not the buffoon people want to make him out to be" but on the contrary, is trying to play on the apprehensions of "confused and frightened blue collar workers" to pull them out of the Democratic Party and into the Republican Party out of fear.

But he pointed out that the only group in the country that has a program for dealing with White Fear and Black Rage is the trade union movement of this nation "because it is only the trade union movement that fights for full employment."

Citing the fact that the Blacks are enraged because they don't have decent housing, Rustin said:

"Take Mr. Nixon, he hasn't built a home for anyone but himself. He's built two additional White Houses—one in California and one in Florida.

"Every Black screaming that the problem is racism needs to stop and think," he said. "It doesn't cost a penny. They pull that racism thing because it doesn't cost anything," he said.

He noted that the two million Blacks in the trade union movement are making one-third to one-half more than Blacks outside the trade union movement and warned that we will be "in for a decade of distress" unless the liberal forces keep control of Congress in the 1970 elections because Mr. Nixon and his fellow conservatives already control both the White House and the U.S. Supreme Court.

- Authorization of a contribution to the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner Strike-Lockout Council to assist printing trades union members who will mark their 1,000th day on strike against the strikebreaker-produced Los Angeles Herald-Ex-

aminer on September 11. The amount is to be determined by the Executive Council. A march and rally will be held in Los Angeles on Sept. 11 from strike headquarters to City Hall at 2 p.m. All trade unionists are urged to take part.

- Approval for the Executive Council to make a similar contribution to the embattled workers of the San Rafael Independent-Journal where ITU Local 21 has been on strike since January 7.

- A keen analysis of the causes of student unrest by Charlotte Roe, national executive director of Frontlash 1970, a program to mobilize students and young people to work for voter registration, voter education and an effective get-out-the-vote drive in minority and low-income communities. She praised the California Labor Federation not only for endorsing the program but for actively supporting it.

- A special meeting on "Womanpower" Tuesday night addressed by Mrs. Margaret Thornburgh, Western Area Director of the National AFL-CIO Women's Activities Department, at which the consensus was to work for the immediate development of women's activities in the field of political education at all levels of the trade union movement throughout the state.

Among other things, the delegates adopted 16 wide-ranging policy statements and scores of the 140 resolutions presented to the convention by affiliates for action. Some of the policy statements are reported in detail in this issue; others will be reported in subsequent issues of the California AFL-CIO News.

They also voted approval of the Executive Council's recommendations on the 20 statewide propositions to appear on the November 3 ballot.

These recommendations called for a YES vote on Propositions No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13, 15, 17, and 20; a NO vote on Propositions No. 9, 10, and 19; and made no recommendation on Propositions No. 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16, and 18. Details on the aims of each of these propositions were carried in the August 28, 1970 issue of the California AFL-CIO News.

More Effort Urged to Win Equal Job Rights for All

A call to labor, business and government to "continue to increase their efforts to assure equality of job opportunity for all peoples" was issued by delegates to the State AFL-CIO convention in San Francisco this week.

Emphasizing that a full employment economy is essential in the struggle to provide jobs for minority peoples because "the right to a job is no right unless jobs are available for those who need them," the delegates adopted a policy statement on Civil Rights calling for "massive government programs to alleviate minority disadvantages in the areas of housing, health, education, welfare and judicial justice."

JOB CREATION URGED

Noting that the jobless rate among Blacks and other minority races has been about double the rate among Whites for 15 years and that the median income of the Negro family in 1968 was only about 60 percent that of whites, the delegates called for comprehensive legislation "to provide a mechanism for meaningful job creation programs, including the public service sector."

At the same time they sharply attacked the Nixon Administration's so-called "Philadelphia Plan."

"We condemn the political expediency of the National Administration designed to drive a wedge between trade unionists and minorities by offering false hopes of future employment through such programs as the 'Philadelphia Plan,'" the policy statement said.

MINORITY AID BACKED

But the State AFL-CIO delegates voiced their strong support for "meaningful minority apprenticeship recruiting programs like 'Outreach.'"

Specifically, the State AFL-CIO Convention delegates called for "massive and immediate programs" to:

- Provide jobs for all;
- Provide low-cost housing sufficient to meet needs and eliminate ghettos;
- Provide educational opportunity of quality for all, with special programs to meet special minority and disadvantaged group needs;
- Eliminate discrimination in the administration of justice and social welfare programs;

● Consolidate manpower programs in the Labor Department and provide meaningful job creation programs, including employment in the public service sector.

The statement also recognized the problems of Mexican-Americans and others of Spanish surnames and American Indians and quoted a study prepared by the Colorado Civil

Rights Commission dealing with discrimination against Mexican-Americans which observed that:

"There is evidence of a job caste that walls off white-collar jobs from minority workers, and this wall is stouter against Spanish surnames in areas where their numbers in the population are proportionately greater, as it is for Negroes in

those areas where they are a more prominent part of the population."

On the more positive side, the statement noted that between 1966 and 1969 the percentage of Negro men ages 25 to 29 who had at least finished high school rose from 50 to 60 percent.

"This," it observed, "is a beginning."

Labor Asks Action to Halt Inflation, Ease Recession

"It is high time that the present administration abandon the notion that extensive unemployment is a useful and proper tool for controlling inflation," delegates to the California Labor Federation's Eighth Convention declared Monday in adopting a policy statement on "Full

as employees' wages and salaries."

To drive home the severe adverse impact of high interest rates, the delegates called attention to the recent hike in Federal Housing and Veterans Administration's rates from 7½ to 8½ percent.

What this meant for consumers, the delegates said, was a 10 percent increase in the monthly payment on a 30-year \$20,000 mortgage or a total cost of \$5,000 more.

"This is more than the total wages and fringe benefits received by the construction workers who built the house," the delegates' statement said.

It also called for strengthening the nation's unemployment insurance program both as "a measure of social justice to the involuntarily unemployed and a contribution to the stabilization of the economy."

Between July 1969 and July 1970, the unemployed in California rose from 387,000 to 558,000, an increase of 41 percent. During the same period the state's jobless rate jumped from 4.4 percent to 6.2 percent, an increase of 44 percent.

\$20 Million More for Disabled Vets

Disabled veterans and Californians will get at least \$20 million more a year in benefits thanks to a veteran's compensation bill just signed by the President which was sponsored by U.S. Senator Alan Cranston.

Cranston, who was elected to the Senate in 1968 with strong

Benefit Hike for Workers Hurt Off-Job Sought

Better benefits for workers suffering off-the-job disabilities were urged this week by delegates to the California Labor Federation's Eighth Convention at the Civic Auditorium in San Francisco.

The AFL-CIO delegates representing 1.3 million AFL-CIO union members throughout the state pointed out that the worker-financed disability insurance program's benefits have failed to keep pace with rising wage levels.

In approving a policy statement on Unemployment Disability Insurance, the delegates called attention to the fact that just five years ago in 1965 the maximum benefit amounted to 66 percent of wages lost during the highest quarter within the qualifying period but that today this has fallen below 60 percent.

At present the minimum benefit is \$25 per week and the maximum \$87.

Accordingly the delegates called for:

- A hike in the maximum weekly benefit from \$87 to \$150;
- Provisions covering hospital confinements due to pregnancy;
- And an increase in the present \$7,400 taxable wage base to strengthen the financing of the program.

support from California Labor COPE, said the new law increases monthly payments for veterans with service-connected disabilities by an average of 11 percent.

The measure was signed early last month and is retroactive to July 1, 1970.