



California AFL-CIO News

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JOHN F. HENNING 151
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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3000 Hail Defeat of Farm Labor Bill

Action Sought As Jobless Rolls Rise to 669,000

Some 669,000 Californians were jobless last month as the state's unemployment rolls climbed by 65,000 over the month to one of the highest totals since the great depression of the 1930s, a state report issued last Friday disclosed.

John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, commented on the monthly report this week, saying:

"The reality is that unemployment has soared 72 percent in the past two years and the state's capacity to create new jobs has shrunk from several hundred thousand a year to less

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Congress Urged To Override Nixon Veto

AFL-CIO President George Meany has called on Congress to override President Nixon's veto of the Accelerated Public Works Act of 1971 which was designed to create more than 400,000 urgently needed jobs.

Said Meany:

"We regret that the President has seen fit to veto the extremely important job-creating public works bill. Contrary to the President's assertion, the Accelerated Public Works Act of 1962 played a monumental part in strengthening the American economy.

"Enactment of the Accelerated Public Works Bill of 1971 would play an even more significant role. Public works projects already in readiness, awaiting only funding, could promptly provide tens of thousands of jobs for unemployed workers.

"At the end of 1970 there were

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FARM WORKERS RALLY on Capitol steps in Sacramento hears John F. Henning, Executive officer of the State AFL-CIO, call for unity and vigilance to protect and advance workers' rights in the course of celebrating defeat of AB 964. The anti-worker measure introduced by Assemblyman Ken Cory (D-Anaheim) would have crippled efforts of the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee to win better wages and union protections for farm workers.

Fed-Opposed Consumer Tax Bill Dies in Committee

The Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee this week killed a State AFL-CIO-opposed consumer tax bill that would have imposed a five percent tax on drinks sold for consumption on the premises.

Committee action on the regressive tax measure came after John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, described the bill, AB 1617, introduced by Assemblyman David

C. Pierson (D-Los Angeles), as a "discriminatory consumer tax directed at a stricken industry."

Henning testified Wednesday that the bill was contrary to the ability-to-pay principle of fair tax legislation, that it wasn't proposed as part of any major, well thought out tax reform measure and said that the revenue problems of the cities cannot be solved by a punitive one-industry tax.

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Strong Protests by Unions Torpedo Anti-UFWOC Measure

"Vigorous action by organized labor at all levels" was credited this week with the defeat of AB 964, a proposed state Agricultural Labor Relations Act introduced by Assemblyman Kenneth Cory (D-Anaheim) and opposed by the State AFL-CIO on grounds that it was a strongly anti-worker bill.

John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, who sparked the drive against the measure, said he was "greatly heartened by the prompt response of local unions, central bodies and responsible legislators to appeals issued by the State AFL-CIO and UFWOC Director Cesar Chavez calling for its defeat."

Some 3,000 farm workers and other trade unionists who had converged on Sacramento to demonstrate against the bill held a victory rally on the Capitol steps Wednesday after Cory informed the Assembly Ways and Means Committee he was withdrawing the bill.

Speakers at the rally included Chavez, Henning, and Paul Schrade, Western Regional Di-

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Peevey Named To Natl. Board On Comp. Law

Michael R. Peevey, research director for the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, has been appointed to a 15-member National Commission on State Workmen's Compensation Laws by President Richard M. Nixon.

Peevey, who first joined the State AFL-CIO staff as research director in 1965 following service as a supervisory labor economist and manpower research specialist with the U. S. Labor Depart-

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Report Shows Need to Boost Comp. Benefits

Less than 50 percent of California workers temporarily disabled on the job in September 1970 received the 61¾ percent of their wages that they are entitled to, according to data recently released by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the State Department of Industrial Relations.

The report underscores the need for prompt enactment of **AB 486**, a Federation-backed bill to improve the state's workmen's compensation program.

The bill has already passed the Assembly and is now pending in the Senate.

The report disclosed that earnings of California workers injured on the job averaged \$154.22 a week during September 1970, an increase of \$8.86 or 6.1 percent over September 1969.

"Under California's workmen's compensation law" the report observed, "employees temporarily disabled on the job are entitled to receive weekly amounts equal to 61¾ percent of their wages when injured, unless they earned more than \$141.70"

Noting that all workers who earn more than the maximum receive the same benefit — \$87.50 per week, the report said:

"53 percent of all workers injured in September 1970 earned over \$141.70 and thus did not receive a weekly payment large enough to replace the statutory 61¾ percent of their earnings."

John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, commented on the report, saying:

"In 1969, after the 1968 increase went into effect, 53 percent of all injured workers did receive temporary disability benefits equal to 61¾ percent of their earnings but inflationary pressures on wages caused this to plummet to 47 percent last year, its largest percentage drop in at least 11 years.

"With inflation still running at an annual rate of more than four percent and interest rates again headed higher, there is clearly an urgent need to improve benefits for industrially injured workers."

Fed-Opposed Consumer Tax Bill Dies in Committee

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As a result, he said, it would impose an unfair tax burden on middle- and low-income wage earners.

Asked how county and local governments could hope to develop revenues to meet their needs, Henning suggested that local officials should urge President Nixon to sign the \$2.25 billion public service employment bill recently approved by Congress and call on their congressmen to override Nixon's veto of the \$5 billion public works bill, and to amend his "no strings" revenue sharing plan to require specific and categorical grants instead of the "no strings" approach.

Henning pointed out that imposition of such a consumer tax would cause further distress in the hotel, restaurant, and beverage-serving industry which is already suffering severely from the current Nixon economic recession.

James S. Lee, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, also appeared before the committee to declare the opposition of his organization to the bill.

The bill was also vigorously opposed by the California State Culinary Alliance.

It is estimated that the bill would have cost a worker who has a couple of beers at a local tavern after work each day about \$25 a year. Its defeat saves him that amount.

The California Labor Federation had called on affiliates to write the nine legislators serving on the committee to oppose the bill and Henning said that several legislators indicated that they had received many letters opposing it from trade unionists.

The bill was aggressively supported by the anti-labor League of California Cities and by Mayor Samuel Yorty of Los Angeles who testified in favor of it.

The measure was defeated on a bi-partisan voice vote.

"WE DON'T PATRONIZE"

The following firms are 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.

All trade unionists and friends of organized labor are urged not to patronize any of the firms listed here.

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.

Unfair firms are:

Coors Beer.

Gaffers & Sattler products.

Kindair Theater Corporation, operators of the following anti-union theaters in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties:

Cinema 70 in Monterey;
Steinbeck Theater in Monterey;

Valley Cinema in Carmel Valley;

Globe Theater in Salinas;
Cinema Theater in Soquel;
and,

Twin I & II in Aptos.

Montgomery Ward in Redding.

Tennessee Plastics of Johnson City, Tennessee.

The Nut Tree and the Coffee Tree Restaurant, 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 the **Los Angeles Herald-Examiner** and the **Kingsport Press** of Kingsport, Tenn., publishers of the "World Book" and "ChildCraft" series.

UFWOC Wins Right To Use Bull Horns

The AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee has won a preliminary injunction barring enforcement of a Monterey County ordinance prohibiting the use of loudspeakers or bullhorns which make a sound louder than a normal human voice on public roads.

U.S. District Judge Robert F. Peckham issued the injunction last Friday on grounds that the county ordinance infringed on the right of free speech.

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors had enacted the ordinance April 27 after UFWOC organizers used loudspeakers on a highway near Watsonville in an effort to contact strawberry workers in an adjacent field.

In his decision, Judge Peckham observed:

"The summer months are important to plaintiffs for labor organizing."

Noting that the UFWOC "is engaged in a strike to persuade certain growers to negotiate contracts with the union," the judge said:

"They cannot effectively communicate with workers in the field without using sound amplification devices. It is clear that irreparable harm will result if no preliminary injunction is issued."

Unions Open Drive To Organize VA

The American Federation of Government Employees and five other AFL-CIO unions have launched one of the biggest organizing drives in labor history with a petition seeking a nationwide representational election for more than 138,000 of the Veterans Administration.

AFGE President John F. Griener is president of the six-union council seeking national exclusive recognition. Richard E. Murphy, assistant to the president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) is its secretary-treasurer. Other participating unions, all with members at VA facilities, are the Carpenters, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Fire Fighters and the Laborers.

Senior Citizens Still Pay 47% of Yearly Health Bill

The nation's Medicare program, which began its sixth year on July 1, now pays more than \$7 billion a year in hospital and medical bills for 20 million people over 65, the Social Security Administration has disclosed.

Before Medicare, 78 percent of all personal health care expenses were paid for with private funds — 24 percent from private insurance benefits and about 52 percent out of the pockets of patients or their relatives.

Latest figures available, however, indicate that even with Medicare, private funds paid for better than 50 percent of the senior citizens' annual health care bill which totals \$17 billion.

They show that private insurance now covers only about six percent while out-of-pocket funds of the elderly patients account for about 47 percent and Medicare for better than 40 percent.

Last year both the premiums and deductibles under Medicare went up and services were cut so that the percentage of the senior citizens' annual health care bill covered by Medicare is expected to decline this year.

These figures underscore the need for prompt enactment of the AFL-CIO-backed National Health Security Act of 1971 (S.3) introduced by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) which would assure comprehensive health and medical coverage for all U.S. residents.

Henning to Attend Job Crisis Parley

John F. Henning, executive officer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, will represent the State Federation at the AFL-CIO Conference on Jobs to be held in Washington, D. C., next week.

The conference, described as the most important ever held by the AFL-CIO, will examine all aspects of the job-loss problem in America, from foreign trade to reconversion. It will be held Monday and Tuesday, July 12-13, at the Statler-Hilton Hotel. AFL-CIO President George Meany has urged each international union and state central body to be represented at the meeting.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER John F. Land (center) receives a certificate for one of six four-year scholarships sponsored by the AFL-CIO under the National Merit Scholarship Program from John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, as Max Osslo, a State Federation vice president, looks on. In a letter congratulating Land, AFL-CIO President George Meany pointed out that organized labor has always supported universal free public education and is striving to extend it to include higher education so that all youths, regardless of financial status, can develop their fullest potential. The presentation was made at a Federation Executive Board meeting in San Diego. Land is the son of John H. Land, of Painters' Local 333 in San Diego.

What's Up ... In Sacramento

Monday, July 12

AJR 31—Leroy F. Greene: A Federation-sponsored resolution supporting the AFL-CIO's National Health Insurance Program to be heard by the Assembly Health Committee.

ACA 70 and AB 2854—Roberti: Federation-supported measures to remove the home office tax deductions for insurance companies to be heard by the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee.

ACA 73—Meade: A Federation-sponsored constitutional amendment prohibiting tuition at the university and state colleges to be heard by the Assembly Constitutional Amendments Committee.

Tuesday, July 13

AJR 26—Z'berg: A Federation-sponsored resolution regarding federal reclamation law to be heard by the Assembly Planning and Land Use Committee.

SB 738—Moscone: Federation-sponsored legislation to reduce

interest rates to be heard by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Wednesday, July 14

AB 844—Burton: A Federation-sponsored bill extending collective bargaining rights to public employees to be heard by the Assembly Labor Relations Committee.

Friday, July 16

AB 30—Warren: A Federation-supported bill extending industrial welfare minimum wage coverage to men to be heard by the Senate Industrial Relations Committee.

AB 486—Fenton: Federation-supported legislation making major improvements in workmen's compensation to be heard by the Senate Industrial Relations Committee.

AB 681—McCarthy and AB 1204—Townsend: Two State Building Trades bills on safety supported by the Federation to be heard by the Senate Industrial Relations Committee.

Fed Board Fetes Winner of 4-Year Labor Scholarship

John F. Land, winner of an AFL-CIO four-year National Merit Scholarship, was honored by the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation at its two-day meeting at the Westgate Plaza Hotel in San Diego last week.

Land and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Land, were guests of the Federation's Executive Board at a luncheon June 29 when John F. Henning, the State AFL-CIO's executive officer, formally presented the award, worth up to \$6,000, to him.

One of six students in the nation to win the AFL-CIO scholarships, John served as president of the Association Student Body at Santana High in Santee and was also president of the International Club and the California Scholarship Federation. He was at the head of his class of 384 members.

His father is a member of Painters' Local 333 in San Diego.

Winners of the awards are selected on the basis of two examinations, their high school grades, evaluations by their teachers and counselors and statements of recommendation. John plans to use his award to study physics at the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena.

In a letter notifying him of the award, AFL-CIO President George Meany observed:

"The AFL-CIO looks forward to the day when all young people will have the opportunity to develop to the fullest measure of their capacity, regardless of their financial status. In the meantime, while striving to achieve this goal, the AFL-CIO is happy to demonstrate its interest in widening educational opportunities through these annual scholarship awards."

Meany also pointed out that organized labor has always supported free public education and believes it should be extended to include higher education.

Land, 18, lives at 1728 Plumeria Street in El Cajon.

Women in Labor Force

Today half of all women between 18 and 64 years of age are in the labor force,

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rector for the United Auto Workers.

Chavez described the Cory measure as "a growers' bill (that) stinks with money" and said it was being promoted by the State's huge corporate farm interests. He praised the California Labor Federation and AFL-CIO President George Meany for their vigorous efforts to defeat the bill.

Peevey Named To Natl. Board On Comp. Law

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ment in Washington, is the author of a number of studies in the social insurance, taxation, and farm labor fields.

He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Health Manpower Council of California, the Association of California Consumers, the West Side Planning Group of Fresno and the Marin Council of Civic Affairs.

Between 1969 and 1971, he also served as Coordinator of Community Programs at the Institute of Industrial Relations at the University of California at Berkeley.

The only other labor representative on the Commission is James R. O'Brien of Maryland, assistant director of the National AFL-CIO Department of Social Security in Washington, D.C.

The Commission, created by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, will undertake a comprehensive study and evaluation of state workmen's compensation laws to determine if such laws provide an adequate, prompt and equitable system of compensation.

The Commission is to submit its final report to the President and the Congress not later than July 31, 1972.

Thirteen other presidential appointees to the Commission include representatives of educational institutions, state workmen's compensation boards, insurance carriers, management, the medical profession, and the general public.

In addition the U. S. Secretaries of Labor, Commerce, and Health, Education, and Welfare serve as ex officio members.

Henning had pointed out that the bill would have outlawed primary product consumer picketing, set up unfair election procedures and curbed the worker's right to respect picket lines.

"Enactment of such legislation could also have had severely adverse carryover effects on the wages and working conditions of workers throughout California," he observed.

Henning thanked Assembly

Speaker Bob Moretti (D-Los Angeles) for his assistance in opposing the Cory bill.

National leaders opposing the Cory anti-labor farm workers' bill included: George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO; Larry O'Brien, chairman of the Democratic National Committee; and U.S. Senators Ted Kennedy, Hubert H. Humphrey, Henry Jackson, John V. Tunney and Alan Cranston.

Jobless Rolls Hit 669,000; Labor Again Seeks Action

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than 40,000, according to official State estimates.

"Since only about half of the state's jobless are eligible for any unemployment compensation benefits at all and thousands have exhausted their benefits, it is perfectly obvious that the state's welfare problem will continue to escalate until the programmed unemployment policies of both the state and national administration are abandoned and massive programs are undertaken at both the state and federal levels to create hundreds of thousands of jobs on needed public works and public service programs."

Such projects also create thousands of jobs in the private sector of the economy, he noted.

Henning pointed out that the State AFL-CIO has been urging state legislators to enact legislation to relieve California's unemployment crisis by appropriating \$500 million to the State Department of Public Works to be used by the state and local agencies to develop public works projects and by extending coverage and improving benefits under the state's unemployment insurance program. "These steps are positive and constructive actions that will ease the welfare problem," he declared.

The national jobless figures announced by the U.S. Labor Department attributed a sharp drop in the U.S. jobless rate from 6.2 to 5.6 percent over the month to a "statistical quirk."

It explained that more young workers than usual were in school and were not seeking work when the jobless survey

was undertaken the week of June 6 through June 12.

Despite the drop in the national rate, the Labor Department said that the total number of unemployed climbed 1.1 million to total 5.5 million last month.

The nation's labor force increased 1.9 million to 85 million.

On the state level, the total civilian labor force, consisting of the employed and the unemployed looking for work, was 8,797,000 and total civilian employment was 8,128,000.

Congress Urged To Override Nixon Veto

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about 3,000 applications awaiting federal approval for funding of waste treatment plants, 800 applications for water and sewer projects, 1,900 applications for hospitals and public health centers, in addition to hundreds of state and local projects that have been planned and blueprinted.

"Not only would the Accelerated Public Works bill create about 420,000 urgently needed jobs, but in the process America would be enriched by the creation of thousands of worthwhile public works of vital and long-lasting worth to the entire nation."

"More than 140 members of Congress, members of both political parties, sponsored this important legislation. We urge the Congress to override this ill-advised veto and we shall work to that end."

At the hearing Wednesday, Assembly Ways and Means Committee Chairman Willie Brown, Jr. (D-San Francisco), announced that Cory had asked that the bill be withdrawn and read a statement in which Cory said he would be pleased to work with labor and management on the subject of the bill in future interim committee hearings.

Henning had alerted all AFL-CIO affiliates in California to the anti-labor provisions in AB 964 in a letter sent out June 29 in which he declared that the bill was "aimed at the heart of the UFWOC."

Gaffers & Sattler On Unfair List

Gaffers & Sattler products have been placed on the "We Do Not Patronize" list of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Placement of the firm's products, which include stoves and other household appliances on the State AFL-CIO's unfair list was authorized by the Federation's Executive Council at its meeting in San Diego June 29-30.

The action was taken at the request of the Stove, Furnace & Allied Appliance Workers Local 123-B of Hawthorne. The union was obliged to strike the firm several months ago and is appealing to all trade unionists and friends of organized labor to shun the firm's products until its workers win decent wages, working conditions and a union contract.

Gaffers & Sattler has also been placed on the National AFL-CIO "We Don't Patronize" list.

Georgine Appointed To Key BCTD Post

Robert A. Georgine, president of the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers Union has been named secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department by the Department's executive council.