

# Season's Greetings



## California AFL-CIO News

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Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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### New Extended U.I. Benefits Program Begun

With unemployment levels at their highest in many years, a new federal-state extended benefits program for workers covered by unemployment insurance became effective at the start of this week.

Activated by passage of AB 739 in the 1970 legislature and enabling legislation from Congress, the program is financed half from federal taxes and half from state UI funds. The federal law calls for adoption of the program nationally by January, 1972, but allowed individual states to start early. Governor Reagan's signature of AB 739 exercised that option for California.

The Department of Human Resources Development states the effect of the new federal-state program is to trigger unemployment insurance payments to eligible workers when the rate of covered unemployment is 4 percent, and at least 20 percent higher than the rate for the corresponding period in the last two years.

California's own UI program provides for extended benefit payments when the covered unemployment rate is 6 percent,

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### January Seminar On Bargaining

The AFL-CIO Labor Studies Center, in cooperation with the AFL-CIO department of research, during January will conduct a seminar for research staff and other union staff active in collective bargaining. The seminar will be held at the Center in Washington, D.C., be-

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## '71 Scholarship Program Announcement is Made

This week the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, sent out detailed announcements and application forms of its 1971 Scholarship Program for high schools throughout the state.

In a letter to principals of California high schools, Executive Secretary John F. Henning revealed the Federation is offering twenty-three \$500 awards to competing graduating seniors of public and private high schools.

Student applications, which accompanied the announcements, are due back by March 5, 1971, together with the student's transcript. Scholarship examination questions will be sent out during that month, along with other materials.

#### Exams April 2

"We would like to have the examination held in your school April 2, 1971," Henning informed the school administrators. "The results will be announced later in May after all the test books have been processed by our distinguished panel of judges."

This is the 21st annual competition under the auspices of the state labor organization and its affiliated co-sponsors.

"The labor movement in California is proud of this scholarship program," the Federation executive said, "and we fully appreciate the assistance extended by the schools in making it a success."

#### 1970 Winners

In 1970, applicants reached a total of 2248. Twenty-four outstanding winners receiving scholarships, with many more scoring high and meriting awards if they had been available. In calling on Federation affiliates to participate in the program, Henning stated that co-sponsors for the 1971 program can be accepted through April 1, 1971.

Co-sponsors for 1971 with the Federation include Butchers' (Continued on Page 4)

## Strong Consumers' Voice Vital, Federation Says

A strong consumers' voice at all levels of government "is essential" to protect workers' wages, delegates to the State AFL-CIO Biennial Convention in San Francisco declared.

The delegates, representing 1.6 million AFL-CIO union members in the state, spelled out the powers and duties that should be conferred on public consumer representatives and called for strong government action to protect consumers in such areas as product labeling, lending, and the inspection of food, drugs, and clothing.

They also called for the registration of auto repair dealers to protect consumers from substandard work or deceptive practices.

A precedent in this field was set several years ago when a State Labor Federation-backed bill requiring the registration of TV and electronic repair dealers won enactment.

Noting that the maintenance of satisfactory earning power demands that workers receive

goods and services of dependable quality at reasonable prices for wages spent, the delegates adopted a policy statement on Consumer Protection which urged that public consumer representatives be empowered:

- To receive and investigate complaints and to use class action suits to resolve them when necessary;

- To make studies and conduct surveys to promote consumer interests;

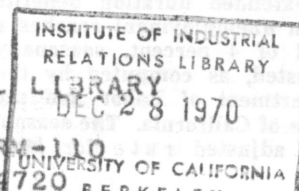
- To propose and advocate matters of consumer interest before administrative agencies, the legislature and the courts; and

- To represent consumers before the Public Utilities Commission.

In the latter connection, the trade unionists called for the funding of consumer representation before the PUC to be provided from the rate base of the regulated utilities and that it be an amount equal to the cost to consumers by the util-

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# Meany Answers Questions on Trade Unions Abroad

**QUESTION 5:** Trade unionists in Spain are being persecuted. What measures would you suggest which would restore the rights of the workers there?

**MR. MEANY:** "It is not for American labor to give the Spanish workers a blueprint for getting rid of their dictatorship and winning the right to freedom of association, to organize free trade unions, to strike, and enjoy the benefits of collective bargaining. We know that, especially in recent years, the Spanish workers have been fighting courageously to win the basic democratic rights and to use them for improving their conditions of life and labor.

"American labor has vigorously condemned Franco's persecution of the Spanish workers. We have assisted the he-

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*Der Spiegel, a weekly news magazine similar to NEWSWEEK published in West Germany, recently put a series of questions to AFL-CIO President George Meany dealing with the Federation's position regarding trade unions and organized labor in Germany, the Soviet Union, and Spain. Since the questions are involved and the answers necessarily lengthy, the California AFL-CIO News has been carrying one question and one answer over a period of several weeks. This is the last in the series.*

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roic Spanish freedom fighters. The AFL-CIO holds to the principle that the workers of no country should do anything to help the oppressors of labor in any other country. In this light, we would be prepared to join with world free labor in an economic boycott of the dictatorial Falangist regime.

"In the same spirit of solidarity with the Spanish work-

ers and hostility to the regime which oppresses them, we have sought the condemnation of the Spanish dictatorship in the court of world opinion and have advocated that no moral or material assistance should be given by our own or any other democratic government to the Franco regime. Hence, American labor opposed U.N. membership for Falangist Spain on

the ground that it was, in principle and practice, against the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration of Human Rights.

"The fact that our government has relations with its counterpart, the government in Spain, does not mean that we of the AFL-CIO should enter into delegation exchanges with Franco's 'unions', which are no more our counterparts than are Shelepin's Labor Fronts. Exchanges on our part with the government-dominated Falangist 'unions' would lend credibility and respectability to them as bona fide labor organizations. This would not help but actually hurt the Spanish workers aspiring to freedom and democracy and thus play into the hands of the Falangist dictatorship."

## New Federal-State U.I. Benefits Extension Begun

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under a slightly different formula.

The state and federal-state extended program provide that benefits are payable when the "rate of unemployment" reaches a certain level. This rate is found by dividing the total number of persons in employment covered by unemployment insurance into the number of weeks of unemployment insurance claimed in the state.

The "unemployment rate" generally referred to in the news media includes those not drawing unemployment insurance benefits.

Under the new system, unemployed workers who have received all benefit payments due by reason of their last regular UI claim in California will be able to receive additional benefits previously not available. California is the fifth state in the nation to inaugurate the emergency measure.

Others currently using the program are Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Michigan. Washington State, disastrously hit by unemployment particularly in aerospace industries, has had its own extended benefits program since June.

Qualified workers will receive a weekly benefit amount up to a maximum of half of the

total award payable on the last regular California claim. HRD listed the following criteria for an individual to qualify under the new extended benefits plan:

1. He is unemployed.
2. He has received all benefits payable on his last regular California unemployment insurance claim.
3. The benefit year of his last regular California unemployment insurance claim ends after December 20, 1970.
4. His extended claim has an effective date in the extended benefit period beginning December 20, 1970.
5. He has no rights to unemployment benefits under any other federal or state unemployment insurance program.
6. He meets all of the eligibility requirements for regular benefits.

A person who files an extended claim under the federal-state program must discontinue such claim as soon as he is able to file a regular claim.

This new "extended benefit" law permits a person covered under UI who has exhausted benefits to be eligible for up to an additional 13 weeks of extended duration benefits when unemployment reaches a level of 4 percent, seasonally adjusted, as computed by the Department of Labor and the State of California. The seasonally adjusted rate for May,

June and July, was 4.84 percent, 5.02 percent and 4.94 percent, respectively.

A person who has used up benefits under the current benefit year will not have to go through any additional "waiting period" before benefits are payable. There will be administrative delay and it will actually take three weeks before checks are received, HRD spokesmen have said.

Once the claim is approved, extended benefits at the same weekly amount as regular benefits will be payable for up to half the number of weeks approved on the original claim.

Original benefits are established at varying weekly amounts for periods ranging from 14½ to 26 weeks, depending on the amount paid into the state fund during the worker's base year.

In cases where both the federal-state and the state programs are triggered the claimants must first file for federal-state benefits if he qualifies, the department advises. If he does not qualify for federal-state but does for state, he can file for California extended duration benefits.

If the period in which a qualified person may claim federal-state extended benefits ends before he has an opportunity to draw all of the benefits in his award, he may, if qualified,

claim the remaining benefits under the California extended duration program.

Federal-state extended benefits, like California extended duration benefits, are not chargeable to employers' reserve accounts.

AB 739 also made changes in the state's own extended duration benefits program. The program now triggers on a weekly rather than a monthly basis. In addition, a claimant may now be paid California extended duration benefits only if the week for which he claims is itself an extended duration week. He may in any event draw benefits for the week in which he files his first claim and the next eight consecutive weeks, HRD says.

The federal program has no similar restriction, but it does stop benefit payments when the program triggers off.

The federal program simply guarantees a minimum of thirteen weeks for which claims can be paid, once it triggers on. A claimant who first filed in the last week just before the federal program triggers off would be paid only for that week. A claimant who first filed in the last week just before the state program triggered off would be paid for that week and the eight following weeks, if otherwise eligible, according to HRD.

# U. S. Unemployment High, Rising

A bigger than usual rise in unemployment in November and a drop in non-farm jobs pushed the nation's jobless rate up to 5.8 per cent, the highest level in seven and a half years.

The Labor Department reported that after seasonal adjustments 4.8 million workers were out of jobs and looking for work.

Since November 1969 when the jobless rate was 3.5 per cent of the work force, unemployment has risen 1.9 million. This includes 905,000 adult men, 565,000 adult women and 430,000 teenagers.

AFL-CIO officials, reacting to the continuing rise in the jobless rate, called the situation "tragic," adding that "we wished that our predictions hadn't been so accurate."

Especially appalling is the impact on the young, the Blacks and the returning servicemen, further proving that "the Administration's economic game plan won't work," the Federation said.

Last month's increase in unemployment from the 5.6 per cent level in October, was greatest among women in the 16-24 age bracket. The jobless rate for adult men and teenagers showed little change over the month.

## State's Jobless at 6.9 Per Cent

In November, unemployment in California bucked the national trend and declined from October, dropping from 7.2 per cent to 6.9, according to the State Department of Human Resources Development. However, the rate in November 1969 was 4.6 per cent. It is also noted that, despite the decline, California's rate is still higher than the national rate of 5.8 per cent.

Overall, the number of unemployed workers increased by 350,000 from October to an unadjusted level of 4.6 million while non-farm payroll employment declined 135,000, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

Secondary effects of the General Motors strike were significant in the jobs decline, but the exact impact could not be measured, said BLS Assistant Commissioner Harold Goldstein. The strikers themselves are not counted as being unemployed.

Goldstein pointed out that employment in other sectors of the economy, especially in aerospace and defense work, also continued to decline over the month.

The unemployment rate for adult women climbed from 5.1 per cent in October to 5.5 per cent last month. This increase mainly reflected the rising job-

lessness in the 20-24 age group, up sharply from 7.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent.

For all adult men, the unemployment rate rose one-tenth of 1 per cent to 4.2 per cent. The teenage jobless rate for both sexes rose to 17.5 per cent from 17.1 per cent in October.

A significant rise was also shown in the jobless rate for full-time workers, increasing five tenths of 1 per cent to 5.5 per cent, while the rate for part-time workers declined one-tenth of 1 per cent to 8.1 per cent.

The BLS also reported that the jobless rate for returning servicemen in the 20-24 age range was 9.1 per cent in the third quarter of 1970 compared with 8.5 per cent for non-veterans. The jobless rate for Negro veterans was 18.1 per cent.

For the work force as a whole

last month, White workers accounted for all the increase in joblessness. Their unemployment rate rose from 5.2 per cent in October to 5.5 per cent, the highest since October 1961. The jobless rate for Negroes declined from 9.3 per cent to 8.8 per cent in November.

While the jobless rate for white-collar workers increased from 3.2 to 3.5 per cent last month, the blue-collar rate edged up from 7.2 to 7.3 per cent.

In manufacturing, the unemployment rate rose to 7.2 per cent from 6.7 per cent in October. Unemployment in the construction industry declined from 11.9 to 9.1 per cent last month, the lowest level since April.

Long-term unemployment climbed to the highest point since 1965, the BLS noted, with the number of workers out of a job 15 weeks or longer totaling 870,000 — up 125,000 from October. The average duration of unemployment last month rose from 8.3 to 9.4 weeks.

Average weekly earnings, reflecting the decline in the week, dropped 66 cents to \$121.07. Over the year ended in October, average earnings were down 2 per cent when adjusted for consumer price increase.

## Testimonial for Bayard Rustin in New York As Assist to Randolph Institute

Representatives of California Labor COPE and California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, joined a throng of nearly 1,500 at a dinner in New York City December 14 to honor Bayard Rustin.

Among the honored guests, a place was prepared for Cesar Chavez, head of UFWOC, who was unable to be present because of being jailed in Salinas in connection with the farm workers' organizing campaign. When his name was called, Chavez was accorded a standing ovation by those present.

The dinner, organized to raise funds for the A. Philip Randolph Institute, honored Rustin for his three decades as the top tactician of the civil rights movement. Rustin, now executive director of the Institute, organized the first freedom rides, the Journey for Re-

conciliation in 1946, the Montgomery bus boycott in the 1950s, the massive 1963 March on Washington and the 1968 Memphis march for Dr. Martin Luther King's funeral. He was a speaker at the California Labor Federation convention at San Francisco last summer.

The ballot box and the union card are the only weapons that can bring economic justice to America, Rustin told those at the dinner. And that goal won't be achieved until Blacks and liberals quit confusing slogans, lifestyles and emotions with results, he declared.

Rustin said, civil rights activists must move from protest to politics and the effort won't be successful "unless we keep the blue-collar worker in our coalition and not drive him into Nixon's." Rustin termed Nixon's Administration a "national

disaster for the poor and minorities."

Also speaking on the program were AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany and NAACP Director Roy Wilkins. U.S. Senators Edmund S. Muskie, D-Me., and Birch Bayh, D-Ind., attended the testimonial for Rustin, at which AFL-CIO Sec. Treas. Lane Kirkland was master of ceremonies.

Meany called the work of the institute "one of the best investments the trade union movement ever made" when the AFL-CIO voted funds to it six years ago and announced plans for the expansion of institute activities. Meany cited the expansion of the apprenticeship program, Operation Outreach, into 80 U.S. cities under the sponsorship of various groups.

## Health Insurance Book Available

The AFL-CIO in Washington has issued a pamphlet entitled "National Health Insurance: Labor's No. 1 Goal," based on a recent nationwide broadcast by AFL-CIO President George Meany.

In this address, President Meany expressed organized labor's concern for upgrading America's standard of health by establishment of a new and better system of delivering health care to the American people.

Copies of the pamphlet are available in reasonable quantities without cost from the AFL-CIO Pamphlet Division, 815 16th Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

## Pay in '30s

A Guild wage survey in the early 1930s reported average weekly earnings by newspaper reporters at \$38; printers at \$50.

## Meany Statement On Safety Bill

A landmark job safety and occupational health bill has won final congressional approval and the AFL-CIO, which led the long fight for passage, has called upon the Administration to follow through with a strong enforcement program.

AFL-CIO President George Meany made the following statement on passage of the bill:

"Passage of the Job Safety and Occupational Health Bill is a long step down the road toward a safe and healthy workplace in America. But achievement of that goal will not be automatic.

"For the first time, we have the mechanism for setting safety and health standards by the Department of Labor. But mere setting of standards is not enough. There must be close scrutiny, constant policing and prompt and adequate enforcement to make sure the goal of this legislation is realized.

"We intend to make sure this is done, and if the enforcement machinery in this bill fails, we will immediately petition the Congress to strengthen and improve it.

"We intend that this machinery, which we have sought for so long, be used fully, effectively and without delay in order to alleviate the horrible toll of suffering and death in America's workplaces."

## Insurance Workers Strike Against CSE Company

Local CSE of the Insurance Worker's International Union, AFL-CIO, went on strike Thursday morning, December 17, protesting the unfair labor practices of Civil Service Employees Insurance Company. Local CSE won an NLRB election in June, 1968. The company promptly filed exceptions and appeals to the NLRB by the company were not settled until June, 1970. In June the union was certified by the NLRB.

The IWIU local states that during its 2½ years of organ-

izing the company discriminated against union solicitation while allowing solicitation of non-union business, that the company fired five persons for union activity, and that President Al Hermes of Local CSE was fired last July for distributing union literature on his lunch hour and for writing a memo to management correcting an anti-union memo they gave to employees.

The strike has the sanction of the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Central Labor Council.

Executive Secretary-Treasurer John F. Henning of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, has written to the company protesting their refusal to bargain with Local CSE and the firing of union members.

Since certification in June the company has bargained a total of three hours with the union, according to a union spokesman. They submitted a draft contract described by the local as medieval in its anti-union tone and contents.

The local's strike demands are the immediate reinstatement, with back pay, of the five union members who were fired; and immediate resumption of meaningful contract negotiations.

## Strong Voice For Consumer

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ities for their own representation before the PUC.

Among other things, the delegates' statement called for:

- Truth in labeling of products to counteract concealment of true quantity and quality, including ingredients that may be harmful to health.

- Truth in lending to prevent concealment of extensive interest and other charges.

- Inspection of foods and drugs to exclude dangerous ingredients and of other products such as clothing to assure they are not made of inflammable or other harmful materials.

- An increase in the dollar amount of claims within the jurisdiction of small claims courts to account for the impact of inflation.

- And notification to consumers if their credit rating is under investigation with the proviso that consumers be given an opportunity to review evidence and present their own cases.

The statement also cited the need for consumer protection in the area of unwarranted cancellations of auto insurance and exorbitant auto insurance rates and called for public consumer representatives to conduct programs in consumer education.

## January Seminar On Bargaining

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tween 9 a.m. Jan. 20 and noon Jan. 22.

Registration closes on January 12. Detailed information on the seminar will be sent directly to participants.

The program will cover the nature of conglomerates and multi-national corporations, income maintenance and job security, new trends and new issues in collective bargaining in the 1970s and changes in the Labor-Management Relations Act necessary to meet collective bargaining needs in the coming decade.

## 1971 Federation Scholarship Program Announcement Made

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Union Local 120, Oakland; Butchers' Union Local 498, Sacramento; California Federation of Teachers, AFT; Carpenters' Ladies Auxiliary, California State Council; California State Council of Carpenters; California State Council of Culinary Workers, Bartenders and Hotel and Motel Service Employees.

Other co-sponsors are Federated Fire Fighters of California; Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council; Los Angeles District Council of Carpenters; Marine Cooks and Stewards Union, AFL-CIO; Northern California District Council of Laborers; Southern California District Council of Laborers; Western Federation of Butchers; United Transportation Union, California State Legislative Board; State Building and Construction Trades Council of Cali-

fornia.

Also included in the program are the Lloyd A. Mashburn Memorial Scholarship, California State Council of Lathers; Warren G. "Pop" DeSepte Award, California State Council of Retail Clerks; the William G. Gruwell Scholarship, Communications Workers of America, Bay Area Council; the George W. Gorman Memorial Scholarship, Communications Workers of America, Southern California Council; and the James Waugh Memorial Scholarship, United Cannery & Industrial Workers of the Pacific.

Winners will be able to use their awards in colleges or universities anywhere in the United States, accredited by the Western Association of Colleges, during the coming academic year.

The announcement brochures

sent out this week list the basic rules, suggestions for preparation for the examination, a bibliography of suggested readings and other resources.

Addressing the high school seniors, Henning declared, "Your interest in the labor movement is merited. We invite you to study the history of the labor movement. We ask you to become familiar with its social goals, look at its economic and political policies. We ask you to evaluate its action programs in community, state, nation and throughout the free world.

"We believe that regardless of your own career goal, you will participate more effectively in our society by having a fundamental understanding of the role of the labor movement in our democracy."

The panel of judges charged with selecting the winners is

made up of Jack Blackburn, coordinator for labor programs. Center for Labor Research and Education, Institute of Industrial Relations, UCLA; Michael B. Lehman, Ph.D., assistant professor of economics, University of San Francisco, and Leland S. Russell, chairman, Joint Study Committee on Guidance, California Association of Secondary School Administrators.

The Federation's standing committee on education consists of Thomas A. Small, Sar Mateo, chairman; G. J. Conway, Los Angeles; Paul Jones, Oakland; John L. Dales, Hollywood; Edward Shedlock, West Covina; and Stanley Lathen, Vallejo.

Further information on the scholarship program is available at the San Francisco office of the Federation by directing inquiries there to Federation President Albin J. Gruhn.