

CPI Now 7.4% Higher Than A Year Ago

The Consumer Price Index in September 1973 was 7.4 percent higher than a year earlier, according to the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In the June - to - September quarter of 1973, the CPI rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 10.3 percent compared with 7.4 percent in the quarter ended in June and 8.6 percent in the quarter ended in March 1973.

The food index rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 28.8 percent.

Public Workers' Agency Shop Clause Upheld

City governments can require their workers to pay the equivalent of union initiation fees and dues to the union to keep their jobs, according to a ruling made by arbitrator Robert E. Burns in a landmark case involving the City of Hayward.

Noting that state law does not specifically bar the so-called "agency shop" clause for public employees, Burns said that such a clause must be interpreted as a lawful effort to promote stable employee relations.

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Expert Cites Grim Toll of Job-Related Diseases at Fed Parley

The grim toll of occupational diseases and accidents — and the lack of effective federal or state action to combat them — was laid before more than 300 union officials at a California AFL-CIO Conference on Occupational Safety and Health at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco this week by Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, a physician long in the forefront of the fight to protect workers from asbestosis and other job-related diseases.

"Every day," Dr. Selikoff said, "there are 300 deaths in this nation from occupational diseases and another 50 from on-the-job accidents. Since California has about 10 percent of the nation's population, this means that there are about 35 such deaths a day in Califor-

nia."

While noting that there is still a large amount of neglect, apathy and indifference at many levels charged with protecting worker safety, Dr. Selikoff praised the role played by organized labor in winning enactment of the 1970 Occupational Health and Safety Act and said that he was optimistic that now that people are waking up to the "massive threat" of occupational health hazards "they are rejecting the idea that a worker must risk his health or

his life to earn a day's pay."

To underscore the cost of apathy in terms of human lives, Dr. Selikoff pointed out that asbestos was recognized as a danger as early as 1924 yet the first official U.S. Public Health study of the danger wasn't undertaken until 1965, three years after his own tests detailing its dangers had been publicized.

Today, he noted, there are between 200,000 and 250,000 workers actively employed in the asbestos industry and an-

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Labor Hails Prop. 1 Defeat; Urges Health Care Action

"Defeat of Proposition 1 — despite the fact that its proponents spent five times as much trying to sell it to the voters as could be raised to fight it and despite the fact that most major newspapers in the state supported it — is simply a tribute to the basic good sense of

California voters," John F. Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO said today.

"It was a great victory for responsible and representative government and for legislative processing of revenue and tax issues. Its passage could have been disastrous for California's



SPEAKER BOB MORETTI
Led Fight Against Prop. 1

future."

Henning said labor's opposition to the measure was "a great contributing factor in its defeat."

He also said Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti was deserving of "particular praise" for his role

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Union Asks for Aid to Press Sears Strike

An appeal for funds to aid trade unionists involved in a 12-week strike against Sears Roebuck Stores in the San Francisco area was issued this week by AFL-CIO Department Store Employees Union Local 1100.

The statewide appeal, issued by Walter L. Johnson, the union's secretary-treasurer, points out that the union has not "received one written proposal from Sears Roebuck in over 14 months" of efforts at negotiation.

The members of Local 1100, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO Re-

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Public Workers' Agency Shop Clause Upheld

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The agency shop agreement was signed by Hayward officials and United Public Employees Local 390, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO Service Employees International Union, in a memorandum of agreement in 1972 after the Local won an election to represent the city's 125 maintenance and operation employees. All but six of the employees voluntarily joined the union.

In overruling Hayward City attorney John W. Scanlon's contention that the agency shop provision violated the Meyers-Milias-Brown act and other state statutes, the arbitrator said in his 30-page opinion that, on the contrary, the city violated its agreement with the union by failing to enforce the provision.

The provision requires all employees in the bargaining unit as a condition of employment either to belong to the union selected by a majority of them or pay a fee to the selected union that is equal to the initiation and dues fees paid by union members for representational expenses.

"The agency shop is part of the 'reasonable method of resolving disputes regarding wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment' adopted by the city," Burns said.

Like many other cities, Hayward permits the selection of one union as the bargaining agent for major employee groups. The union selected by the majority in that group is then required to represent both members and non-members "fairly and equally" in wage negotiations and in often costly grievance cases.

Asserting that it is "both equitable and essential that all employees share the costs of the union's efforts, Burns declared:

"If employees . . . could pay dues or not as they saw fit, the purpose of the city in recognizing (one union as exclusive bargaining agent) would be thwarted by the inability of the union to function and represent the employees."

Following announcement of the arbitrators' decision, Scanlon said that he would seek to reverse it in court.

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other 750,000 former asbestos workers still alive. Of these one million workers, he said:

- one in five or 200,000 will die of lung cancer; and
- one in two or 500,000 will die of some kind of cancer; and
- one in 10 or 100,000 will die of asbestosis.

And the only cause of asbestosis, which is irreversible, he said, is asbestos fibers.

Similar alarming fatality rates result to workers constantly exposed to coal dust, cotton dust, chemicals and textiles and in every case the danger was recognized 50 or 100 years ago, he said.

Selikoff, who was the luncheon speaker at the day-long conference jointly sponsored by the California Labor Federation and the Center for Labor Research and Education at the University of California at Berkeley, said he was heartened by the growing change in the climate of social responsibility and the greater concern being focused on the problem by organized labor.

Earlier in the conference, the Nixon Administration's refusal to accept the 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act as a federal program was sharply attacked by AFL-CIO spokesmen.

Asserting that the Nixon Administration has spent "more money on state programs than on federal enforcement," Bob Hayden, assistant legislative director of the United Steelworkers, charged that the prime focus of the national administration has been on rapid defederalization of the program despite the fact that it was enacted as a result of the failure of many state governments to develop effective programs at the state level.

Assemblyman Jack R. Fenton, Assembly Democratic Floor Leader who authored AB 150, the legislation designed to bring California's safety program into compliance with OSHA, said that while he was sympathetic with the National AFL-CIO's concern about the adequacy of safety standards in other states, particularly those in the southeast, emphasized that that was "no reason why we should

let standards go backward in California."

Asserting that AB 150 drew strong opposition from California employers, Fenton said that the state law, for the first time, will require employers to post any report of safety violations found at their work place where the employees can see it and permit employees to demand another inspection if they feel that any hazards were overlooked.

The new state law also assures workers that if they complain of a safety violation or occupational hazard, the plant must be inspected within 72 hours, he said.

Fenton, who chaired the Assembly Select Committee on Industrial Safety which probed the Sylmar tunnel explosion that took the lives of 17 workers two years ago and subsequently led to the resignation of the chief of the Division of Industrial Safety, also pointed out that AB 150 requires Department of Health inspectors to carry out studies to determine both the short- and long-term effect on workers of various hazardous materials.

Hayden had pointed out that under the present national administration, OSHA has hired only about 500 inspectors for the entire nation although state programs involved five times as many inspectors and that the same administration "has developed extremely weak guidelines for what constitutes an adequate state (occupational safety and health) plan.

In the case of California, he noted, the state enabling legislation had not even been enacted at the time it won OSHA's approval.

Hayden, who filled in at the last moment for Steelworkers' legislative director John J. Sheehan who was obliged to stay in Washington to testify on pension reform legislation, said that the state-by-state approach favored by the Nixon Administration is undesirable because in many states such plans will probably not be implemented as well as a federal program and are likely to involve much milder penalties and to permit long-

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Sign Up Now for U.I.-D.I. Conference In S.F. Nov. 29-30

All affiliates of the California Labor Federation are urged to get their registration forms in as soon as possible for the Federation's annual Conference on Unemployment Insurance and Disability Insurance to be held at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco Nov. 29-30.

Bert Seidman, director of the National AFL-CIO's Department of Social Security, will be the principal speaker at the conference which will also feature state experts on both programs.

Registration forms for the conference along with hotel registration information were mailed out to all State AFL-CIO affiliates last month.

The conference is designed to familiarize union officials with improvements won in the two programs during the 1973 session to enable them to make sure union members get all the benefits to which they're entitled.

Union Asks for Aid to Press Sears Strike

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tail Clerks International Association, have been on strike at Sears along with five other unions since August 25.

Basic issues in the strike are the union's efforts to bring the Sears Roebuck benefit structure and commission plans up to prevailing wage standards already being paid by similar stores in the San Francisco area.

Johnson said the union is maintaining a Speakers' Bureau and will be glad to send a speaker to any local union or central body to explain the issues involved in the strike. One of the foremost of these is the attempt by this \$12 billion multinational firm to dictate wage and working condition provisions that undermine existing standards, he said.

Financial contributions should be made payable to "Sears Strike Support Fund" and sent to Sears Strike Support Fund, Department Store Employees Union Local 1100, 1345 Mission St., San Francisco 94103.

Fed Pledges Fight to Win Profs' Bargaining Rights

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ning noted that the UPC and the AFT "have a history of groping for unionism."

"The teachers' unions in all areas of this country have given a new breath of liberalism to the labor movement of this country," he said.

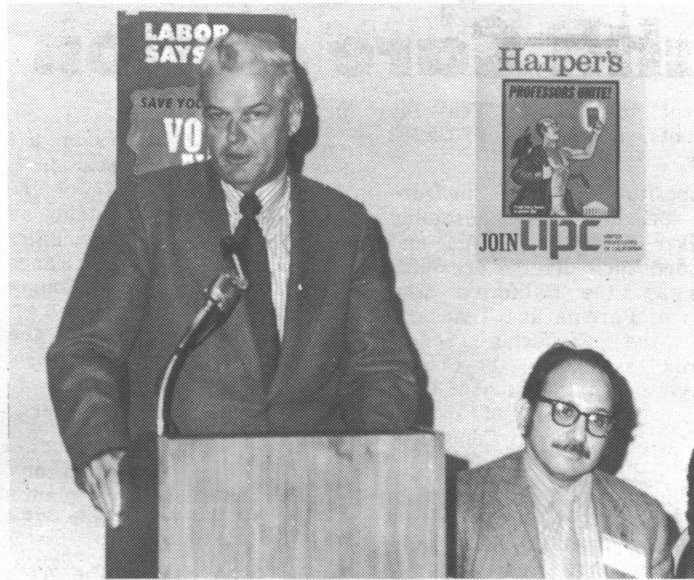
"The national movement needs this," he added, "not because it is retarded, but because every organization needs this kind of renewal."

But in reviewing the California AFL-CIO's fight to win full collective bargaining rights and adequate grievance machinery for university professors and teachers, Henning made it clear that he felt that affiliation of the academic community with the AFL-CIO was virtually essential to bring about the unity necessary to achieve this goal.

Noting that when the State College Board of Trustees refused to acknowledge the teachers' efforts to establish proper grievance machinery, the labor movement succeeded in getting the legislators to reduce the Board's staff of attorneys from 12 down to eight, Henning said:

"That's the only language they understand. They don't understand humanitarian arguments."

Other speakers at the conference included San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto; State Sen-



UNITY VITAL—John F. Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO, underscored the need for unity in both legislative and political efforts to win full collective bargaining rights and adequate grievance machinery for college and university faculty members in an address to the National Conference on Academic Government at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco Nov. 2. Seated (at right) is Arnold Mechanic, president of the AFL-CIO United Professors of California.

ator George Moscone, author of the Federation's collective bargaining bill for teachers; AFT President David Selden; and CFT President Raoul Teillet.

Following the opening

speeches, the conference was divided into a series of task forces to examine various problems and urgencies felt by members of the academic community.

In one of a series of papers

prepared for the task force, Eric Solomon, a San Francisco State University English professor observed:

"All power to the Academic Senates!" is indeed a vain cry. In the real world of money and politics, as academic senates' impotence during the . . . late 1960's showed most dramatically, faulty decision making groups can only decide what other forces allow . . .

"The attractiveness of collective bargaining in a situation where faculty has no genuine authority should be obvious. Most obviously, the loss of insignificant academic senates would be no real loss.

"To quote the Elizabethan scholar Sir John Harrington, 'If it prosper, none dare call it treason.' If collective bargaining enhances the life and vitality of academic senates and true faculty governance, then none can accuse unionization of having betrayed the best interests and traditions of the academy."

Conference coordinator John Sperling, a San Jose State University professor, said that the UPC intends to publish the conference proceedings and that this volume is expected to be available before the collective bargaining elections expected in the University of California and State University and Colleges some time in 1975.

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er abatement periods.

He noted that the AFL-CIO adopted a resolution at its biennial convention just last month calling for repeal of Section 18 of the federal Act, a move aimed at eliminating state plans. But he conceded that repeal action was not very likely in the existing political climate.

The Steelworkers' spokesman particularly deplored the use of so-called consultative services which in effect lets an employer request that a safety survey be made without any penalties for violations found being assessed.

"The threat of first instance violations and penalties is essential and must be kept inviolate," Hayden said.

"Consultations and warnings are one of the state programs' worst features," he charged pointing out that employers

must operate in a climate in which they know that non-compliance will cost them money if it is discovered.

Noting that in many states the maximum benefit levels under the workmen's compensation program are below the poverty level, Hayden urged support for the Williams-Javits bill (S. 2008) which would establish federal standards in the workmen's compensation field.

Among other things it would:

- Provide complete coverage for all occupational diseases as well as injuries.
- Require major increases in benefit levels.
- Require cost of living escalation clauses.
- And provide universal coverage for all workers.

John F. Henning, executive officer of the California Labor Federation who chaired the con-

ference, stressed the need for all local unions and central bodies to "get behind" the Williams-Javits bill.

Steven Wodka, assistant director of the Legislative Department of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, told more than 330 conference participants that OSHA enforcement "will never be as adequate as we want it."

Noting that the nation has some 55 million different work places, he said:

"The only logical solution is for our own people to know what to do.

OCAW, he said, has launched its own survey of plants using outside consultants, is conducting its own physical exams and has launched an on-going program to educate union members.

As an example, he said, the

union sent out a "flow-sheet" showing what happens at every step in the refinery process and what the hazards at each step are.

He also noted that OCAW recently won an important arbitration case in which the arbitrator ruled that it is reasonable for workers to demand to know what chemicals they are working with and to undertake monitoring of exposure levels.

Other speakers at the conference included: Al Reis, director of the California Occupational Safety and Health Program; Ed Park, Director of Education and Research for the California State Council of Operating Engineers; Hal Shean, Grand Lodge Representative of the International Association of Machinists; James Sherman, International Representative of the United Rubber Workers and Jerry Cohen, attorney for the United Farm Workers Union.

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in leading the public fight against the Governor Reagan-sponsored measure.

"But it also indicates what an aroused, broad coalition of civic organizations can do when they really are united on an issue and I am hopeful that a similar coalition to demand affirmative congressional action on the Kennedy-Corman national health insurance program can be forged in the months immediately ahead," he said.

Henning was asked to comment on the election results while chairing a meeting in Los Angeles of a new statewide committee that is known as Californians for Consumer Health Protection which is mounting a drive to win enactment of comprehensive national health insurance for all now.

"Our basic objections to Proposition 1," he said, "were that it would have hamstrung the state's ability to meet its citizens' needs in such vital areas as health, housing, and education and would have forced a greater reliance on consumer taxes while freezing existing state tax loopholes into the California Constitution.

"This would have made it practically impossible to bring about a greater reliance on the state income tax, which is based on the ability to pay principle and which presently accounts for less than one-third of the state's revenues," Henning explained.

The California AFL-CIO produced and distributed a million and a half pamphlets, fact sheets and posters in its efforts to defeat the measure and worked closely with a broad coalition of civic organizations in the campaign, he noted.

Proposition 1 was defeated by a vote of 2,284,705 "No" (54

percent) to 1,945,123 "Yes" (46 percent), a margin of 339,582 votes.

Opposition to the measure was spearheaded by Assembly Speaker Moretti (D-L.A.) and included such diverse organizations as: the California Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., the California School Boards Association; the County Supervisors Association of California; the League of Women Voters; the National Council of Jewish Women; the NAACP; the Sierra Club; and a host of others.

Henning credited central labor council and local union officials throughout the state for the "obviously effective job they did in laying the facts of the issues before union members and coordinating get-out-

the-vote efforts."

Some 4,229,828 voters or 46.5 percent voted on Proposition 1. It was defeated in 47 of the state's 58 counties, including all of the more populous counties except San Diego and Orange Counties. In San Diego County the vote was a narrow 158,402 "Yes" to 156,189 "No." And even in the conservative bastion of Orange County the vote was closer than expected: 189,560 "Yes" to 129,648 "No."

These pluralities were more than offset by nearly 2 to 1 "No" vote margins in a number of northern California Counties including Alameda, Sacramento, and San Francisco.

Total registration for the election was 9,089,819, including 5,049,959 Democrats and 3,342,290 Republicans.

City of Hope Fete to Honor Joe Seymour

A testimonial dinner honoring union leader Joseph H. Seymour, a vice president of the California Labor Federation and business manager of Operating Engineers Local 12 who is also General Vice President of the International Union, will be held at the Century Plaza Hotel in Century City, Los Angeles on December 1.

Proceeds of the dinner will be used to help establish the Joseph H. Seymour Research Fellowship at the world-renowned City of Hope Medical Center which celebrates its 60th anniversary on the same date.

Further information on the dinner may be obtained by phoning Leo A. Majich, Dinner Committee Chairman, at area code 213-626-4611.



REVVING UP FOR ACTION—Participants at a political action workshop at the West Coast Regional Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People held at Asilomar Sept. 14-16 included (top from left) Dave Jessup, Frontlash; Senator Mervyn Dymally; Harry Jordan, California Labor COPE; William Pollard, of the AFL-CIO Civil Rights Department; and Arlington W. Carter, Jr., President of the NAACP's Northwest Area Conference. Seated (from left) are: Art Hamilton, City Councilman of Phoenix, Ariz., Virna Canson, NAACP Field Director and Legislative Advocate; Leonard H. Carter, West Coast Regional Director, NAACP; and Wade McClain, Executive Secretary of the NAACP's Los Angeles chapter.

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