



# California AFL-CIO News

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## Legislative Session Resumed

Enactment of key social insurance legislation held first priority for the state AFL-CIO as the state legislature reconvened this week at Sacramento.

Major pieces of legislation already passed the Assembly and awaiting action in the Senate include the following bills sponsored and backed by the Federation:

- Increasing workmen's compensation payments from \$87.50 to \$105 for temporary disability, from \$52.50 to \$70 weekly for permanent disability, and otherwise liberalizing benefits to surviving dependents of workers.
- Raising weekly benefits under the state disability insurance program from \$87 to \$105.
- Extending unemployment insurance coverage to California's farm workers.
- Increasing the state minimum wage from \$1.65 to \$2.00 an hour.

Meanwhile, efforts will be extended to move a Federation backed measure to increase unemployment insurance payments. This bill presently is in an Assembly committee awaiting action.

### Longest Session

The Legislature recessed August 13. With the resumption this week, the 1971 session will be the longest in the state's 121 year history.

Two major developments during the hiatus will add to the problems facing the members of the Assembly and the Senate. These are President Nixon's wage-price freeze and a State Supreme Court ruling that California's public school financial support structure is not constitutional because it is discriminatory against the poor.

With the close partisan division in both houses, a battle looms over the reapportionment of congressional and legislative seats. The redrawing of district

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## The Visitors

As the most populous state in the union California has been inspiring visits from numerous U. S. Senators seeking either presidential honors or national prestige.

It is not the function of the California Labor Federation to endorse candidates in presidential primaries but neither is it our policy to ignore the teachings of Samuel Gompers relative to the rewarding of friends.

Thus we shall continue to offer host courtesies to all visiting members of the House and Senate who have enjoyed the endorsement of AFL-CIO bodies by reason of progressive voting records.

Those courtesies shall be extended regardless of party affiliation or cause of visit. That applies to Republicans like Javits of New York, Brooke of Massachusetts and Case of New Jersey as well as to Democrats like Kennedy, Muskie, Jackson, Bayh or McGovern.

Our Federation is not concerned with the presence or absence of presidential ambitions. Nor with party labels. We have our own standards.

We shall continue to receive at dinner assemblies, labor picnics and educational conferences those office holders who have well served the needs of the working people of America.

This has been the unchanging policy of the past and it remains the way of fairness for the future.

## Fed Public Employment Conference on Nov. 4-5

### Labor Day at State Fair

A Union Label show and the annual California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, race at the track featured Labor Day at the California State Fair.

Among those participating in special Labor Day observances at the fair were Ralph Williams, President of the California Retail Clerks Council; Roy Mack, President of the Sacramento Labor Council; Ed Turner, President, Marine Cooks & Stewards; Federation Vice President Har-

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All Central Labor Councils in California were notified this week by Executive Secretary John F. Henning that the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, will sponsor an Education Conference on Public Employment and Public Employees on November 4-5.

The meeting will be at the Airport Marina Hotel, adjacent to the airport at Fresno.

In a letter to the councils, Henning said:

"With continuing assaults on the wages, benefits and job security of federal, state and local government employees by political officeholders and seekers,

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## UPC Action To Enjoin Wage Freeze

The United Professors of California is taking legal action to challenge the constitutionality of President Nixon's wage freeze.

The UPC, affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers and the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, represents some 3,000 professors in the state college system.

President Art Bierman, San Francisco State philosophy professor, said the suit will demand that the wage freeze not apply to merit salary increases due September 1. The suit was filed late Tuesday in the U.S. District Court at San Francisco.

The action seeks to enjoin State College trustees and Chancellor Glenn Dumke from withholding merit increases amounting to \$1½ million over the 90-day period mandated by President Nixon for the wage freeze.

One of the first court challenges in the nation to the Nixon program, the action is filed on behalf of 15,000 professors and librarians in the state college system.

The suit arose out of a ruling by administrative authorities who informed college presidents that faculty members would not receive annual step or merit increases of 5 percent as scheduled for September 1.

The UPC suit maintains the Economic Stabilization Act of 1970, under which President Nixon acted, is unconstitutional in that its powers are too broad. UPC President Bierman told a press conference:

"As a union of responsible professionals, we cannot idly stand by and watch President Nixon violate the U.S. Constitution by telling state governments they cannot honor agreed upon salary arrangements."

Professor Bierman told the press Tuesday that "the Presi-

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# U.S. Jobless Rate Rises Again

Unemployment throughout the United States rose from 5.8 percent in July to 6.1 percent in August. This represents 5.1 millions out of work and is within 0.1 percent of the nine-year peaks reached in May and December.

In California, the jobless rate for August was higher than for the United States as a whole but lower than the state's April high. In August the state's rate held at seven percent, compared with 7.4 percent in April.

The number of California job seekers went down between July and August by 24,000, according to the State Department of Human Resources Development, from 631,000 to 607,000. This was still 51,000 over the August 1970 figure, when the state unemployment rate was 6.4 percent.

## Aerospace Up

HRD said employment figures showed 68,000 more people had jobs in August than in July, including 2,700 workers in aerospace firms. This was the first increase in the aerospace industry since July 1968.

Employment increases were registered in construction, trade, business and professional services, finance, insurance and real estate. Transportation and utilities rose by about 4,400, while government employment dropped off by about 9,100 in California.

HRD's figures showed that the civilian labor force, consisting of the employed and unemployed available for work and seeking work, totaled 8,759,100 in August, up from 8,741,400 for the same month of 1970.

The national 6.1 percentage figure compares with 3.5 percent when the Nixon administration came into office in January, 1969.

## State's Communities

In Los Angeles County, the jobless rate remained constant at 6.9 percent for both July and August. Orange County unemployment dropped from 7.3 percent in July to 7.1 percent in August.

Stockton's unemployment rate was highest in the state with 10.2 percent, up from 8.3 percent in July. Stockton has been considered a chronic unemployment area for several months past.

Santa Barbara had one of the

## "Discouraged Workers" Add 750,000 to Nation's Jobless Ranks

*The 5.1 million Americans on unemployment rolls do not fully represent the extent of those out of work. On August 25 the Labor Department revealed an estimated 750,000 more are "too discouraged to look for jobs even though they are out of work."*

*Only those unemployed actively seeking work are tallied in the federal jobless statistics.*

*Since early 1970, the number of "discouraged workers" has risen from 600,000 to 750,000.*

*The rise in the number of "discouraged workers" accounts for a small part of the recent slowdown in labor force growth. The rise is also small when compared with the recent sharp increase in national unemployment.*

*Labor force participation trends have changed among several demographic groups. The changes may be summarized as a slight decline in participation of men and a leveling off of the long-term rise in participation among women.*

lowest rates in the state for August with 5.8 percent.

The aerospace employment picture in California hit its peak in December 1967, with 616,200 workers, and the nadir was reached in July 1971 when only

433,900 were employed in that industry. In August the aerospace work force was at 436,600.

## Aero Engineers

Engineers and scientists employed by aerospace firms in California slumped from 74,800

in December 1967 to 58,400 in December last year, the latest month for which the government has figures for engineers and scientists as a separate group within aerospace.

A U.S. Department of Labor spokesman conceded it was "bad news" to see the percentage rate going up on a seasonally adjusted basis "because of the wholly unpredictable rate of new workers entering the labor market."

A leading critic of the Nixon Administration said the new figures "dramatize the most serious flaw in Mr. Nixon's recovery package: his proposal to give businessmen tax credit for money spent to buy new machinery even though industry is now operating at less than 75 percent of its present capacity."

## Widespread Suffering

AFL-CIO President George Meany said the latest figures show that "widespread suffering among American workers continues unabated." He renewed demands by the AFL-CIO nationally that if wages of workers are to be frozen and controlled, then controls should also be imposed on profits, dividends, interest and other forms of income.

## Meany Assails Irish Detention

"True protection of the law" for citizens in Northern Ireland who are being detained without trial was called for by AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany in a statement on current disorders.

"Centuries of progress and civilization itself are gravely menaced by the dictatorial decrees permitting the detention of Irishmen without court trial," Meany said. "English law, from which we derive much, and the authorities in Belfast should . . . show true protection of the law" to citizens.

## Minority Apprentices Continue to Increase

WASHINGTON—The number of registered apprentices in all trades rose 10,000 to a record 280,000 in 1970, the Secretary of Labor has announced.

Minority apprentices accounted for 9.1 percent of the total, an increase of 16 percent over 1969.

The minority proportion of all new apprentices has risen steadily over the past four years. Nearly 12 percent of all new apprentices registered in 1970 were minority group members, versus 10 percent in 1969, 8 percent in 1968 and 6 percent in 1967.

Of the 280,000 apprentices registered at the end of 1970, 161,000 were in the construction trades (57.5 percent); 53,700 in the metal working trades (19 percent); 15,000 in the printing trades (5.4 percent); and 50,000 in the miscellaneous trades (18 percent).

The 9.1 percent minority group proportion represents 25,000 active minority group apprentices in registered pro-

grams at the end of the year.

Among them were 15,400 blacks (5.5 percent of all apprentices); 6,160 Spanish surnamed (2.2 percent); 1,400 Indians (0.5 percent) and slightly more than 2,000 Orientals (0.8 percent).

Among the four major trades groupings the printing trades, with an 8 percent increase in the number (1,225) of active apprentices for the year, showed the biggest net gain. The miscellaneous trades were next with a 7 percent gain (3,800), followed by the construction trades with 5 percent (8,765).

The number of apprentices in the metal working trades showed a decrease of 6 percent, representing 3,740 fewer apprentices than the previous year.

## 4,643,200 in Bay Area

Total population of the nine-county Bay Area as of July, 1970 was placed at 4,643,200, according to an estimate released August 16, 1971 by the San Francisco Bay Area Council.

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## Legislative Session Resumed

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lines is mandatory to conform with population shifts reflected in the 1970 census. This will seriously affect control of California's delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as of the state Legislature.

The present California congressional delegation is also working out a reapportionment proposal. However, it will only be advisory to the state legislators, who will have the final decision during the present session on how the districts are laid out for the 1972 elections.

## Conference

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the value of strong worker organizations is becoming increasingly important to the career government worker."

Noting the predicament of the public employee at this time, the Federation leader pointed out, "Often lacking strong, independent labor unions to represent their interests, they have recently become 'examples' of underpaid wage earners called upon to make 'temporary sacrifices in personal gain' while American industry is given billion dollar tax credits."

Program details and registration materials will soon be distributed to Federation affiliates. The councils were asked to alert their membership to the upcoming conference to insure "maximum participation in this timely, vital" meeting.

## State Fair

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ry Finks, and other labor representatives from over the state.

Other special guests included Pete Hays, editor of the Sacramento Union; Walter P. Jones, executive editor of McClatchy Newspapers; Congressmen Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson; Richard Marriott, Mayor of Sacramento; Thomas Bair, general manager of the fair; Archie Mull, past president, California State Bar, and Dean Gordon Schaber of the McGeorge School of Law.

Over 62,000 people attended fair on Labor Day.

## Oakland Tribune Warns Against Blaming Unions in Inflation

The Oakland Tribune in a Labor Day editorial cautioned against placing the onus on organized labor for the "inflationary wage-price spiral that has afflicted the American economy for the past several years." The Tribune said:

"U.S. prices in recent years have generally risen fastest in fields that lack strong unions. Insurance, domestic and medical service are low-unionized businesses, but insurance rates, charges for doctor and hospital services and pay for domestic help have soared.

"In contrast, prices of home appliances and autos, both produced by highly unionized workers, have climbed relatively slowly."

The editorial concluded:

"With dedication and responsibility, union members, union leaders—indeed the nation's total laboring force—can continue their economic and social progress in a society where human values, and human dignity grow ever more important."

## Farmers Rap Nixon Program

The National Farmers Union in Washington, D.C., this week took its stand with the opponents of President Nixon's "new" economic policies, announced August 15 and embracing a 90-day wage-price freeze. The NFU charged "the absurdities surrounding this new eco-

nomic game plan know no bounds."

A NFU newsletter said, "The key point of the . . . policy is that it pointedly refuses to deal with the major problem facing the economy—maldistribution of income and ownership. Under the plan, the rich will continue to get richer."



U.S. SENATOR EDMUND MUSKIE (D-Me.), shown here with Richard K. Groulx, Executive Secretary of the Alameda County Central Labor Council, was the principal speaker at the Alameda County COPE Picnic on Labor Day at Pleasanton. A crowd of over 3,000 heard the Senator sharply criticize President Nixon's new economic policies, while offering alternative proposals for economic recovery. Muskies was also the speaker at the 25th annual Catholic Labor Institute Labor Day breakfast at Los Angeles.

## UPC Action To Enjoin Wage Freeze

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dent in effect has abrogated our contract with the State of California" and challenged the constitutional right of the action.

Bierman noted that the college instructors have been denied pay raises, except for merit increases, the past two years. The UPC also avers that the Presidential order discriminates against wage earners in contrast to those who get their income from interest or business profits.

The City and County of San Francisco also filed action in the federal court, challenging the ruling on grounds the city's 5600 firemen and policemen had been granted an increase effective July 1 and only legislative technicalities delayed approval.

## Firm Added to AFL-CIO List

The La-Z-Boy Chair Company has been placed on the "Don't Patronize" list by the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO, at the request of President Fred Fulford of the United Furniture Workers of America.

The La-Z-Boy Chair Company in five fruitless months of negotiations lived up to its name in that they were less than anxious to reach an agreement. As a result, the United Furniture Workers were forced to strike in Monroe, Michigan, on August 2, 1971, and in Florence, South Carolina, on August 3, 1971. The strike involves over 1,000 members and their families.

Charges of spying on the workers, numerous discharges, intimidations, mass layoffs, and short workweeks have been leveled by the Furniture Workers. The Company has apparently assumed an attitude that employees do not have a right to union representation.

## COPE 1830

Nonpartisan political tactics were used by American labor as early as the 1830's when a New England convention of workers, artisans and farmers proposed to secure legislative objectives by selecting candidates.

# Health Care Pacts for 98 Percent of Unionists

Some of the advantages of a union contract in California are reflected in a state report released recently showing that 98 percent of 1,530,000 persons working under 1,688 studied union contracts have health care plans.

Without considering variations in the quality of care or the costs covered under union versus non-union health care plans, statistics developed by the insurance industry's own Health Insurance Council in New York indicated that as of December, 1968 only 77 percent of California residents had hospitalization coverage, 71 percent surgical coverage and 63 percent medical coverage.

The insurance industry figures, of course, covered all State residents, including persons covered by union as well

as non-union and individually-contracted health care plans but excluding senior citizens 65 or over.

While most union-negotiated plans include medical coverage, the fact that the Health Insurance Council's figures peg Californians with medical coverage at 63 percent means that 37 percent of California residents have no coverage for doctor's fees in or out of the hospital, exclusive of any surgical coverage they may have.

But the focus of the state report issued by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the State Department of Industrial Relations was on the increase in the average monthly employer payments to union-negotiated, labor-management health and welfare funds in California to an estimated \$46-

05 per employee in the latter half of 1970.

The \$46.05 figure was \$15.40 or about 50 percent higher than it was in 1968 although more than 15 percent of the increase was accounted for by rising costs of medical care rather than improved coverage.

The report said that the employer contributions are used "primarily to pay hospital and doctor bills, but a portion goes for group life insurance and, in some instances, (to) non-occupational disability benefits."

California employees working without benefit of a union contract might well contemplate that \$46.05 per month per union employee figure. It works out to coverage costing \$552.60 a year for each union member covered.

Moreover, thanks to union negotiations, the employer paid

the full cost of coverage for 88 percent of the workers with plans and they often included his dependents as well.

The state report said that 10 percent of the employees had to contribute to the cost of their own coverage and in the remaining 2 percent the financing arrangements were not specified.

Monthly payments in individual union-negotiated plans, however, showed considerable variation, the report said.

In contracts covering the middle 90 percent of the workers, payments ranged from \$16.60 to \$87.67 per month.

In short, the report, when compared with insurance industry data, suggests pretty clearly that workers covered by union-negotiated health care plans enjoy substantially better health care coverage than non-workers.

## James Lee Is Named on CAVICA Board

James Lee, President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council, has been named as a member of the statewide Advisory Council, California Association of Vocational and Industrial Clubs of America (CAVICA). His term expires June 30, 1974.

The appointment was announced by James A. Herman, chief of the State Bureau of Industrial Education, an agency of the State Department of Education.

CAVICA works with representatives of management, labor and education in developing programs to provide "meaningful experiences to the students of industrial education."

## Job Injury Reports

The Secretary of Labor is authorized by the new Occupational Safety and Health Act to require covered employers to record and submit reports on work-related deaths, injuries and illnesses other than those requiring first aid. These records will be used to develop information on the causes and prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses.

## "Who is The Imperialist?" Brochure is Available

"Who Is The Imperialist?," a new 52-page booklet produced by the AFL-CIO International Affairs Department, summarizes the territorial expansion of the Soviet Union and Red China during the past 30 years.

Filled with maps and statistics, the booklet traces developments in Romania, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Finland, North Korea, Vietnam, Japan and other Asian nations and contrasts them with the efforts of the free world to imple-

ment the principle of self-determination in 68 newly independent states.

Among other things it notes that both the Soviet Union and Red China have each charged the other with "imperialism."

In its conclusion, it asserts that:

"The free world has granted independence to 1,153,452,053 people and 13,223,124 square miles and the Soviet Union and Communist Chinese have subjugated 172,107,000 people and 1,977,254 square miles and are seeking more."

Then it asks:

"Who is the imperialist?"

Copies of the pamphlet may be ordered without charge from the AFL-CIO Department of International Affairs, 815-16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

## Equal Pay

The U. S. Court of Appeals in Philadelphia has upheld the Labor Department's right to obtain more than \$90,000 in back pay, including interest, for some 2,000 women employees of the Wheaton Glass Company of New Jersey. The money represents underpayment of wages to the women in violation of the Federal Equal Pay Act.

## 10 Candidates File Papers In Assembly Race

Seven Democrats, one Republican, an independent and a Peace and Freedom Party candidate have brought to a total of ten the number of those aspiring to succeed State Senator David Roberti as Assemblyman from the 48th District in Los Angeles County. This was announced by James Allison, Los Angeles County registrar.

The district embraces East Hollywood, Silverlake, Lincoln Heights, El Sereno and portions of Alhambra. A special election is scheduled October 19 to fill the vacancy which occurred when Roberti was elected to the State Senate this summer.

If no candidate achieves a majority, the top vote getters of each party will be involved in a runoff election November 16. Voter registration for the October 19 balloting has already closed, but registration will open to September 25 for the possible November 16 canvass.

## 'Contraband Goods'

"Goods produced under conditions which do not meet rudimentary standards of decency should be regarded as contraband and ought not be allowed to pollute the channels of interstate commerce." — President Franklin D. Roosevelt.