

# Labor Meets the Legislators

The agenda is complete for the Legislative Conference, which is expected to draw more than 600 California trade unionists to Sacramento May 5-7 to discuss pending bills, meet with legislators and—most importantly—do some grass-roots lobbying.

The annual event will get under way at 9:30 a.m. Monday, May 5, in the main ballroom of the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn at Sacramento under sponsorship of the California Labor Federation and California State Building and Construction Trades Council.

The program will follow the format successful in recent years.

There will be speeches by legislative leaders before discussions begin on bills vital to labor.

On Tuesday, delegates will go to the Capitol to tell assembly members and senators first-hand why they favor or oppose various bills.

On Wednesday there will be reports from the rank-and-file lobbyists.

Delegates will be asked to help muster support for a series of bills sponsored by organized labor. Included are:

#### Civil Rights

- AB 134, M. Waters, prohibits investment of state pension funds

in firms doing business in South Africa.

- AB 3895, Moore, would set forth intent of the Legislature on minimum standards for strip and body searches of persons in police custody while allowing stricter local protections.

#### Consumer Protection

- AB 3333, Areias, regulates credit card interest and fees.

- AB 4185, W. Brown, provides 5 percent reduction in insurance rates to drivers complying with the seat-belt law.

- AB 4339, Connelly, would mandate Department of Health Services to monitor chemical and

pesticide residues in processed food and make annual reports to the Legislature.

- SB 2219, Petris, would set standards for holding business executives criminally liable for marketing products known to cause great bodily injury, illness or death.

#### Education

- AB 1513, Vasconcellos, would require community colleges to show what they are doing to achieve full-time faculties.

- AB 3520, Farr, would require annual publication of an "index of conditions for teaching and learning" at each school.

- SB 2103, Rosenthal, sets up arbitration in classified employee dismissals.

#### Environmental Protection

- AB 1263, Margolin, restricts short-term storage of hazardous waste materials.

- AB 2187, M. Waters, tightens toxic reporting laws.

- AB 4001, Connelly, identifies manufacturers using hazardous chemicals near schools, hospitals, or residences and requires monitoring and control of spills.

- SB 2424, Torres, revises role of director of health services in hazardous wastes enforcement.

(Continued on Page 4)



## California AFL-CIO News

Official Publication of The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Vol. 29—No. 16

April 25, 1986

## Minimum Wage Hearings OK'd By Commission

The California Industrial Welfare Commission has agreed at last to take a look at the minimum wage, which has been frozen at \$3.35 an hour for more than five years while the cost of living has escalated by about 26 percent.

State law requires the commission to set a minimum wage adequate to provide a worker with "the cost of proper living." It also says

the wage must be reviewed every second year.

The commissioners, meeting Friday of last week at Sacramento, agreed to hold hearings during August at San Diego, Los Angeles and Fresno to sample public opinion about the need for reconsidering the wage.

If the commissioners are persuaded at the hearings to go ahead with a study, procedure calls for appointment of a wage board to conduct a review throughout the state and make a recommendation.

It could be well into 1987 before the commissioners confront the realities of attempting to earn a "proper living," pay for health care, provide for old age or raise children on \$3.35 an hour.

John F. Henning, executive secretary of the California Labor Federation, began reminding the commissioners on Jan. 2 that they were obliged to review adequacy of the wage this year. The last review was in 1984, when the commission heeded employer representatives on the wage board and refused to raise the minimum.

At the Sacramento hearing last week, Tom Rankin, director of

(Continued on Page 4)

## Plastic Pipe Costs Shell \$5.2 Million

A jury has ordered Shell Oil Co. to pay \$5.2 million to a union attorney who was sued and intimidated by the corporation in an effort to suppress information about health hazards of plastic pipe.

The award was granted in Sacramento County Superior Court to Raymond Leonardini, who was chief counsel for the California Pipes Trade Council when he took some polybutylene pipe to an independent laboratory to determine whether it contained chemicals dangerous to plumbers installing it and consumers drinking water that flowed through it.

The lab, California Analytical Laboratory of Sacramento, con-

(Continued on Page 3)



Photo by Joe Ryan

Flight attendants on strike against Trans World Airlines lead parade down Market Street in S. F.

## 20,000 Join March, Rally

Flight attendants on strike against Trans World Airlines led the way last Saturday as the Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice put 20,000 marchers onto Market Street in San Francisco.

The labor movement, strongly represented in the broad-based coalition that paraded from Dolores Park to City Hall, fell in close behind marchers from the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants.

Labor's themes also were prominent in the rally at San Francisco Civic Center. President Mike Trumka of the United Mine Workers joined the march and then spoke at the rally, urging all of labor to support

the boycott of Shell Oil Co. brought on by Shell's profits under apartheid and suppression of black trade unionists in the coal mines of South Africa.

John F. Henning, executive secretary of the California Labor Federation also was a principal speaker.

The mobilization themes were no U.S. intervention in Central America or the Caribbean, an end to U.S. support for apartheid, jobs and justice rather than war, and reversal of the nuclear arms race.

The U.S. attack on Libya also was the subject of speakers decrying the Reagan Administration's military spending and social program cuts.

## Postal Hikes: 'Free Press in Peril'

Postal rate increases are stifling important voices of dissent and are depriving Americans of information unavailable from any other sources, labor editors from western states were warned last weekend at Sacramento.

Edwin M. Schmidt, director of the national AFL-CIO department of reproductions and mailings, sounded the warning during the annual convention of the Western Labor Press Assn.

"You have here the making of a spectre," Schmidt said of the Reagan Administration's determination to proceed toward elimination of all remaining subsidy rates for non-profit publications.

The result, he said, will be drastic curtailment of the labor press and suppression of the kinds of information union publications

now provide.

This often is information critical of the national administration, Schmidt said. Often, he noted, it is information the commercial press is unlikely to publish.

The danger is that Americans will be subjected to a steady diet of uncontradicted official news from Washington, the AFL-CIO official warned.

Centralized control of the nation's local news publications would be easier than ever before through use of technologies that enable such newspapers as USA Today to print identical newspapers simultaneously in dozens of cities, Schmidt continued.

"People assume this is a new idea, but I assure you there is nothing new about it.

"I have seen this in my youth in Nazi Germany," said Schmidt,

### AFL-CIO News Wins Top Prize

The California AFL-CIO News has been named best newspaper in its category in competition conducted by the Western Labor Press Assn.

The paper also won prizes for best feature story and best news story. It won a second prize in photography.

Details, Page 3

whose family came to the United States following World War II.

Once all independent voices had been silenced, local newspapers throughout Germany published identical pages edited by the same propaganda officials and distributed from the same office to

deluge the population with the Nazi Party line, Schmidt said.

"This is the spectre I have in mind when I see the way things are going. If they get their way, there will be no more cheap mail across the country.

"All our hope lies in one area: Congress," Schmidt said. "I urge all of you to keep telling your representatives in Congress how great the danger is."

The convention opened Friday morning at the Clarion Hotel a few blocks from the California Capitol. Wayne Harbolt, executive secretary of the Sacramento Labor Council, welcomed the delegates, and Assemblyman Phil Isenberg, D-Sacramento, delivered the keynote speech.

John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the Califor-

(Continued on Page 3)



# FORUM Calls Retirees to Conference

Defense of the Social Security system will be high on the agenda when delegates from Federation of Retired Union Members (FORUM) groups from throughout Northern California meet in Oakland June 26 for their second annual Political Action Conference.

The conference is to be held from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Teamsters Local 70 Hall, 70 Hegenberger Rd. near the Oakland Airport.

The call to conference was sounded by the Alameda County FORUM, which launched the first such meeting a year ago.

FORUM groups are sponsored by AFL-CIO Central Labor Councils for union retirees. The purpose is to enhance quality of life for all through political, legislative and community action.

The theme of the June 26 conference will be the community of interest shared by retired workers and those who will retire in the future, and the necessity of support for retiree programs from persons on both sides of the retirement milestone.

One resolution to be submitted by the Alameda County FORUM repudiates the contention that elderly persons, assisted by Social Security, are living well at the expense of younger generations.

"The cry that seniors are taking from younger people is a thinly disguised attempt to weaken and finally destroy Social Security," the resolution declares.

The sponsors point out that aims of the original Social Security Act of 1935 and of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's

1944 Economic Bill of Rights were to protect Americans of all ages from poverty and deprivation.

Those aims, with a national health service for all Americans, should be carried out, the resolution states, noting that the Reagan Administration continues to cut back on social programs while spending billions for "an extravagantly massive military machine."

Also high on the agenda will be rallying opposition to new social program cuts threatened by the Reagan Administration under the Gramm-Rudman Act.

The conference call declares:

"This administration demands even higher funding for the Pentagon and proposes that all Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget cuts come from brutal cutbacks and outright elimination of the long-delayed benefits for all Americans—health care, decent housing, the right to a job at decent pay, economic security for children, educational opportunity and protection from all the major hazards targeted by the sponsors of the original Social Security Act."

## Retiree Affiliation Session May 5

Procedures for affiliation of retiree groups with the California Labor Federation will be discussed during a special meeting to be held on May 5 during the Joint Legislative Conference at Sacramento.

The federation's Executive Council voted in March to invite local union retiree units and Federation of Retired Union Members (FORUM) groups to affiliate.

Affiliated retiree groups will be entitled to send voting delegates to

federation conventions. These delegates will be in addition to the representation to which sponsoring unions or central labor councils are entitled.

Jack Henning, federation executive secretary-treasurer, has assigned two federation staff members to help retiree groups organize and qualify as affiliates.

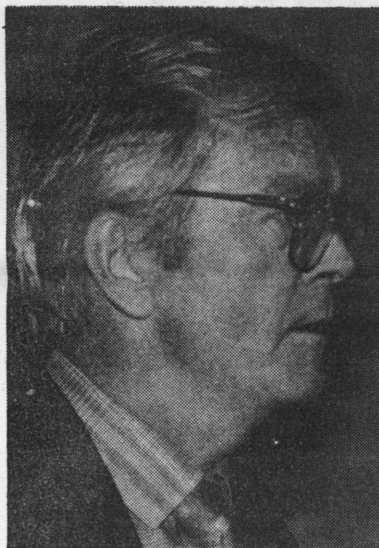
Field Representatives Don Hightower, working out of San Francisco, and Amado (Bill) Gallardo, assigned to Southern

California were detailed to work with the senior trade unionists.

The Sacramento meeting will be held on the first day of the Joint Legislative Conference, which is scheduled to run from Monday, May 5, through Wednesday, May 7.

The meeting has been called for 3 p.m. May 5 in the Fresno Room of the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, site of the conference.

## Bradley Speaker At Sheet Metal Western Council



Edward J. Carlough

Robert Mammini, the new president of the Western States Council of Sheet Metal Workers, introduced a parade of political candidates as council delegates met in convention April 4-5 at Torrance.

Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles, Democratic candidate for governor, led the list of political speakers, all of whom have been endorsed by California AFL-CIO COPE.

Others included U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston, Congressman Tony Coelho and Assemblyman Richard Floyd.

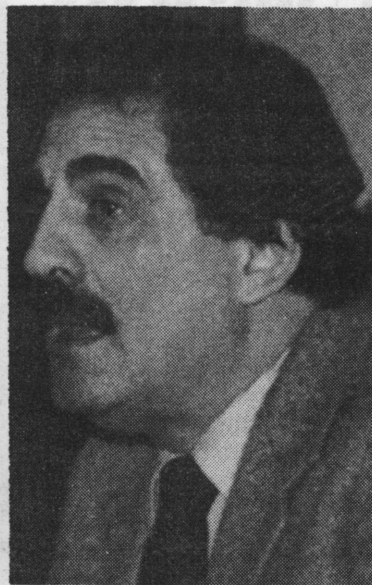
Delegates from California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii heard General President Edward J. Carlough, who traveled from



Tom Bradley

Washington for the convention, speak on the state of the Sheet Metal Workers International Assn.

It was the first convention at which Mammini presided as president. Mammini, who is business manager of Sheet Metal Workers' Local 104 in San Francisco, has succeeded Richard Dumanças as



Robert Mammini

principal officer of the council. Dumanças, president of Local 239 of Honolulu, declined to seek reelection after many years of service to the council.

Local 108 of Los Angeles was the host for the convention. A Mexican fiesta banquet was a highlight of the meeting.

## First Local OKs UFCW Merger

Merger of three Los Angeles area locals of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union has been approved overwhelmingly by members of the first union in which the proposal has been put to a vote.

Local 770, representing retail clerks, approved the merger last week. Local 421, representing retail meatcutters, and Local 274, packing house butchers, are to ballot early in May.

The merged local would number 30,000 members, according to Andrea Zinber, director of collective bargaining, education and research for Local 770. About 4,000 of these would be from Local 274, nearly 3,000 from Local 421 and the rest from Local 770.

The number of the merged local would be 770, although it would be an entirely separate union with a new charter, Zinber said.

## Datebook

Joint Legislative Conference: May 5-7, Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento.

A. Philip Randolph Institute National Conference: May 14-18, Sheraton St. Louis Hotel, St. Louis, Mo.

1986 Convention, California State Building Trades Council: June 12-14, Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento.

California Labor Federation Executive Council pre-convention meeting: July 23-25, Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento.

Sixteenth Convention, California Labor Federation: July 28-Aug. 1, Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento.

Trade Union Summer School: Sept. 21-25, Woodlake Inn, Sacramento.

## ATU Demonstrates Against Greyhound

Amalgamated Transit Union members marched outside Greyhound terminals at Los Angeles, San Diego and New York City last Tuesday to call attention to storm clouds gathering over the bus company's labor-relations landscape.

Greyhound, the demonstrators contended, displays the kind of corporate greed that aims at

destroying unions and degrading the standard of living of American workers.

Under Board Chairman John Teets, the company has franchised work out to non-union companies, ATU leaders say. It has turned profitable routes over to non-union subsidiary bus companies or has simply abandoned them to get rid of union workers.

And now, Larry Arone of ATU Local 1222 points out, Teets has stated publicly that every Greyhound terminal across the nation will be turned over to a private contractor and all union workers will be put onto the street by the end of September.

ATU contracts with Greyhound expire in October.

This will cost the livelihoods of about 3,000 members of ATU Local 1222 alone, which staged the San Diego and Los Angeles demonstrations.

"The American worker is suffering in the throes of political indifference and corporate greed," Local 1222 members declared in printed materials handed out during the demonstrations.

Teets, union leaders note, claims responsibility for the union-busting maneuver in which Greyhound turned its Armour Meats subsidiary over to ConAgra. The Armour plants were closed down by Greyhound and reopened immediately by ConAgra as non-union operations. The United Food and Commercial Workers Union fought that maneuver in court and won millions for union members who had been thrown out and replaced.

ATU leaders feel helpless in the case of the Greyhound terminals because Teets' lawyers apparently have found a way to use severance pay as leverage.

If the terminals are handed over to non-union subcontractors, union members can claim severance, Arone said. If the terminals are simply closed, there apparently would be no legal basis for the severance.

ATU leaders call it coercion.

## Labor, Community Give Aid

Trade union and community resources are being used to assist workers laid off in the recent shut-down of the Zody's retail store chain in Southern California.

More than 1,900 members of the Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers Union lost their jobs, according to Mary Yunt, secretary-treasurer of the Orange County Central Labor Council.

The Orange County council, AFL-CIO Community Services, local employment and training agencies and the ACTWU are deeply involved, Yunt said, along with labor and community resources in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Kern counties.

The focus is employment,

retraining and community services to the laid-off workers, Yunt said. The combined effort brought about 19 meetings at stores and union halls before Zody's doors were closed.

More than 250 of the workers are participating in employment and retraining programs aimed at providing wages and benefits comparable to those that were lost.

An impressive array of agencies and labor organizations has participated. Included are: Orange County United Way, Department of Labor, Anaheim Department of Employment Services, Santa Ana Department of Employment Services, ACTWU Joint Board 10, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 324, Orange Coun-

ty Central Labor Council Displaced Workers Program, and the AFL-CIO Human Resources Development Institute.

Shop stewards from Zody's stores in a dozen communities have had key roles, Yunt said, as have Candice Brown, western regional coordinator for the AFL-CIO Human Resources Development Institute, and Diana DePeu, assistant director of the ACTWU Social Services Department.

Further information on the program and on services available for laid-off workers can be obtained from Bob Nelson or Betty Gonzalez of the Orange County Central Labor Council Displaced Workers Program. The phone number is (714) 771-3640.

### Publisher's Notice

The California AFL-CIO News (ISSN: 0008-0802) is published weekly except during the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, 995 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94103. Second class postage paid at San Francisco, Calif.—Subscription: \$6 a year. USPS Publication Number 083-400. John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer; Floyd Tucker, editor. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: California AFL-CIO News, 995 Market St., Suite 310, San Francisco, CA 94103.

WFLA  
WESTERN LABOR FEDERATION ASSOCIATION

CLC  
CALIFORNIA LABOR COUNCIL





**Work and Walk** Cesar Chavez, left photo, joins HERE Local 681 members demonstrating in front of Disneyland Hotel at Anaheim over management's harrassment of union activists and refusal to bargain a fair contract for 1,200 hotel workers. At right, one member gives clenched fist

salute and another leads chants. Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers, spoke in Spanish to the workers, most of whom are Latino, telling them, 'You can't lose if you don't give up.' Local 681 members continue to work while demonstrating daily and urging friends of labor to stay elsewhere until a contract is achieved.

# Labor Publications Share Awards

The California AFL-CIO News has been named best labor publication in its category—newspapers of eight pages or less—during annual competition conducted by the Western Labor Press Assn.

The newspaper also won prizes for best news story and best feature story in its category. It won a second prize in photographic competition for all labor publications.

The news story prize was awarded for the article published June 14, 1985, under the headline, "New Grape Boycott: Chavez Tells Why." The winning feature story ran last May 10 with the headline, "Boss' Billboard Message Raises Eyebrows at HUD." The photo, published June 21, showed United Airlines pickets cheering news of the settlement of the ALPA strike. The stories and photo were by Floyd Tucker, editor of California AFL-CIO News.

Dateline San Francisco, edited by Lou Webb, AFL-CIO community services liaison with Uni-

ted Way of the Bay Area, was declared the best overall in newspaper-letter-mimeo competition.

Webb also won with the best feature story in that category, dealing with the problem of missing children.

Best in the newsletter-print category was Open Mike, edited at San Francisco by Jean Hughes-Wright for AFTRA.

Northern California Labor, edited at San Francisco by Jerry Holl, was best overall among newspapers with more than eight pages.

James Earp, editor of Engineers News, San Francisco, won the best news story prize in that category with a report on felony indictment of a contractor.

Mark Belkin, editor of the Voice of 7, published by UFCW Local 7 at Wheat Ridge, Colo., near Denver, won the prize for the best feature story in this category with "The Myth of the Affluent Food Employee."

Holl and Northern California Labor won the award for best series published in fewer than eight pages for three special sections presenting profiles of officers and members of the San Francisco Labor Council that were published as supplements to the regular newspaper.

Best series award for newspapers of more than eight pages went to Engineers News. Second in this category went to The Voice, edited by Allan Ward, and third award was presented to Overture, the publication of Musicians Local 47 of Los Angeles, edited by Serena Kay Williams.

Mark Belkin of Voice of 7 received a special recognition award for three special sections entitled "The Myth of the Affluent Food Employee," "Why Do I Pay Union Dues," and "How to Stop Concessions."

Desert Edge and Desert won a special recognition award for its report on the danger to 50 years of

food industry progress posed by contract violations committed by major chains.

The best photo award went to the Los Angeles Firefighter, edited by Jim Perry, for a picture showing a firefighter emerging from thick smoke on a high ladder.

The award for best column or editorial was won by Jim Zellers, president of SEIU Local 399, Los Angeles, for a column calling for investigation of nursing home profits. It was published in The Voice of 399.

The best original cartoon prize went to Voice of 7.

Contest judges were Glenn Martin, who retired two years ago as editor of the California AFL-CIO News, and Don Fortune, former reporter and editor on the San Francisco Examiner and formerly an officer of the San Francisco-Oakland Newspaper Guild.

Martin, in remarks to the convention delegates, urged the labor press to "keep hammering away at the injustices being foisted upon

workers by a national administration that has turned its back on its responsibility to look out for the general welfare of the people and the vitality of our economy. . . ."

"You all know, probably much better than I, what Reagan's done recently," Martin continued.

"But I would urge each of you to make a point of carrying a short story . . . on Page 1 of every issue from now until the November General Elections detailing one aspect or another of Reagan's subversion of U.S. workers' rights, or women's rights, or the rights of minorities or of the elderly.

"The simple fact is that too many workers—union and non-union alike—are ignorant of the many ways in which Reagan's policies and appointments have hurt them and will continue to hurt them both financially and physically for years to come. . . ."

Second prize for general excellence among newspapers with eight pages or less went to Voice of 660, Los Angeles, edited by Don Nakamoto; third prize, City Employee Report, SEIU Local 347, Los Angeles, edited by Michelle Buehler.

News story second award in this category went to Voice of 399, Los Angeles, edited by Robert Tiernan; third award, Voice of 770, UFCW Local 770 of Los Angeles, Dan Swinton, editor.

Second feature story award went to Voice of 660. Third award went to Desert Edge and Desert, published at Bloomington, Calif., by UFCW Local 324, and edited by Bill Sauriol.

In the competition among newspapers with more than eight pages, second award for overall performance went to the California Service Union Reporter, edited by Robert Tiernan, Joan Twomey and Bob Crain. In third place was Voice of 7.

Colorado Labor Advocate, edited by Mark Herwig, won the second award for news stories in this category. The third award went to Local 324 Reporter, edited by John C. Sperry for UFCW Local 324, Buena Park.

Jim Perry, Editor of The Los Angeles Firefighter, and Mark Locher, editor of Screen Actors News, Hollywood, took second and third awards, respectively, for feature stories in newspapers with more than eight pages.

Local 324 Reporter took second honors in the column or editorial competition. Third award went to Voice of 7.

Voice of 399 took third award in the photo competition. Engineers News was second in the cartoon competition, and Southern California Teamster, edited by Paul Mihalow, took third prize.

## POSTAL: Free Press in Peril

(Continued from Page 1)

nia Labor Federation spoke on responsibilities and opportunities of the labor press.

A discussion of campaign techniques was led by Steve Cooney, labor liaison aide to Senate President Pro-Tem David A. Roberti, D-L.A.

Three workshops were conducted throughout Friday afternoon.

Mark Locher, editor of Screen Actor News of Los Angeles, and Jean Hughes-Wright, editor, Open Mike, San Francisco, conducted a workshop on use of graphics.

Headlines was the subject of a workshop conducted by Chris Donnelly, editor of Pipelines of San Francisco, and Ron Lind, editor of UFCWorker, San Jose.

A workshop entitled Dealing with the Dailies was conducted by Bob Forsythe, Sen. Roberti's press liaison aide. Forsythe is a former metropolitan editor and legislative reporter for the Sacramento Bee and one-time international representative of The Newspaper Guild.

Saturday sessions included a presentation on readership surveys by Jim Earp, editor of Engineers News of San Francisco.

Karen Keiser of Seattle, editor of Washington State Labor Council Reports and former television news reporter, conducted a workshop on increasing labor's access to TV.

Ken Burt of Sacramento, editor of The Deputy, led a workshop on public relations.

The problem of unauthorized sales people who indicate connec-

tion with the labor movement while soliciting ads for questionable publications was explored Saturday afternoon.

Editors and trade union leaders were urged to notify better business bureaus, prosecutors and the Post Office whenever such operators appear in their communities. The possibility was raised of civil suits where criminal prosecutions can't be undertaken.

The panelists were Gene Klare, editor of Oregon Labor Press; Jeff Barker, editor of Rap Sheet, published by Portland Peace Officers, and Keiser.

The convention concluded with an association business meeting conducted by WLPB President Dave Schultz, editor of Serving America, published by HERE Local 681 at Long Beach.



Edwin Schmidt

## PLASTIC PIPE: Shell Must Pay \$5.2 Million

(Continued from Page 1)

cluded that the pipe contained the carcinogenic compound DEHP. Leonardini turned the information over to the state Commission on Housing and Community Development, which was considering approval for wide-spread use of the plastic pipe.

Shell contended the tests were inaccurate. It sued Leonardini, asking an injunction to prevent him from talking about the findings and threatened to sue the lab unless it reversed its findings, said John Poswall, Leonardini's lawyer.

Shell is the principal manufac-

turer of polybutylene resin, which is sold to manufactureres who extrude it into pipes. A number of localities have approved use of the plastic pipe over objections of plumbers, pipefitters and others who must work with it. State approval of polybutylene pipe for water systems still is pending before the Commission on Housing and Community Development.

Poswall said that by sticking to his guns and defying the multinational corporation, Leonardini had brought to light a health hazard affecting millions.

Presence of DEHP and of other

suspect compounds, including DHT, hadn't been detected and probably wouldn't have been because the state commission and Shell had agreed upon testing protocols that would not have turned them up, Poswall said.

Also undiscovered when Shell attempted to silence Leonardini in 1981 was the fact that coupling pieces, used to make cemented joints in the polybutylene pipe, pose a completely different health hazard, Poswall said.

The joints were found to be made of a plastic containing formaldehyde, which would dissolve

into water and be consumed by persons whose drinking water flowed through plastic pipe,

Poswall said he expected Shell to appeal the \$5.2 million judgment, largest ever awarded in Sacramento County.

He said the case already had affected a large lawsuit in Santa Clara County brought by home buyers after polybutylene pipes broke and caused water damage.

Finding the DEHP and other chemicals in polybutylene and formaldehyde in pipe joints has added the separate element of health hazard to that suit, the lawyer said.



# Minimum Wage Hearings OK'd

(Continued from Page 1)

research for the federation, told the commissioners they were morally and legally bound to adjust the wage.

Rankin also pointed out that since it was determined early in 1984 that the wage apparently was inadequate, and since the plight of minimum-wage earners has only worsened since then, the commission should not waste time on hearings but should immediately appoint a wage board and get on with the review.

The commission, dominated now by appointees of Gov. George Deukmejian, was not persuaded.

The members have found themselves being reminded frequently in recent months that the commission was created to be an advocate for working people. Henning and other labor leaders have argued during hearings on proposals to eliminate overtime and other pro-

tections that interests of workers rather than those of employers are the commission's proper concern.

Rankin pointed out last week that full-time, year-round workers cannot break out of poverty if they are paid the minimum wage.

Figures published by the Center on Budget and Priorities indicate that a family of four with a full-

*'An important part of the pattern of poverty in recent years has been the increase in the number of people who work but are still poor... One reason is a stagnant minimum wage.'*

—Rhoda H. Karparkin, executive director, Consumers Union

time wage-earner employed at the minimum fell more than \$300 a month below the official poverty line in 1984.

Dates and places for the August hearings are expected to be set at the commission's next meeting, May 16 in San Francisco.

Also on May 16, the commissioners are expected to consider whether to raise the minimum wage that a worker must be paid in order to qualify for a professional, administrative or managerial exemption to minimum wage and overtime standards.

The 1984 minimum wage review ended with employer wage board representatives arguing that California's minimum wage should not be higher than the federal minimum, which also has been at \$3.35 since 1981, throughout Ronald Reagan's years in the White House.

*'The current minimum wage is too low to bring a family out of poverty... 2.1 million people worked full-time in 1984 but they and their families remained in poverty.'*

—Sar A. Levitan and Isaac Shapiro, George Washington University Center for Social Policy Studies

Labor representatives on the 1984 wage board proposed that the minimum be raised immediately to \$4.35 an hour and then increased in two annual steps until it reached 50 percent of the average hourly wage paid in California manufacturing. They proposed that in future years it be adjusted annually to remain at half the manufacturing wage.

Labor representatives also told the commission members that they had an obligation to adjust the wage despite employer opposition because of evidence it was far

short of the requirement of adequacy specified in the Labor Code. Commissioners turned a deaf ear.

The \$4.35 wage proposed by labor representatives was an attempt at compromise.

"Even if we assume that the state's minimum wage in 1968 represented 'the necessary cost of proper living,' it would have to be increased to \$5.02 as of June, 1984, to maintain the same purchasing power," the labor representatives stated in their report to the commission.

## CONFERENCE: Labor Bills on Agenda

(Continued from Page 1)

• SCA 31, Torres, puts "toxic bill of rights" on November ballot. **Health and Safety**

• AB 1157, Connelly, would require Cal-OSHA Standards Board to give first priority to substances recognized as carcinogens by International Agency for Research on Cancer.

• AB 3047, Floyd, targets high-hazard industries for more Cal-OSHA inspection.

• AB 3222, Floyd, requires safer connections on portable generators.

• AB 3238, Tanner, would require Cal-OSHA standards on indoor air pollution.

• AB 4248, Margolin, would require tighter Cal-OSHA standards for exposure to asbestos in air.

• AB 4307, Margolin, enables Cal-OSHA inspectors to shut down equipment they deem hazardous.

• SB 1651, Petris, provides that two members of Cal-OSHA Standards Board be from management, rather than field of management, and two from organized labor, rather than field of labor.

• SB 1741, Petris, would exempt some labs from Hazardous Substances Information Act.

• SB 1756, Petris, would require warning signs on fields sprayed with certain pesticides.

• SB 1899, B. Greene, would require Cal-OSHA to hear and act on petitions.

• SB 1998, B. Greene, regulates use of diesel engines underground.

• SB 1999, B. Greene, strengthens Cal-OSHA preventive inspection.

• SB 2000, B. Greene, deletes established expose limits to be exceeded before citation can be issued.

**Housing**  
• AB 4005, Roos, would deny landlord tax deductions on money gained from substandard housing.

• SB 2448, Roberti, requires Dept. of Housing and Community Development to run a Housing and Economic Development program.

• SB 2585, Rosenthal, protects elderly or disabled tenants from rental termination without just cause.

**Job Preservation**  
• AB 799, Areias, would require lottery tickets to be made in California.

• AB 3555, Farr, would require California Film Office to establish liaison with local film agencies.

• SB 2431, Rosenthal, would require Film Office to research new technologies.

• SB 2217, Rosenthal, would require reports on Film Office.

**Labor Standards**  
• AB 2757, Floyd, allows departments to use unemployment

### Asbestos Bill Goes to Governor

The first labor-sponsored bill passed by the 1986 session of the California Legislature will establish an Asbestos Task Force in the state Department of Health Services if it gets beyond the governor's desk.

The bill, AB 2070 by Assemblyman Burt Margolin, D-L.A., was sponsored by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and supported by the California Labor Federation. The Senate gave it unanimous approval last Thursday.

Assemblyman Burt Margolin, D-L.A., is the author. Senate President Pro Tempore David Roberti, D-Hollywood-Burbank, is the principal co-author.

The measure appropriates \$200,000 to the Department of Health Services and requires the department to report to the Legislature by Dec. 31, 1987, on results of a statewide analysis of the problem of asbestos in state buildings.

information for enforcement of wage and hour laws.

• AB 3129, Floyd, permits labor commissioner to collect workers' unpaid tips.

• AB 3184, O'Connell, prohibits Industrial Welfare Commission from taking actions not specified at public meetings.

• AB 3916, Floyd, doubles fines for employers failing to provide payroll check stub information.

• SB 1726, B. Greene, requires labor commissioner to see that judgments for wages are satisfied.

**Pay Equity**  
• AB 2864, Klehs, requires Dept. of Fair Employment and Housing to record comparable worth complaints.

• AB 3737, M. Waters, bans

public salary systems based on prevailing private wages.

• SB 1957, Roberti, creates Commission on Pay Equity.

• SB 2347, Lockyer, requires pay equity and comparable worth work-sharing between Dept. of Fair Employment and Housing and Division of Labor Standards.

**Public Employees**  
• AB 3042, Papan, repeals rule that five days absence constitutes resignation for state workers.

• AB 4192, Floyd, bans use of CYA wards as strikebreakers.

• SB 2533, Lockyer, provides peace officer status for Livermore Laboratory guards.

• AB 3789, Robinson, provides fact-finding in state employee disputes.

**Social Insurance**

• AB 2608, Floyd, broadens workers' right to sue for job injuries.

• SB 1495, B. Greene, widens unemployment insurance eligibility for some shared-work programs.

• SB 1571, B. Greene, renews extended unemployment benefits to plant closure victims in retraining programs.

• SB 1577, Lockyer, deletes sunset clause in unemployment disability benefits.

• SB 1633, B. Greene, alters contribution formula to safeguard Disability Insurance Fund.

• SB 2100, Rosenthal, increases unemployment insurance benefits.

• SB 2433, Marks, increases workers' compensation benefits.

**Worker Protections**  
• AB 613, Moore, requires unpaid child-rearing leave in some cases.

• AB 2663, Floyd, requires "reasonable effort" by hospitals to find alternate assignment for workers unable to work 12-hour days.

• AB 3058, Floyd, makes gar-

ment industry contractors mutually liable for law violations.

• AB 3340, M. Waters, protects pregnancy leave in event employers win current Supreme Court appeal.

• AB 3603, Agnos, requires vote and disclosure for flexible scheduling.

• SB 3934, Connelly, increases farm labor contractor bond.

• AB 4172, Agnos, requires rest homes to use part of Medi-Cal increases for patient care salary raises.

• AB 4177, Margolin, requires secret ballot for longer work days without overtime as approved by Industrial Welfare Commission.

### Building Trades

• SB 276, Roberti, enforces prevailing wage compliance on public works projects.

• SB 1560, Foran, raises state fuel tax if federal fuel tax drops.

• SB 2532, Roberti, requires half of workers on public works projects be California residents.

• AB 796, Floyd, requires compliance programs in public agencies awarding public works contracts.

• AB 797, Floyd, requires contractors on public works jobs to post prevailing wage.

• AB 798, Floyd, raises fine for paying less than prevailing wage from \$25 to \$50 a day.

• AB 800, Floyd, bars contractors from public works jobs up to three years for grossly negligent violation of public works laws.

• AB 2640, Roos, appropriates \$300 million for air conditioning in year-round schools.

• AB 3047, Floyd, requires speedier Cal-OSHA investigations.

• AB 3175, Farr, continues prevailing wage provision of California Industrial Development Financing Act.

• AB 3207, Floyd, gives five percent public works bid preference to California resident contractors and forbids subcontracting more than 20 percent of job to non-residents.

• AB 3512, Connelly, enacts Workplace Hazards Prevention and Education Act.

• AB 4025, Areias, gives five percent preference to California resident contractors, with 80 percent of employees to be Californians.

• AB 4125, Johnston, increases reimbursement for instructing apprentices.

• SCA 12, Foran, declares certain fees to be user fees not subject to appropriation limitations.

## The Bills Labor Opposes

These bills opposed by labor are on on the Legislative Conference agenda:

### Civil Rights

• AB 2641, Katz, authorizes traffic officers to order driver license reexaminations.

### Public Employees

• AB 2866, Herger, requires appropriations to cover costs new bills mandate for local governments.

• ACA 36, Herger, also requires appropriations to cover mandated activities.

• SCA 35, Russell, relieves state of cost of local enforcement of some Cal-OSHA standards.

### Housing

• AB 483, Costa, preempts local housing laws.

### Social Insurance

• AB 990, McAlister, "wage loss" system of compensation for permanently injured workers.

• AB 2611, Frazee, exempts

charter pilots from unemployment insurance and disability insurance.

• AB 3297, Bader, exempts from workers' compensation anyone injured in commission of a felony.

### Taxation

• AB 540, Harris, would tax unemployment insurance and workers' compensation benefits.

• AB 2922, Vasconcellos, modifies state unitary tax method, cuts corporate tax revenues.

• SB 85, Alquist, also modifies unitary tax, cuts corporate taxes.

### Worker Protections

• AB 2800, McAlister, would permit employer to fire at will anybody not covered by collective bargaining contract.

• AB 3950, McAlister, would bar unemployment insurance decisions from use as evidence in subsequent proceedings.

• SB 469, Dills, weakens law limiting personal service contracts

to seven years.

• SB 1896, Montoya, gives labor commissioner sole authority over disputes between professional athletes and agents.

### Building Trades

• SB 1241, Russell, limits Cal-OSHA standards to levels of federal standards.

• SB 1803, Royce, would allow "parallel" apprenticeship programs.

• AB 2805, Rogers, refunds fines levied against persons failing to pay payroll taxes on oil field workers.

• AB 2808, Rogers, exempts from unemployment and workers' compensation a number of jobs that oil field operators have been found guilty of listing as independent contractors.

• AB 3044, Leonard, eliminates controls on contracting-out of state work.