



Senate Panel Passes AB 1710; ERA Ratified

The Senate Finance Committee this week approved State AFL-CIO-sponsored legislation to assure the continued validity of existing state protective laws for women just three days after the state Assembly gave final approval to legislation making California the 22nd state to ratify the women's Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution.

The sequence of the legislative action was regarded by the California AFL-CIO and women trade unionists throughout the state as jeopardizing women's protective laws.

Throughout the 1972 session, the State AFL-CIO and women trade unionists, while supporting eventual approval of the ERA, have repeatedly warned that it could invalidate state laws won during the past half century to protect the wages and working conditions of women and minors if AB 1710, the State AFL-CIO measure to extend these protections to men, is not enacted.

This is because the ERA,
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Consumers Behind the Eight Ball?

"We are all behind the eight ball unless collective bargaining power is supported by collective consumer power."

That's the message contained in a brochure sent to all affiliates of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, this week to urge them to consider joining the Consumer Federation of California.

Strong support for the CFC was voiced by delegates to the Labor Federation's biennial convention in Los Angeles last August when they adopted a policy statement on Consumer Protec-
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Cranston Hit for Backing Nixon's Plan to Slash Jobs

Sharp criticism of U.S. Senator Alan Cranston's endorsement of the Nixon's administration's plans to slash civilian employment at U.S. military bases throughout the country was voiced by John F. Henning, Executive officer of the California

Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, this week.

Said Henning:

"In his endorsement of drastic civilian employment reductions at U.S. military bases across the country, Senator Cranston has made a surprising surrender to

the Nixon unemployment policies that have doubled the number of jobless workers in the last four years.

"It is one thing to advocate a gradual conversion to the planned needs of peace. It is something else for Senator Cranston to approve the ruthless displacement of thousands of government workers.

"We are not surprised that President Nixon would call for such action with the election safely past. But we are dismayed that Senator Cranston could view with heartless disregard the job rights of AFL-
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Bill to Stiffen Safety Law Penalties OK'd

Legislation to permit employers to be prosecuted on felony charges if one of their employees is killed as a result of the employer's "gross negligence" won approval of the Assembly Labor Relations Committee this week.

The bill AB 2388 introduced by Assemblyman Jack R. Fenton (D-Los Angeles), was approved by a 7 to 1 vote with Assemblyman Floyd Wakefield (R-Downey) abstaining.

At present employers are only subject to misdemeanor prosecution if their "gross negligence" results in the death of one of their employees.

But Fenton, chairman of the Select Committee on Industrial Safety, pointed out earlier this week that in the last three years 29 workers have died in three job accidents where "serious safety questions" were involved.

Noting that the bill would restore a provision that was deleted from the State Labor Code in 1963, Fenton said:
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EDITORIAL

Liberal leadership in the state legislature has expressed its preference for the claims of professional women's rights groups at the expense of three million women workers in California and at the expense of all workers' standards.

Despite personal leadership commitments that approval of the women's Equal Rights Amendment would await enactment of AFL-CIO legislation to assure continuation of the protective conditions and hours of employment for women, the Equal Rights Amendment was adopted and women workers be damned!

Labor only asked for action first on a measure that would extend women's protections to men thereby assuring the continued legality of laws protecting women.

The AFL-CIO has the moral obligation to work for the election of liberals regardless of party affiliations.

On the other hand, it certainly cannot give its endorsement and campaign support to liberals who because of other alliances would deny working people their fundamental job rights.

It is ironic that the disputed action should have been taken so soon after labor had employed its resources in the election of liberals to the Assembly and Senate.

'DON'T APPEAL IT'

Justice Dept. Urged to Support Ruling to Enforce Water Law

The California AFL-CIO urged U.S. Attorney General Richard Kleindienst this week not to appeal a recent federal court decision upholding the validity of the residency requirement of federal reclamation law.

Asserting that the decision

handed down by federal district court Judge William D. Murray last month "could have immensely beneficial effects for tens of thousands of U.S. citizens," John F. Henning, executive officer of the California
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Top Histadrut Award for John Cinquemani

John A. Cinquemani, executive secretary of the Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council, was awarded the coveted Distinguished Service Award of Histadrut, Israel's pioneer labor, educational and health and welfare organization at a testimonial dinner at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles yesterday.

Guest speaker at the dinner, which attracted top representatives of labor and management from industries throughout Southern California, was John F. Henning, executive officer of the California Labor Federation.

Sigmund Arywitz, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor who is also chairman of the Trade Union Council for Histadrut in Los Angeles, served as co-chairman of the dinner along with Al Korey of Al Korey & Sons, a garment manufacturing firm.

Another Distinguished Service Award was presented to Ben F. Smith, a major concrete contractor in Southern California. Both Cinquemani and Smith are widely known for their civic and community efforts.

Bill to Stiffen Safety Law Penalties OK'd

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"It seems only fair to be able to do this since motorists accused of gross negligence which causes someone's death in motor vehicle accidents can be prosecuted for a felony."

The bill calls for a prison term of up to one year, a fine of up to \$10,000 or both.

Voting for the measure were: Assemblymen Leo T. McCarthy (D-San Francisco), committee chairman; Peter R. Chacon (D-San Diego); Alex Garcia (D-Los Angeles); Joe A. Gonsalves (D-Norwalk); William H. Lancaster (R-Covina); W. Don MacGillivray (R-Santa Barbara); and Alister McAlister (D-San Jose).

Opposed was:

Assemblyman William M. Ketchum (R-Bakersfield).

Don't Appeal It

Justice Dept. Urged to Back New Water Law Ruling

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Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, pointed out that in the past 70 years, U.S. taxpayers have invested billions of dollars in reclamation projects only to have the bulk of the benefits of those projects flow directly into the coffers of huge U.S. corporations instead of to the benefit of the general public as was the intention of the U.S. reclamation law."

Enforcement of U.S. reclamation law would require "a break-up of the huge tracts of land presently monopolized through absentee ownership by large corporations, many of which use them for tax loss writeoffs," he said.

Such action would represent "a major step toward long overdue national land reform" and contribute to basic tax reform as well, he pointed out.

Noting that the Justice Department under Kleindienst refused to appeal a related case (U.S. vs. Imperial Irrigation District) in which the federal government brought action against the water district for failing to enforce the 160 acre limitation, Henning said that the decision not to appeal the IID case favored "absentee ownership and exploitation of huge land areas enriched by publicly financed water."

Charging that there "have already been indications that the Justice Department is planning to appeal the Murray decision despite the fact that it is clearly in the public interest not to do so," Henning wrote:

"In the hope you share with me the belief that the Justice Department's role is to enforce the law, not to serve as a tool of special interests which seek to continue to evade its enforcement, I urge you not to appeal the Murray decision."

He also pointed out that the State Labor Federation, which represents 1.6 million AFL-CIO members, has long fought "for proper enforcement" of the reclamation act so that the law's intent could be realized, namely, the creation of large areas of federally irrigated farm lands available to resident family

farmers, not to large absentee corporations.

The California AFL-CIO is supporting pending congressional legislation that would authorize the federal government to buy reclaimed land held in violation of reclamation law and, through resale or lease to family farmers, use the proceeds to provide federal funds for education and the development of recreational facilities.

Such action could help reduce local property taxes throughout the nation "since literally billion of dollars are involved," Henning said.

Robert Howard Named Labor Commissioner

Robert E. Howard has been named Chief of the Division of Labor Law Enforcement of the State Department of Industrial Relations by Governor Reagan.

Howard, 52, whose new post is commonly known as State Labor Commissioner, has served as director of the State Department of Rehabilitation since 1967. He was formerly budget director of Los Angeles County.

He succeeds George Milias, a former Republican Assemblyman, who resigned to become assistant regional administrator for the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Dispute Time Loss Dips

Mandays of idleness due to disputes between management and labor dropped to 1.5 working days per thousand for the first nine months of 1972, substantially below the 2.5 working days per thousand tallied for the first nine months of 1971, the U.S. Labor Department has reported.

Publisher's Notice

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Kennedy to Speak At Jewish Fund Fete for Henning

U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy will be the principal speaker at a dinner sponsored by the Jewish National Fund to honor John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco on December 10.

Co-honoree at the dinner will be Mrs. William H. Green, Chairman of the Jewish Welfare Federation.

The dinner, which marks the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel, is being held "to honor two individuals who by their examples have advanced the brotherhood of man among the many ethnic and religious groups which make up the people of San Francisco," an announcement issued by the Northern California Council of the JNF said.

San Francisco Bay Area union officials serving on a tribute committee for Henning include: James B. Booe; Lamar Childers; Daniel Del Carlo; Art Carter; Fred D. Fletcher; Joseph R. Garcia; Jack Goldberger; Lou Goldblatt; George Goodfellow; Richard K. Groulx; Phyllis Mitchell; Fred L. Martin; Joseph P. Mazzola; Leo Mitchell; Frank Morabito; Jack Smith; Ed Turner; Charles B. Weers; and Morris Weisberger.

John F. Crowley, executive officer of the San Francisco Central Labor Council, is serving as general chairman of the dinner and San Francisco Mayor Joseph L. Alioto is honorary chairman.

A no host cocktail hour at 6:00 p.m. will precede the dinner which is scheduled in the Grand Ballroom at the Fairmont at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

In addition to the dinner, a grove of trees will be planted in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Forest in Israel in honor of Henning and Mrs. Green.

Information on tickets for the dinner may be obtained from the Jewish National Fund at 2266 Geary Blvd., San Francisco or by phoning 415-567-3440.

A Point on Half-Truths

"Half-truths are like half-bricks—they can be thrown farther."—Adm. Hyman Rickover

Senate Panel OKs AB 1710; Women's ERA Ratified

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which won final approval on a 53-15 Assembly vote last Monday, says:

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Attorneys on both sides of the ERA fight agree that the courts will be forced to hold existing state protective laws applying only to women and minors invalid because they discriminate on the basis of sex.

ACTION ATTACKED

Ruth Miller, national representative and west coast educational director of the AFL-CIO Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, sharply criticized the "middle class professional women" who clamored for immediate action on the ERA throughout the legislative session even though there's no possibility of the amendment winning ratification by the necessary 16 additional states before the middle of next year. (Ratification by two-thirds or 38 of the nation's 50 states is required.)

Mrs. Miller, a former chairperson of the California Advisory Committee on the Status of Women who is currently chairperson of the "Women in the Work Force" Committee of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, said:

"The tactics used to insure ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment prior to winning extension of significant protective labor standards to the entire work force is proof positive of the assertion repeatedly made by trade unionists that middle class, professional women have neither concern nor understanding of the needs of workers in the fields, factories and service industries of California.

LEGISLATORS HIT

"Unfortunately, legislators are more responsive to the efforts of professionals than they are to workers producing goods and services for the society.

"We know that in the days ahead when working women, joined by their male counterparts, struggle for the health and safety standards they need in the work place, when they seek enforcement of equal pay for equal work and when they drive for child care services at reasonable costs and other similar

necessary benefits, the labor movement will be in the forefront of their fight."

John F. Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO, said he was heartened by the 8 to 3 vote of the Senate Finance Committee yesterday giving approval of AB 1710. He expressed hope that the full Senate would also swiftly approve the measure and that Governor Reagan would sign it promptly to protect "the fundamental job rights of all California workers."

AB 1710, introduced by Assemblyman Willie Brown, Jr. (D-San Francisco), would just add a one-sentence section to the State Labor Code. The full text of the bill reads as follows:

"The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 1399 is added to the Labor Code, to read:

"1399. On and after January 1, 1973, the provisions of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1171) of Part 4 of Division 2 of the Labor Code which are applicable to adult women shall be applicable to adult men."

Henning pointed out that the sections referred to deal with the State Industrial Welfare Commission's authority to establish minimum wages and working condition standards for women and minors employed in California.

"The IWC has played an important role in curbing the ex-

ploitation of child labor and in eliminating many intolerable conditions confronting women in the work force since it was created nearly 60 years ago.

"Although some unscrupulous employer representatives are engaging in outright misrepresentations about AB 1710, I am confident that neither the state's legislators nor Governor Reagan will be fooled by their efforts to wipe out laws that have a vital and daily effect on the lives of millions of California workers," Henning said.

He also expressed hope that AB 1710 would receive final legislative approval and be signed by the Governor before the legislature's scheduled adjournment on December 1.

Testifying in support of AB 1710 at its initial hearing before the Senate Finance Committee Monday in addition to Henning were Anne Draper of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union in San Francisco and Maxine Wolpinsky of Office and Professional Employees Local 29 in Oakland.

Members of the Senate Finance Committee who voted in favor of sending AB 1710 to the Senate floor yesterday included six Democrats and two Republicans. They are:

Senators Randolph Collier (D-Yreka) committee chairman; Alfred E. Alquist (D-San Jose);

Lou Cusanovich (R-Sherman Oaks); Donald L. Grunsky (R-Watsonville); John W. Holmdahl (D-Oakland); Albert S. Rodda (D-Sacramento); Alan Short (D-Stockton); and Walter W. Stiern (D-Bakersfield).

Senators opposing this essential state AFL-CIO sponsored bill were:

Senators Robert Lagomarsino (R-Ventura); Fred W. Marler (R-Redding); and Howard Way (R-Exeter).

Absent were Senators Anthony Bellenson (D-L.A.) and Stephen P. Teale (D-Railroad Flat).

The measure won approval of the Assembly last May by a vote of 54 to 10.

Labor Commissioner Bill Moves Ahead

SB 1044, a State AFL-CIO-sponsored bill to require the State Labor Commissioner to process employee's wage claims instead of having the latitude to dismiss them out of hand, won the unanimous approval of the Assembly Labor Relations Committee this week.

The measure, approved yesterday, now goes to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. It has already won State Senate approval.

Are Controls "A Way Station To Fascism?"

Conservative columnist William F. Buckley, Jr., lamented the imposition of wage and price controls by England's conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath in a column carried on the San Francisco Examiner editorial page this week.

Asserting that "The controls have never worked. All they accomplished was formal economic discipline," Buckley observed:

"Formal economic discipline is a way station to syndicalism; corporativism; fascism — call it what you will, and be sad."

Unlike the Nixon administration's controls which the Pay Board conceded last week had been effective on wages but ineffective on prices, Prime Minister Heath's controls apply not only to wages and prices but to profits as well.

Solons Attack Vetoes by Nixon

President Nixon's recent pocket veto of nine bills, including a \$30.5 billion appropriation for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare, have been sharply condemned by Democratic Congressional leaders.

Nixon said that his vetoes were part of his fight to hold down government spending but Congressional leaders pointed out that the measures included authority for the President to impound up to \$1.2 billion of the appropriated funds involved.

Vetoed by Nixon were funds for federal aid to education, medical research, community health centers, mental health, and manpower training for the unemployed.

Other legislation vetoed by Nixon included:

Worker protection, a measure strongly supported by the AFL-CIO to provide protection for workers affected by pollution related lay offs and plant closings.

Public works, another worker protection measure that was part of a two-year, \$2.3 billion authorization for accelerated public works construction. The AFL-CIO backed the measure to provide essential public works project which could, at the same time, ease the nation's critical unemployment problem.

Anti-skyjacking, a measure known as the Airport Act which would have provided substantially greater matching funds for safety and security. Other vetoes killed a Veterans Health Care Bill, vocational programs for crippled people, and increased pay for 1,500 U.S. marshalls.

Cranston Hit for Backing Nixon's Plan to Slash Jobs

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CIO members and other American workers."

Disclosure of the Nixon Administration's plans to implement the cutbacks was delayed, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal Tuesday, when the White House told the Pentagon to hold off until after the November election to avoid angering voters or Congressmen with military bases in their districts.

Reports indicated that the axe is scheduled to fall immediately after Congress convenes next January, according to Defense

Department spokesmen.

Congressman Robert L. Leggett (D-Sacramento), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, said he had some "reasonably hard information" indicating that some of the reductions would be in the military construction area.

"It might affect a great number of bases in California — Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine," he said.

He pointed out that Nixon has indicated that of \$10 billion in cuts he wants to make in the next federal budget, \$7 billion would affect California.

Leggett also noted that California officials have already been notified of curtailments in federal funding of water projects.

Pentagon sources indicated that the cuts will more likely come in the logistics and maintenance areas involving the closure or curtailment of operations at dozens of small military depots which bound in California.

The reports also indicated that the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in San Francisco might be under consideration for closure.

Consumers Behind the Eight Ball?

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tion which said:

"We reiterate our belief in a major expansion of consumer education programs by educational institutions and by non-profit and consumer organizations. To help achieve this, and to increase the chances of enactment of favorable consumer legislation, we pledge the Consumer Federation of California our continuing assistance."

In a cover letter to affiliates, John F. Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO, said:

"Organized labor's input on consumer matters is vital to the progress and direction of the Federation. If your organization is not now a member of the Consumer Federation, please ask your members for favorable consideration."

The accompanying brochure, which included an application for membership, noted that "pay envelope gains won at the bargaining table are now frequently diluted in the marketplace" and said that CFC would fight for consumer interests in such areas as health care for all and no fault auto insurance.

Albin J. Gruhn, president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, is one of the three vice presidents of the CFC.

Further information may be obtained by writing to: Consumer Federation of California, 2200 L Street, Sacramento, California 95816.

Profits and Productivity Rise But Wage Hikes Drop

U.S. corporate profits and worker productivity climbed sharply and unit labor costs dropped again during the three months ended September 30 but average wage increases negotiated in major collective bargaining contracts during the first nine months of 1972 were 18 percent below year-earlier figures.

These are the figures that stick out in a series of reports by the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics and private business surveys by the Wall Street Journal and U.S. News and World Report.

The BLS figures indicate that the productivity of private non-farm workers climbed 6.2 percent in the third quarter while unit labor costs dropped 0.3 percent on top of a 0.5 percent decline in the second quarter.

The BLS report disclosed that productivity, or output per man hour, had also gained 5.1 percent in the second quarter and 5.2 percent during the first three months of 1972.

During the past two years, it indicated, productivity has shot upward at a rate substantially greater than that for the previous quarter of a century.

This rise, coupled with holding down unit labor costs while prices were rising sharply, accounts in no small measure for the sharp increase in corporate profits.

The BLS data showed that productivity in the total private economy rose 3.7 percent dur-

ing the third quarter, below the 6.2 percent increase in the second quarter but substantially above the long-term growth rate of three percent during the past 20 years.

According to a Wall Street Journal survey, the after-tax, third-quarter earnings of 570 companies were 15.9 percent higher than a year earlier.

A broader survey by U.S. News and World Report which examined statements issued by 1,363 firms found that after-tax profits totaled just over \$7.9 billion in the third quarter, a 14.3 percent jump from the \$6.9 billion earned by the same firms in the third quarter of 1971.

But with all this good news on the corporate side, what was happening to the wages?

BLS found that average wage increases negotiated in major collective bargaining agreements during the first nine months of 1972 amounted to 6.6 percent a year over the life of the contract, substantially below the 8.1 percent average for the same period last year.

The preliminary estimate was based on 390 settlements approved during the nine-month period by either the Pay Board or the Construction Industry Stabilization Committee. The settlements covered 1,471,000 workers, principally workers in the aerospace, railroad, construction and maritime industries.

The average effective wage gain showed even a sharper drop — from 10.3 percent during the

full year of 1971 to 5.3 percent during the first nine months of 1972.

The average effective wage gain is determined by combining first-year increases under new settlements with scheduled deferred wage increases under existing contracts and cost-of-living escalator adjustments actually going into effect.

The new contracts were also shorter, having an average duration of 24.7 months compared with a 27.8 month average for expired contracts. This suggests some tendency towards shorter contracts since economic controls were imposed, the federal agency said.

Settlements in the construction industry affecting 312,000 workers averaged 6.6 percent over the life of the contract, sharply below last year's 10.8 percent average gain. First-year increases dropped to 7.1 percent compared with 12.6 percent last year.

In manufacturing, the 495,000 workers affected by the major settlements during the first nine months of 1972 received first-year increases of 6.9 percent compared with 10.9 percent in 1971. The annual gain on a life-of-the-contract basis was 5.6 percent compared with 7.3 percent a year earlier.

In non-manufacturing jobs, the 976,000 workers affected received an average first-year gain of 7.3 percent compared with 12.2 percent a year earlier.

Senate Approves Pregnancy Benefits

State AFL-CIO-supported legislation to provide benefits under the employee-financed state disability insurance program for women suffering complications resulting from pregnancy won approval of the State Senate this week and has been sent to the Assembly.

The bill, SB 419 introduced by Senator George R. Moscone (D-San Francisco), won upper house approval by a vote of 24 to 5 yesterday.

The life-of-the-contract annual gain dropped from 8.9 percent in 1971 to 7.2 percent this year.