

# Comp Defense Crucial

The California Labor Federation continued its fight late yesterday to rescue a workers' compensation system held hostage by Republican legislators and governor in the state budget crisis.

Latest versions of the workers' comp proposals — amended by a Democratic-controlled committee but with features vigorously opposed by Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jack Henning of the state AFL-CIO — were blocked on the

Assembly floor Wednesday night and yesterday by Republicans demanding deeper bites into worker benefits.

The Assembly was scheduled to try again today. The Senate, whose members went home yesterday, was scheduled to convene Sunday evening on the chance that the Assembly might send it something to vote on.

There was new support for Henning's drive to totally remove com-

pensation from the budget process and give compensation reforms approved two years ago a chance to work.

And there was growing criticism of Gov. Pete Wilson for attempting to use the budget crisis as leverage for workers' comp rollbacks and for obstructing mandates of the 1989 reform act.

A Los Angeles Times editorial yesterday declared:

"The governor should remove

this issue from budget negotiations and find another way to win the votes he needs..."

The Times accused Wilson of injecting the compensation issue into the budget debate as a ploy to get Republicans to vote for taxes needed to close what's left of the monstrous \$14.3-billion budget deficit.

The Sacramento Bee called upon the governor to set up the fraud watchdog council created under the

Workers' Compensation Reform Act of 1989 but sidetracked by the George Deukmejian Administration and never pushed by Wilson.

Wilson staged a full-blown news conference Tuesday at the Capitol to attempt to justify his refusal to sign any budget bill that does not include what he calls reforms of the workers' comp system.

What he got was a flurry of news media reports pointing out that

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## Pickets Halt Coors Sales

Pickets appeared unannounced at the main gate of the Alameda County Fairgrounds at 11:15 a.m. last Saturday.

At noon the fair general manager came out and announced that they had prevailed.

"Coors beer sales have stopped," the manager declared.

"The Coors booth is closed, the brewery's signs have been removed, and no more Coors will be sold during the fair," he said.

For a while there it looked just like old times during the nationwide Coors boycott.

"We organized an informational picket line after learning that non-union drivers were delivering Coors inside the fairgrounds," said Owen Marron, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

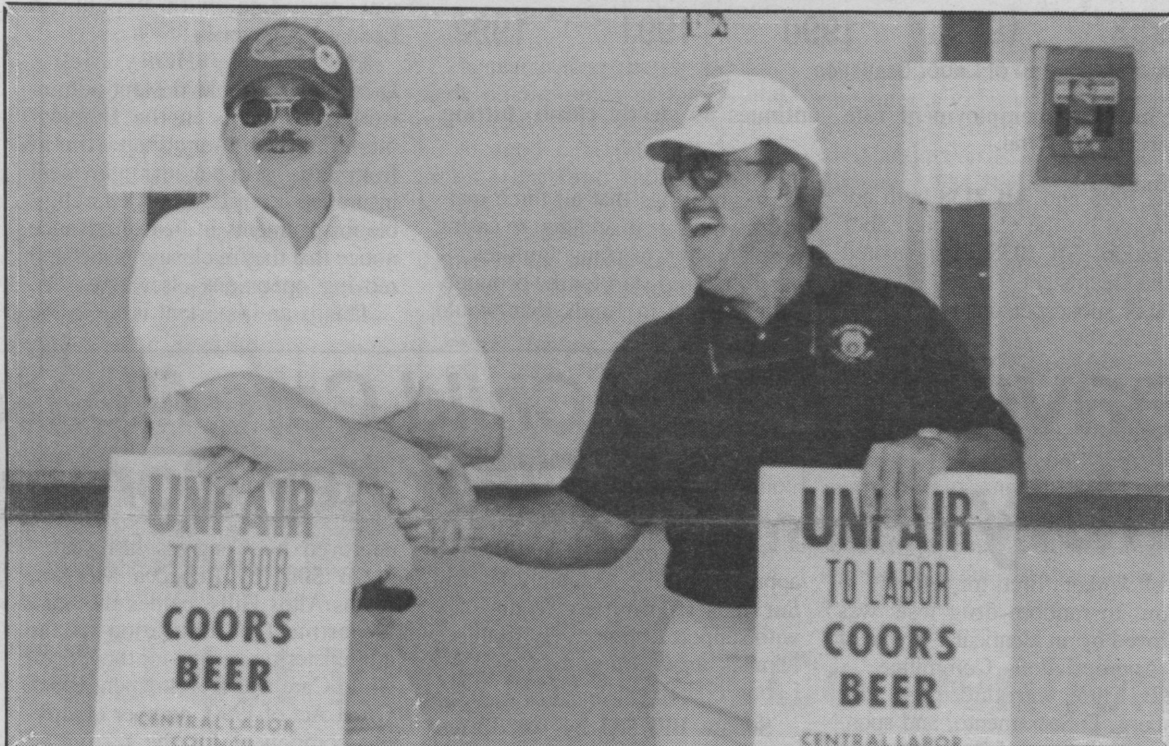
"Given the name of the beer, it was a simple matter to assemble volunteer pickets on short notice from about a dozen unions to turn out in support of the Teamsters," Marron added. "Lots of union members were eager to participate."

It had nothing to do with the national Coors boycott, which has been terminated by the AFL-CIO.

In fact, the Alameda County central body's beef with Coors began before unions were busted at the company's brewery in Colorado.

In 1973 a strike by Teamsters Local 888 against beer distributors on the Oakland side of San Francisco Bay was broken after the Coors family poured in scab-pushers, lawyers and money from corporate headquarters.

Teamsters Local 588 succeeded



Sharing congratulations at the county fair booth from which Coors beer has just been evicted are Owen Marron, left, executive-secretary treasurer of the Alameda County Central Labor Council, and LeRoy Salido, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 588.

Local 888, but the Eastbay Coors distributorship remained a scab operation. It was placed on the labor council's local boycott list and never was taken off because the issues are different from those that caused the national boycott.

Joe Morgan, the ex-baseball player, subsequently acquired the distributorship and continued to operate it non-union.

Reaction was swift after the pickets appeared without warning

last Saturday.

Joe Tuoto, the beer concessionaire, charged out demanding to know what was going on. The Coors booth was one of a number of one-brand stands operated at the fair by Tuoto.

Marron explained why the pickets were there.

Tuoto disappeared back inside, and Peter Bailey, fair manager, came out to ask what it would take to get rid of the picket line.

Marron laid down the conditions. Bailey came back minutes later to announce that all of them would be met.

The manager then invited all the demonstrators to stash their signs and enter the fairgrounds free as his guests.

Leaflets handed out at the fairgrounds gate stated, in part:

"When you buy beer, we ask you to buy brands which are brewed and distributed by Union Labor."

## Asia-Pacific Group Weighs Constitution

The Constitution and structure of the new national AFL-CIO organization of Asian and Pacific trade unionists will be drafted during a meeting scheduled for Saturday, July 20, at UFCW Local 770 in Los Angeles.

The meeting has been called by Ed Miyakawa of Local 770 who was named constitution and organization sub-committee chairperson when a steering group, of the Asian-Pacific-American Labor Committee, formed last month in Washington, D.C., to set the new organization in motion.

The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Local 770's headquarters at 630 Shatto Place between Wilshire Boulevard and

Sixth Street in L.A. All interested trade unionists are invited, Miyakawa said.

Overall chairperson of the Asian-Pacific-American Labor Committee is Katie Quan, Northern California leader of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. Kent Wong of the UCLA Labor Center is first vice chair, and Richard Leung, president of Service Employees Local 87 of San Francisco, is secretary-treasurer. Pat Lee of SEIU Local 790 of S.F. and Oakland is in charge of arrangements for the founding convention.

It is being formed under the aegis of a special task force of the AFL-

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## CSEA: 'Strike If We Have to'

California State Employees Association warned Wednesday that its 76,000 members are ready to strike if that's what it takes to preserve jobs, benefits and collective bargaining rights.

At the same time, CSEA, Local 1000 of the Service Employees, announced it was filing an unfair labor practice charge with the Public Employment Relations Board, accusing the Wilson Administration of violating state law by refusing to negotiate in good faith and by asking the Legislature to pass laws superseding collective bargaining without giving the union notice or a chance to confer.

Perry Kenny, director of CSEA's Civil Service Division, told a Capitol news conference Wednesday that the union is convinced Wilson is trying to maneuver it into an impasse so that he can implement a final offer including roll-backs and takeaways that the Legislature so far has refused to approve.

This would include mandatory unpaid furloughs, wage cuts, suspension of merit salary adjustments, unlimited contracting-out, and health care rollbacks.

CSEA and other unions representing state workers are forming a coalition, Kenny said.

"We do not discount the possibility of a strike," Kenny continued. "CSEA's divisional governing council has sanctioned a strike, and CSEA intends to use that option if necessary to protect state service and jobs."

A work stoppage would be the second strike in state history and

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## COPE Services At Sacramento

Certain of the California Labor Federation's Committee on Political Education (COPE) registration and get-out-the-vote mailing services will be handled out of Sacramento, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jack Henning announced this week.

Bill Camp, the federation's new assistant COPE director and legislative assistant, now is handling such requests at the Sacramento office, Henning said.

Involved are local central labor council requests for address labels, lists of union members who are registered to vote, lists of those who haven't registered, precinct performance ratings, and other vital election information generated by national COPE's mainframe computer in Washington, D.C.

Camp can be reached at the federation's Sacramento office at 1127 11th St., Room 610, Sacramento 95814. The phone is (916) 444-3676.

Such requests will continue to be forwarded to Washington D.C., Henning said. National COPE bills the state federation for such services, and the federation then directs the billing to the affiliate involved.

# Jobless Pay Benefit Bills Advance

California's soaring unemployment rate has given new urgency to AFL-CIO efforts to widen the umbrella of jobless pay benefits.

The state's official unemployment rate for June, announced last Friday by the U.S. Department of Labor, is 8.2 percent.

That's the highest it has been since the Reagan recession of 1983-84. It exceeds the 7 percent national unemployment rate, and it makes California the third highest in joblessness among the nation's 11 major industrial states.

The Legislature responded this week with committee approvals of three important labor-sponsored measures.

They are:

- **Assembly Bill 1095**, which would lower the unemployment rate that triggers 13 weeks of added unemployment insurance benefits for workers still jobless after their normal entitlements are exhausted, which was approved on a 4-1 vote of the Senate Industrial Relations Committee.

- **AB 2128**, which would pay benefits missed during the first-week waiting period to workers who remain jobless after six weeks on the unemployment rolls, approved 4-2 by the same committee.

- **Senate Bill 1035**, preventing the state from withholding unemployment benefits from workers who receive state-mandated severance pay in lieu of advance notice in plant closures. It was sent to the Assembly floor with the approval of the Ways and Means Committee.



The nation's unemployment rate continues its steady climb, hitting 7 percent in June.

**AB 1095** and **AB 2138** both are sponsored by the California Labor Federation. **SB 1035** is sponsored by the Teamsters.

Labor spokespersons pointed out

during hearings that all three measures would — in addition to easing problems for working families — supply a jump-start for the economy by pumping in funds that would

flow immediately into business cash registers.

**AB 2128**, introduced by Johan Klehs, D-San Leandro, would give workers still jobless after a month and a half the benefits they didn't receive during the mandatory waiting period.

The vote was party-line. Democratic Senators Bill Lockyer, Hayward; Nick Petris, Oakland; Hershel Rosenthal, L.A., and Bill Greene, L.A., all voted for **AB 2128**. Republicans Bill Leonard, Upland, and Ed Royce, Anaheim, opposed it. Leroy Greene, D-Sacramento, was absent.

**AB 1095**, by Richard Floyd, D-Carson, would lower the trigger for supplemental unemployment insurance benefits from 6 percent to 4 percent of the insured jobless rate.

The insured rate reflects only those receiving benefits.

A 4 percent insured unemployment rate translates into an "official" unemployment rate of about 7.5 percent.

If the bill had been in effect, the extended benefits would have been triggered in March.

The 4-1 vote on **AB 1095** also was party-line, with Republican Leonard not voting.

**SB 1035**, by Henry Mello, D-Monterey, would prevent administration officials in the Employment Development Department from refusing to pay unemployment insurance benefits to workers eligible for payments in lieu of advance notice that they're closing plants and moving operations elsewhere.

This is an important issue in the

Salinas and Watsonville areas where thousands of freezing plant workers represented by the Teamsters have been fired by Green Giant Corp. and others and have seen their jobs exported to Mexico.

The payments in-lieu of notice of plant closings were imposed by the Congress to help families abruptly without income because employers had kept plant closure plans secret.

Cheap labor, cheap produce, absence of restrictions on chemicals, lack of any worker health and safety protections, and promises of special government treatment are luring food packers to Mexico.

The California unemployment rate surged a point and a half from 7.7 percent to 8.2 percent between the May and June reports. It stood at 5.1 percent in June of 1990.

For job-seekers between the ages of 16 and 19, the rate was 21.5 percent. It was 7.3 percent for women and 8.0 percent for men.

The rate was 13.9 percent for black Californians, 10.7 percent for Hispanics, and 7.5 for whites.

As high as the rate is, the fact remains that much unemployment or under-employment is ignored.

Persons who have worked even a day in the survey period are counted among the officially employed even though their incomes may have been totally inadequate to care for themselves or their families.

Also left out of the tallies are those who have quit actively looking for jobs because they've been discouraged by long unemployment and repeated failures to find work.

## Family Leave To Assembly

The California Labor Federation's family leave bill was sent to the Senate floor Monday for its final test in the Legislature.

**Assembly Bill 77**, introduced by Gwen Moore, D-L.A., and sponsored by the state AFL-CIO body, was approved 7-5 by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Kathleen Kinnick, director of women's activities for the state federation, presented arguments that had been heard earlier as the bill was passed through the Assembly. She told the committee that providing breadwinners with the option of taking unpaid leave during domestic emergencies is crucial to the stability of families because of the large and growing number of households in which both parents find it necessary to have outside employment.

Passage by the full Senate will send **AB 77** to the desk of Gov. Pete Wilson. Similar measures got that far in past years but were vetoed by then-Gov. George Deukmejian, like Wilson, a Republican.

The state AFL-CIO bill protect-

fits of workers fired for refusing to submit to random drug tests was approved by an identical 7-5 vote of the Appropriations Committee.

**AB 1306**, introduced by Phil Isenberg, D-Sacramento, and sponsored by the state federation, aims at repairing damage done when the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board ruled that jobless pay can be withheld from a worker who has refused to submit to random drug testing.

The bill provides that unemployment insurance benefits must be paid unless the worker fired for refusing to participate in a test is involved in a job posing significant risk to himself or others, and there are grounds for suspecting that he or she has been impaired.

Tom Rankin, research director of the state Federation, told the committee that **AB 1306** represents a reasonable effort to protect workers' right to privacy while dealing with concerns over safety in the workplace.

Rankin cited a recent study by

Six child care measures were approved by the Assembly Human Services Committee Wednesday with support testimony by Kathleen Kinnick representing the California Labor Federation.

**Senate Bill 583** by Art Torres, D-L.A., the Master Plan for Child Care and Development Act of 1991, won approval.

Kinnick, director of women's activities for the state federation, pointed out that **SB 583** establishes the state's child care master plan, a requirement for federal funding

the American Management Assn. disclosing that positive results were obtained in only 27 percent of the drug tests given to workers in cases where management claimed to have had cause to suspect impairment during 1990.

The percentage of positive results in testing done on a random basis, without any cause for suspicion of drug use, would be very much lower, Rankin pointed out.

## Child Care Measures Clear Key Committee

approved by Congress last year.

**SB 500**, by Rebecca Morgan, R-Los Altos Hills, names the State Department of Education as the administering agency for the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, another qualifying component for the receipt of federal child care funds.

The committee also approved:

- **SB 111** by Torres, establishing cooperative demonstration child care projects in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Orange and Alameda Counties to attempt to assist parents of homeless families to get back on

their feet.

- **SB 255** by David Roberti, D-L.A., providing programs aimed at protecting "latchkey" children of working parents.

- **SB 786** by Robert Presley, D-Riverside, establishing school district involvement in child care programs.

- **SB 1106** by Diane Watson, D-L.A., the Child Care Facilities Financing Act of 1991, which would fund projects covered in a bond issue proposition similar to that narrowly defeated in last year's elections.

Floyd, D-Carson, and supported by the state federation, was sent to the Senate floor by a vote of 9-2.

Currently, public agencies guilty of willful violation of Cal-OSHA standards are given nothing but citations while private employers in the same circumstances can be hit with significant fines.

The citations have proved to be poor deterrents.

## OK on Minimum Wage Mandate

The bill that would force the state Industrial Welfare Commission to review the adequacy of the minimum wage every second year was approved Wednesday by the Senate Committee on Industrial Relations.

**Assembly Bill 15** by Willard H. Murray, Jr., D-Paramount, cleared the committee on a 4-2 party-line vote with Democrats favoring it and Republicans opposed.

The measure would put teeth into the requirement for biennial wage reviews that the IWC, dominated by appointees of former Gov. George Deukmejian, now ignores with impunity.

Democrats Bill Lockyer, Hayward; Nick Petris, Oakland; Her-

schel Rosenthal, L.A., and Committee Chair Bill Greene, L.A., voted for the measure. Republicans Bill Leonard, Upland, and Ed Royce, Anaheim, opposed it.

The bill goes next to the Appropriations Committee.

Other labor-backed bills passed by the Industrial Relations Committee and sent to the Appropriations Committee on Wednesday included:

- **AB 64** by Richard Floyd, D-Carson, which would rescind authority given to the Department of Industrial Relations to charge user fees for apprentice training. Approval was unanimous.

- **AB 386** by Gwen Moore,

D-L.A., requiring the state Division of Apprenticeship Standards to compile and report to the Legislature information on the apprenticeship programs including race and sex of trainees and rates of completion. The vote was unanimous.

- **AB 540** introduced by Burt Margolin, D-L.A., and sponsored by the Teamsters to protect disability insurance benefits of workers who collect vacation pay when they are forced off their jobs by illnesses or injuries that are not work-related. It also was unanimous.

- **AB 581**, carried by Floyd and sponsored by the Laborers, which would require Cal-OSHA to establish training standards for flag-

persons directing traffic at highway construction sites. Only Leonard voted "no."

- **AB 1779** by Terry Friedman, D-L.A., requiring the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to make its apprenticeship training programs comply with regulations laid down by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards. The two Republicans were opposed.

- **AB 2047**, sponsored by the California Labor Federation and carried by Margolin, authorizing fractional increases this year and next in the tax paid by workers to finance the state disability insurance program.

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# Child Care Pact at PG&E

An in-house day care facility for children whose parents are employed at Pacific Gas & Electric Company's corporate headquarters in San Francisco is scheduled to open early in 1992 under an agreement negotiated by PG&E and its unions.

The company's agreement with Local 1245 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Engineers and Scientists of California calls for care of up to 56 children at fees of \$450 per month for toddlers and \$600 for infants.

Cost was a major consideration, according to Dorothy Fortier, assistant business manager at Local 1245. "We told them up front that we

couldn't support a program so expensive our members couldn't participate in it," Fortier said.

The child care plan and other family support programs now in place at PG&E come after years of union effort.

A "needs assessment" commissioned by Local 1245 in 1989 demonstrated that relieving employees of child-care concerns would have a major impact upon productivity of PG&E workers. Many confided that they had considered quitting their jobs because of child care problems.

Besides affordable cost, the union negotiators sought and obtained a commitment to keep the center open 12 hours a day.

The 56 child care spots initially available will be allocated among members of the two unions and non-union employees according to the percentages of the total workforce in each group.

Parents will be selected through a lottery, details of which still are being worked out by the company and the unions.

Other newly negotiated family support programs at PG&E are:

- Extension of the Dependent Care Reimbursement Account, which will allow employees to set aside up to \$5,000 a year before taxes for a dependent child or elder relative.

- A referral program to provide information on child care services to

PG&E employees in other areas.

- An elder care resource and referral program to provide information on care services and on such assistance as Social Security and Medicare.

- An adoption assistance program including reimbursement of up to \$2,000 to cover local costs, agency fees and other expenses.

Fortier said union negotiators were disappointed that PG&E had not as yet made a commitment to establish child care facilities at other locations.

"But the child care center is something we've pushed for for a long time, so naturally we're happy to finally have that happening," she said.

"This is going to be a great center," she added.

## NABET Takes Case to Viewers

### 'Let Us Hold the Pledges, S.F. Public TV Members are Told

Local 51 of the National Association of Broadcast Employees and technicians has come up with a highly unusual means of showing the management of public TV station KQED in San Francisco just how tired its members are of working without a contract.

The union is asking viewers, upon whose voluntary donations KQED heavily relies, to send their checks not to the station but to a special trust fund to be held until a new contract is signed.

They are calling it the Public TV Trust Fund. Donors' checks already are being deposited, even though the campaign hasn't been widely publicized.

The big push will come next month, during a major KQED membership drive, unless there is an agreement earlier.

"It is a message to people who are concerned about how the employees of their public television station are being treated," said Kevin Wilson, NABET Local 51 president.

"The purpose is to make the KQED Board of Directors aware of the many active or potential members who are concerned with labor issues at the station and with the future of locally produced public television programs."

The union promises to turn all donations, together with whatever interest the account earns, over to KQED as soon as a contract is signed.

"Should KQED management lock out its employees or force a strike, the money will be turned back to those who donated," a Local 51 handbill says.

Contract negotiations have been going on at KQED since February

of 1990. Producer and designer bargaining units, whose members joined Local 51 more than a year and a half ago, never have had a contract. Nine other units have been without a contract since March 31, when the last agreement expired.

The station wants a wage freeze for some workers and a two-tier arrangement that will mean lower wages for new hires.

The union wants assurances that KQED will stop farming out the production of local programs that have given the station a national reputation for excellence to outside producers willing to work dirt cheap.

Two weeks of contract negotiations have been scheduled for later this month.

After that, KQED is scheduled to start its August pledge drive, and

that's when NABET will step up its own campaign if the dispute continues.

The plan is to use newspaper ads, signs on the sides of buses, and other means of persuading the public to send contributions to the union trust fund rather than to KQED.

"KQED Belongs to You!" is the theme of the union campaign.

Local 51 states its case in a pamphlet prepared for distribution to potential donors:

"The Public TV Trust Fund is a way to support the production of local current affairs programs, continuing KQED's long history as an independent creator of TV and radio programs that reflect the diversity of the Bay Area," it states.

"Many of the people who bring you and your family the quality

local productions that you have come to expect are union members.... We represent producers, designers, camera operators, audio engineers, videotape operators, maintenance engineers, floor directors, production assistants, associate directors, FM Radio, film crafts, building services, mailroom, PBX employees, the Membership Department, and many other employees who work behind the scenes."

The statement concludes:

"The Public TV Trust Fund is a way to pool the resources of people who believe their public TV station should treat its employees fairly. It is a way for people who believe a socially responsible attitude toward employees is not just nice, it's good business."

## TCU Set To Open S.F. Convention

Convention delegates representing 200,000 members of the Transportation Communications International Union are arriving in San Francisco this weekend from throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The Carmen's Division holds its convention on Monday. The main event, the union's 29th Regular Convention and 15th Quadrennial Convention, is to open on Tuesday and continue through Friday at the Hilton Hotel.

Delegates will hear an address by Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, after they are welcomed by Robert Brackbill, general chairman of the convention host committee.

International President Richard I. Kilroy will be introduced by International Secretary-Treasurer Donald A. Bobo for the convention keynote address.

The list of speakers also includes Shirley Carr, president of the Canadian Labour Congress; Thomas R. Donahue, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO; Catalina Villalpando, treasurer of the United States, and Representative Barbara Boxer, D-S.F. and Marin counties.

Jack Otero, TCU international vice president and president of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, will introduce foreign visitors.

There will be music amongst the

policy debates and elections of officers.

Tuesday's agenda includes a "Musical Salute to the TCU." "Songs of Solidarity" will be presented by Joe Uehlein of the Labor Heritage Foundation before the delegates are called to order on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and on Wednesday Uehlein will be called to the microphone to lead the convention in the singing of historic railroad songs.

TCU, established in 1899, was known as the Brotherhood of Railroad and Airline Clerks before it changes its name several years ago in recognition of growing membership in transportation and communications related fields.

## Cable TV Workers: CWA Yes

San Francisco Bay Area Employees of TCI Cablevision of California, Inc., voted overwhelmingly yesterday to retain their representation by Local 9415 of the Communications Workers of America.

One hundred-twenty technicians based in Fremont, Sunnyvale, San Carlos, Pacifica, Daly City and San Mateo and clerical workers at Pacifica cast ballots in the National Labor Relations Board election.

Also yesterday, 150 TCI employees at Seattle voted for CWA representation in a re-certification.

TCI is described as the nation's largest cable TV company.

Peter Garcia, a member of the Local 9415 bargaining committee, said Local 9415 was ready to resume contract negotiations as quickly as possible.

The last contract which expired on Feb. 28. Unit members voted 5 to 1 to authorize a strike after rejecting the last company offer on May 14. The decertification attempt followed.

"The company's refusal to improve health care, provide a pension plan or make pay raises retroactive, and its insistence upon an open shop is totally unacceptable to our members," Garcia said.

"We're ready to go back to the table and get a fair contract," he added. "Our people have waited long enough."

## Workers Win Jobs, Back Pay at Corona

The rehiring, with back pay, of workers who were fired by Liston Aluminum of Corona and replaced by scabs after striking three and a half years ago has been upheld by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

It is a blockbuster of a victory for the Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers International Union. Back pay to the workers could amount to millions of dollars.

In January of 1988 Liston told 35 then-unorganized workers that they could have only a 20-minute break for lunch.

A committee named by the workers tried, without success, to convince Liston's owner that more lunch time was needed because of

the difficulty of the work.

The plant melts down recycled scrap aluminum and produces aluminum ingots for sale to manufacturers.

The workers struck. Owner Jack Hall announced on the second day that anyone who failed to report for subsequent shifts would be permanently replaced.

One of the committee members, furnace operator David Castillo, took the problem to his son, Tony Castillo, who then was vice president of GMP Local 192 and currently is a field representative on the staff of the California Labor Federation.

The younger Castillo immediately met with Craig Hall, plant

superintendent and son of Jack Hall, at the the plant gate and was told, "These people should look for other jobs because they have been replaced."

Castillo turned to his international union. GMP assigned Executive Officer Jesse Garcia, who promptly collected signed membership cards from every one of the strikers.

The senior Hall, hearing about this, declared to the workers gathered outside his plant:

"Before I give any of you guys your jobs back, I'll close this place and put a lock on the gate."

Garcia persuaded the strikers to offer to return to work on Hall's terms, leaving the lunch break dis-

pute to be settled later.

They marched back the next day, accompanied by a crowd of sheriff's deputies, and were told by Hall that all of them had been permanently replaced.

In fact, only one scab had been hired at that time, although Liston did shortly collect a new crew.

Those events, related during seven days of hearing in June and July of 1988, were enough to persuade an NLRB judge that the Liston firm had violated the workers' rights and owed them their jobs with back pay. This was affirmed by the full board in October of 1989.

Liston continued to resist, and

the NLRB obtained a court order enforcing the decision in May of 1990. Liston appealed that order and subsequently was slapped down by the Court of Appeals.

Meanwhile Liston workers, including the scabs, voted for GMP representation. The NLRB has ordered the company to begin negotiating.

The back pay bill still is being calculated. A worker idle since the 1988 strike who had been paid the usual wage at Liston would be owed more than \$70,000. Some went back after Liston set up a rehiring list, but most were given inferior jobs and several, including David Castillo, were soon fired on grounds that the GMP charges were spurious.

# Budget...

(Continued from page 1)

workers' comp is not part of the state budget, that reforms contained in the 1989 act haven't been allowed to take effect, and that last-minute, crisis situation wheeling and dealing isn't the appropriate way to deal with so complex a problem.

Wednesday night's Assembly session saw defeat of the bill that would have jacked up taxes on the super-rich.

Senate Bill 169 by Alfred Alquist, D-San Jose, failed on a 43-30 vote. Republicans, without whom the necessary two-thirds majority cannot be obtained, voted against it, many insisting that the workers' comp rollbacks would have to come first.

Republicans also voted against waiving Assembly rules to allow the two workers' compensation measures to come to the floor. They did

the same thing yesterday amid arguments that benefit rollbacks had been watered down.

Today is the earliest the two bills can come to the Assembly floor without rule waivers.

One of the measures, Senate Bill 1218 by Robert Presley, D-Riverside, would make workers' comp fraud felonious, binding on employees, applicants and lawyers. The California Labor Federation is supporting it.

The other, Assembly Bill 971 by Steve Peace, D-Chula Vista, contains the controversial proposals.

As it stood yesterday, the bill would:

- Require a worker claiming compensation for stress or psychological injury to prove that one-third of his or her total incapacity was job related.

Workers currently must prove that at least 10 percent of such an injury is job related. Wilson wanted to change that to 50 percent, a figure critics insisted was high enough to deprive virtually any worker of stress-related benefits.

- Exclude from compensation stress resulting from "normal" personnel procedures or discipline.

Labor representatives warned that this could mean open season on workers for harassing employers.

- Ten-dollar raises to \$346 a week in maximum temporary disability benefits and to \$158 a week for maximum permanent disability.

- Replacement of California's minimum rate law, which guarantees a profit on workers' comp coverage to even the most inefficient of the more than 300 companies currently writing such policies in this state.

The 1989 Workers Compensation Reform Act called for establishment of a commission composed of university experts to study the minimum rate law and recommend alternatives to the Legislature by June 30 of this year.

The report never got made. The commission was delayed because of

# State Workers...

(Continued from page 1)

the first one since state workers gained collective bargaining rights in 1978. Some 600 state water project workers struck for three and a half days in 1973.

Kenny said CSEA had tried for two months to renegotiate its nine bargaining unit contracts that expired June 30.

The Wilson Administration, he said, demonstrated that it had other ideas.

"Since his inauguration, Gov. Wilson has shown little respect for the collective bargaining process," Kenny declared.

"He initiated public negotiations during news conferences while refusing to meet with us or to appoint a permanent head of the Department of Personnel Administration, which is responsible for negotiating contracts.

"State negotiators for some of the bargaining units were appointed as late as June 10."

Initial state proposals were little more than long lists of demands for concessions, Kenny told the news media.

"Then the governor sponsored Assembly Bill 1487, which would preempt the collective bargaining process... We called it union-busting. Many legislators agreed and refused to deliver the votes necessary to pass the bill," he continued.

CSEA, he said, remains committed to the collective bargaining process.

"That's why we are filing unfair labor practice charges... State workers intend to resist concessions in their workplaces... We're holding worksite meetings throughout the state. We will continue to engage in informational picketing."

## Asia-Pacific...

(Continued from page 1)

CIO Executive Council. Twenty-four leaders of 17 national and international unions participated in the initial meeting last month.

The steering committee is scheduled to meet over the Labor Day weekend in Washington, D.C., after leading a contingent of Asian-Pacific workers in the AFL-CIO's Aug. 31 Solidarity Day march.

# China Imports Under Fire

Congress struck back this week against the nation's \$10.2 billion trade deficit with China, much of which is created with goods produced by forced labor of prisoners in the Beijing government's vast gulag system.

The House of Representatives voted to cancel President George Bush's renewal of China's most favored nation trade benefits. The vote — 223 to 204 — is too close for an override of a veto.

But a second bill by Nancy Pelosi, D-S.F., imposing tough conditions for renewal next year of the most favored nation status, passed by a vote of 313 to 112.

Pelosi's bill would make next year's renewal contingent upon conditions including release of prisoners jailed for participating in the 1989 Tienanmen Square demonstrations.

The Beijing regime's use of pris-

oners to produce export goods and its brutal suppression of independent worker organizations has been denounced by the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO.

President Lane Kirkland, citing evidence of China's use of forced prison labor to produce export goods, said in a recent statement: "China's ruler's must release the remaining political prisoners and free trade union activists held in its prisons and slave labor camps, and must allow workers to form their own independent trade union organizations. Until that happens, we will oppose trade benefits for China, including most favored nation status."

The most favored nation status allows merchandise from China to enter this country without tariffs that otherwise would apply.

China sold \$15.2 billion worth of goods in the United States during

1990, while American exports to China totaled only \$4.8 billion.

American jobs are being lost, and this country's trade deficit with China now is larger than the U.S. deficit with any country except Japan.

Rep. Gerald B.H. Solomon, D-N.Y., author of the bill to revoke China's trade benefits, said the facts do not justify Bush's action.

"The MFN gravy train for China should stop, and it should stop now," Solomon declared. "Why should China be enjoying a \$10-billion surplus against the U.S. labor force?"

China's barriers to imports from the U.S. are even stiffer than those of Japan.

Meanwhile, the Chinese ambassador to the U.S. warned in a speech at Washington, D.C., that Beijing would accept "no conditions" on renewal of its trade bene-

fits and would retaliate against this country if most favored nation status were denied.

New accounts of the Beijing government's fear of worker unrest have been reported in China Labor Notes, published by the AFL-CIO's Asian-American Free Labor Institute.

The publication cited quotes Deng Xiaoping as telling other leaders that while the Communist Party can easily deal with students, it would have difficulty "if workers marched and went on strike."

Deng is quoted also as saying that "the party's first priority is to maintain stability and take precautions against a repeat of Poland's events in China."

The party's central committee subsequently ordered security forces to use a "merciless" policy in dealing with workers who are trouble makers, according to China Labor Notes.

coverage with health care plans.

Henning pointed out that such an arrangement would devastate labor's health care trust funds, create chaos in health plans, and create the potential worker co-payments to finance their own treatment and compensation for on-the-job injuries or illnesses.

## California LCLAA To Convene

Reports on redistricting and on the impact of proposed Mexican free trade agreement will be presented during the California General Membership Conference or the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) next Saturday, July 20, at the Holiday Inn Union Square in San Francisco.

Conference preliminaries will start on Friday.

The state Executive Council is scheduled to be called into session from 3 to 5 p.m. at the hotel by Armando Vergara, state LCLAA president and a vice president of the California Labor Federation.

Immediately after that, there will be a reception with a Mexican-style buffet and entertainment by an eight-piece mariachi band.

The conference itself is scheduled to open at 9 a.m. Saturday with a report by Jack Otero, national president of LCLAA. Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, is the keynote speaker.

Pete Carrillo, Santa Clara LCLAA member and former candidate for San Jose City Council, will speak on redistricting. His report is entitled "Redistricting and Hispanic Representation in the houses of government."

Frank Martin del Campo of Service Employees Local 790 and David Bacon ILGWU organizing director for Northern California, will report on the trade agreement and its impact upon workers in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

The conference will conclude with reports by the California chapters.

## Labor's Day at Candlestick

The San Francisco Labor Council's annual Giant Party at Candlestick Park has been scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 17.

The Giants are playing the Cincinnati Reds, and the game starts at 1:05 p.m.

Seats are set aside in the upper reserved section at the special price of \$6. They can be obtained by contacting Bill Price or Leon Olson at 543-2699.

## APRI Sets Dinner for Gus Billy, Sr.

The Alameda County Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute has announced plans to honor Gus Billy, Sr., at an awards dinner on Sept. 14 at the Oakland Airport Hilton Hotel.

Billy will be honored for his 40 years of service to labor and his community and in the political arena.

Tickets will be \$50. Tables of ten will be available. A souvenir program is to be published, and reservations for ad or greeting space are now being accepted.

Proceeds will benefit programs of the Alameda County APRI.

Information can be obtained by phoning Cleo Garrett, dinner chairperson, at (415) 426-7309 or (415) 656-9901, or Jackie Howell, co-chair, at (415) 581-9989 or (415) 621-2762.

Information also can be obtained from committee members Ella Ledbetter, United Auto Workers Region 6, or Don Hightower, APRI state coordinator, at the California Labor Federation.

# Loans Fund Union Work

Three Northern California construction projects are receiving \$19.55 million in mortgage financing from an insurance company account that invests union workers' pension savings with builders using union workers.

Union Labor Life Insurance Co. of Washington, D.C., announced this week that it had granted two

mortgages in the San Jose area and had committed itself to issuing one at Petaluma through its "J For Jobs" investment account.

"The J For Jobs" account works on the premise that pension savings of union workers should be used to help union workers and unionized contractors," said Robert A. Georgine, chairman and chief operating

officer of Union Labor Life as well as president of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the national AFL-CIO.

The commitment is for \$4.85 million to Charles R. Stephens and his wife for Southpoint Corporate Plaza, a two-story, multi-tenant office building on a three-acre site in the Stephens' Southpoint Business Park at Petaluma.

Developers John Sobrato, Sr., and John Sobrato, Jr., have received mortgages for two projects at San Jose: a \$6 million office and warehouse building for Computer Associates at 1240 McKay Drive, and an \$8.7 million facility for Komag, Inc., a manufacturer of high-capacity computer disks, at 1735 Lundy Ave.

The insurance company said pension plans participating in the "J For Jobs" account include Local 3 of the Operating Engineers, Bay Area Painters, and Allied Masonry Pension Plans of San Francisco, IBEW Local 332 and Pacific Coast Roofers, both of San Jose, and San Joaquin County Painters.

## U.C. Sets Fourth OSHA Institute

The fourth annual University of California Occupational Safety and Health Institute is scheduled for Aug. 12-16 at the San Francisco Airport Hilton Hotel.

It is sponsored by the Center for Occupational and Environmental

Health, a collaborative effort of the U.C. campuses at Berkeley, Davis and San Francisco.

Courses, to be taught by nursing, medicine, and public health faculty members from several U.C. campuses as well as experts employed elsewhere, will include ergonomics, workers' compensation, occupational and environmental toxicology, risk communication, building-associated illnesses and control of air contaminants.

Information about courses, accommodations and costs can be obtained by phoning Marion Gillen at (415) 642-5507.

## Presidential View of Labor

"The American Labor Movement has consistently demonstrated its devotion to the public interest. It is, and has been, good for all America."

—John F. Kennedy