

Boycott Begins at Safeway

The Stop Safeway Coalition last night launched a boycott aimed at persuading the supermarket chain to back away from firing more than 800 Bay Area warehouse and distribution workers and starting out with a brand new, non-union workforce when it shifts operations to a new supply facility at Tracy.

The boycott was formally announced by Chuck Mack, president of Teamsters Joint Council No. 7, during a rally that started at 6 p.m. last night at the front door of Safeway's corporate headquarters near Jack London Square in Oakland.

Mack said handbills would be

distributed at selected Safeway markets tomorrow by the threatened workers and coalition supporters.

More than 800 of the workers threatened with dismissal are members of the Teamsters. Twenty-five of them are truck mechanics represented by the Machinists.

Coalition backers represent a broad spectrum of church members, community activists, consumer advocates and trade unionists. Jesse Jackson is among them.

Spokespersons for those groups stood with Mack and other labor leaders as more than 500 chanting, cheering supporters filled an inter-

section outside the Safeway headquarters while twilight faded into night.

Workers facing dismissal despite unblemished records and 20 or more years service to Safeway pleaded for support in saving their jobs.

"This is not simply a labor dispute," Mack declared.

"This is a question of the right of employees to follow their jobs when a company moves a short distance away. It's an issue of fairness and an issue of principle.

"Recognizing that our workers risk losing their severance pay, their

seniority and their transfer rights, we can't sit back and condone corporate irresponsibility.

"We are prepared to take Safeway on."

Tomorrow's handbilling is intended as a mere taste of what's in store if the nation's largest supermarket operator moves ahead with its plan to trash an entire workforce.

The coalition has prepared strategy for taking the boycott nationwide and launching a companion corporate campaign aiming financial sanctions at Safeway and at Kohlberg, Kravis & Roberts, the corporate raiding firm that engineered

the 1986 leveraged buyout of Safeway by top executives and which wound up with a majority of Safeway stock.

"Safeway is extremely vulnerable to a consumer boycott," Mack declared last night. "This weekend we intend to start showing them just how vulnerable they really are."

Earlier yesterday, Mack presided over a briefing session for news reporters held at the offices of the California Labor Federation in the same chamber where Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the state AFL-CIO, warned six weeks

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BART's Rail Car Contract Praised

The \$141.6 million contract for made in America rail cars was formally awarded by the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Rapid Transit District Monday with jubilant labor leaders standing by.

The contract goes to Morrison-Knudsen Corp., which beat out two Japanese firms in the bidding to build an initial order of 80 new BART cars with an option for 170 more.

There was agreement that the contract is a victory for labor that will provide a jump-start for the faltering U.S. economy.

The award took place during a special meeting of the BART board convened amid train cars in a shop at the transit district's Hayward maintenance yards.

Present by invitation were central labor council leaders who pushed the case for buying American in meetings with BART management leading up to the announcement two weeks ago that Morrison-Knudsen's bid would be recommended to the board.

These included Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council, who set up the BART-labor talks, and executive secretary-treasurers Owen Marron, Alameda County Central Labor Council; Steve Roberti, Contra Costa County; and Art Pulaski, San Mateo County.

Also participating was Jim Quillin, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Conference of Machinists and a key player as well in the labor-led campaign to retain construction of Los Angeles County Transit Commission rail cars in this country.

Quillin said the contract award

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Photo by Eric Wolfe, IBEW Local 1245

Victory for Tree Trimmers

Tree trimmers from Local 1245 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers striking against Asplundh Tree Expert Co. give a cheer on their picket line at Yuba City upon learning that the company has given up trying to use scabs to clear tree limbs and brush away from Pacific Gas & Electric Co. power lines.

IBEW members struck after the company stonewalled in contract negotiations, locked workers out for a week, and then unilaterally imposed a 17 percent wage cut. East Coast-based Asplundh, reportedly the largest utility line tree-trimmer in the country, contracts to keep PG&E lines clear in Northern California.

Another Cancer Cluster Death

The death of a third child victim of the Earlimart cancer cluster brought a demand this week for answers from agri-business corporations and governmental agencies that insist pesticide levels in that Tulare County area are acceptable.

Mirian Robles, 10, died March 11 at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles where she had been undergoing experimental chemotherapy for cancer that struck her when she was 2 and which resisted extensive treatment, including bone marrow transplant.

Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers, pointed out this week that the dead child had one thing in common with two other recent cancer victims and with dozens of other children stricken with cancer and with birth defects in Earlimart and nearby San Joaquin Valley farm communities.

The parents of all were grape workers constantly exposed to high levels of pesticides in fields where they worked, at home from wind-carried sprays, and from ground water polluted by runoff.

Continued high use of toxic pesticides by grape growers is the basis for the UFW's boycott against California table grapes.

Chavez was especially critical of the assertion that pesticide levels in

(Continued on page 2)

Politics Theme as State APRI Meets

The California State Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute has set "State of American Politics" as the theme for its annual convention Thursday through Sunday, March 26-29, at the San Bernardino Hilton Hotel.

Strategies for turning out the vote is the subject of a major workshop that will be presented on both Friday and Saturday. Also scheduled are workshops on leadership and communication skills and parliamentary procedure and impact of the Americans With Disabilities Act and new workers' compensation legislation.

Offices of the newly established United Labor Bank will present a session on financial planning.

The convention will open with registration and a hospitality session starting at 6 p.m. Thursday.

The first business session is scheduled to be opened at 9 a.m. Friday by Don Hightower, state

APRI coordinator and field representative with the California Labor Federation.

Addresses by Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, and

Norman Hill, national APRI president, are scheduled for the Friday morning session.

The opening business session is scheduled to be called to order at 9 a.m. by Don Hightower, state APRI coordinator and field representative of the California Labor Federation.

Delegates will be welcomed by Albert Casey, Jr., Laborers Local 1184, president of the Inland Empire Chapter of APRI, who will introduce Sandra Hudnall, president of the state chapter and a staffer with Local 428 of the United Food and Commercial Workers.

There will be remarks by Secretary-Treasurer Jack Stowers of the

(Continued on page 4)

Correction

A typographical error in last Friday's editorial by Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, altered the meaning of a sentence intended to praise Jerry Brown's resistance to McCarthyism.

"Place-hunter" was mistakenly printed as "peace-hunter."

The third paragraph of the editorial should have read:

"He (Brown) viewed red-baiting with lofty contempt, holding it the way of the place-hunter and lapdog. He stayed with the constitutional dissent as envisioned by Jefferson."

Cremins Wins As Building Trades Ballot

Delegates to the convention of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California focused on election year politics this week at Harbortown Marina Inn in Ventura.

They voted unanimously to endorse Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy for the U.S. Senate, subject to confirmation by the state AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education (COPE).

The endorsement came after an address to the convention by McCarthy.

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation and head of California COPE, called for a national labor policy that would make impossible such outrages as General Motors recently announcing the lay-

offs of 75,000 workers and the closing of 27 U.S. plants and one week later announcing the opening of a plant in Yugoslavia.

Routinely following party recommendations is "the road to servitude," Henning warned.

The delegates reelected Jerry Cremins as president of the council in balloting yesterday.

Richard Zampa was reelected secretary-treasurer. Zampa is a general vice president of the Ironworkers and is president of the union's District Council of California and Vicinity.

William Waggoner, business manager and general vice president of Local 12 of the Operating Engineers, was reelected council vice president for Southern California.

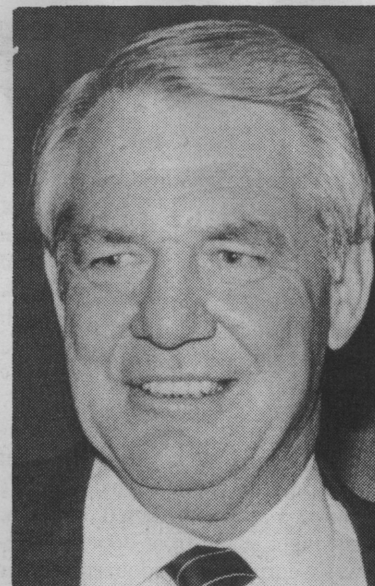
Both Cremins and Waggoner



Jerry Cremins



Richard Zampa



Bill Waggoner

also are vice presidents of the California Labor Federation.

Elected to the Northern California vice presidency was Archie Thomas, business manager of the Northern California District Council of Laborers.

Thomas succeeds Paul Radford, business manager of Laborers Local 185.

Fed Leader Calls For Independence

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, this week told the convention of the State Building Trades Council in Ventura that labor

should declare independence in the presidential campaign if the Democratic candidate chosen by the party convention has a record of hostility to labor and rejects the essential economic and social policies of the AFL-CIO.

He said that blind acceptance of the Democratic party candidate will confirm the belief that labor is simply the servant of the party rather than a partner in such selections.

He closed with the observance that "independence is a hard road to walk but certainly nobler than the road to servitude."

Senior University Planners to Meet

A senior university for the San Francisco Bay Area is expected to move a step closer to reality during a meeting of the Senior University Advisory Committee scheduled for Thursday, March 26, at Dorothy Day Community, 54 McAllister St. in S.F.

Senior Action Network (SAN) of S.F. is sponsoring the university. Bill Price, coordinator of retiree activities for the California Labor Federation, is heading a Site Selection Task Force.

Also at work are task forces on fundraising, and curriculum.

Datebook

A. Philip Randolph Institute California State Conference: March 26-29, San Bernardino Hilton Hotel, San Bernardino.

Executive Council Pre-COPE meeting: Tuesday, April 14, S.F. Airport Hilton Hotel.

Pre-Primary Election COPE Endorsing Convention: Thursday, April 16, S.F. Airport Hilton Hotel.

Joint Legislative Conference: May 18-20, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento.

Executive Council pre-convention meeting: July 22-24, Grand Hyatt Hotel, San Francisco.

19th Biennial Convention of the California Labor Federation: July 27-29, Grand Hyatt Hotel, San Francisco.

Publisher's Notice

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HERE Wins Big at Sunol

A resounding victory has been won by members of Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 50 after 17 months on the picket line at Sunol Country Club near Pleasanton in Alameda County.

The National Labor Relations Board has ordered all strikers reinstated and made whole for lost income plus interest. That total still is being computed. The board also imposed contract conditions upon the employer.

The actions substantiate the workers' contention that they were forced out onto the picket line on Oct. 17, 1990, by unreasonable demands put forward in bad faith by the country club's union-basher labor relations representative, Mike Lynn.

"Throughout the negotiations and during this entire strike we believed that Lynn wasn't telling the truth to Frank Ivaldi, owner of the Sunol Country Club," Local 50 Secretary-Treasurer Joe Regacho said this week.

"We believe this strike never should have happened."

The strike quickly became a community issue with political leaders and other local activists attempting without success to intervene.

The first politician to become involved was Assembly Member Delaine Eastin, Democrat of Alameda and Santa Clara Counties, who refused to enter the club for her own fund-raiser banquet on the very day the picket line went up.

There were repeated and futile attempts to directly involve Ivaldi, a businessman long active in Alameda County politics.

Ivaldi refused to meet with Local 50 representatives or other labor leaders, contending that he felt bound to back Lynn.

At one point, Ivaldi's gravel quarry in the Oakland hills shut down operations because of the numbers of people who turned out for a protest demonstration called by the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

Meanwhile, unfair labor practice charges were making their way through the NLRB process.

In January of last year, the board approved a compromise settlement that called for Sunol to take back all strikers and abide by other conditions in return for having the unfair labor practice charges dismissed.

The country club management balked, declaring that "anyone who has been on strike will never work at Sunol again."

The NLRB withdrew the settlement, and Sunol refused to deal any more with Local 50.

This brought additional unfair labor practice charges and led to the ruling totally in favor of the strikers.

"We are happy for our members who stuck with the union throughout this strike," Regacho said.

"This was purely a case of an unscrupulous labor representative leading his client down the primrose path. If the principal had gotten involved in the first place, everybody would have been spared a lot of grief."

Worker Fund Raids Fail

Two raids aimed at skimming more than \$5 million out of two worker benefit funds have been defeated after strong lobbying efforts by the California Labor Federation.

In both cases, the amounts of money the Administration was attempting to grab was considerably higher than reported two weeks ago in the California AFL-CIO News after the raids were launched.

A proposal to take \$563,000 from the State Disability Insurance Trust Fund to make up a 1992-93 shortfall in the vocational rehabilitation budget was scuttled by action of Subcommittee 4 of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

An attempt to slip an additional \$436,000 out of the SDI Trust Fund to make up for funds missing from the current budget was squelched in a separate action of the subcommittee, which is chaired by Assembly Member Teresa Hughes, D-Los Angeles.

SDI provides partial income replacement to wage earners off the job because of illness or injury not connected with work and therefore not covered by workers' compensation.

Since the program is funded entirely by a payroll tax upon the workers it covers, taking trust fund reserves for other purposes would

have the effect of shifting the cost for a state service onto the backs of wage earners, Research Director Tom Rankin of the California Labor Federation pointed out in testimony to the subcommittee.

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the state federation, noted that the SDI fund grab would imperil solvency of the program only a year after organized labor agreed to increasing the tax upon workers to keep it in the black.

Also killed by the subcommittee were two proposals to take \$2 million slices out of Employment Training Panel funds.

ALRB Still in Budget

Following strong AFL-CIO opposition, the Budget Subcommittee on State Administration of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee this week rescinded its vote which had called for defending of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board.

Following testimony by Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and Barry Broad of the California Teamsters, the com-

One of the \$2 million bites would have been used to qualify for matching federal funds for the hard-hit Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

The other \$2 million was sought for a program to move persons into health care work.

Henning denounced both proposals.

"At the depths of the worst recession since the Great Depression, when basic California industries such as aerospace are crumbling before our eyes, it is unconscionable to divert monies dedicated to retraining displaced workers," Henning told the subcommittee earlier.

mittee also voted down an amendment proposed by Assemblyman Richard Polanco which would have crippled funding of the board.

Henning said that the amendment would destroy the law written to protect the oppressed farm workers of California.

The committee then referred the funding of the board to an Assembly-Senate conference committee on the budget.

Cancer...

(Continued from page 1)
the area are acceptable.

"Acceptable to whom?" the UFW leader asked.

"Acceptable to the parents of Mirian Robles, Jimmy Caudillo and Monica Tovar? Acceptable to all the farm workers who have known tragedy from pesticides?"

"Is there an acceptable level of exposure to any chemical that can cause cancer in a community such as Earlimart, which has 12 times the cancer rate expected for a town of its size? Is this the standard of protection that you would accept for your family and for your children?"

Chavez continued: "There also are some questions we should ask of ourselves and of all Americans who enjoy the bounty of food that farm workers produce at such great costs.

"Do we feel deeply enough of the pain of those who must work in the fields every day with these poisons? Or the anguish of the families that have lost loved ones to cancer? Or the heartache of parents who still fear for the lives of their children?"

Services were held Wednesday for the Robles child. There was a rosary Tuesday evening followed by a funeral mass on Wednesday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Delano. The family held a reception afterward at the UFW's North Acres headquarters west of Delano.

Court Makes Pension Prop Crucial

The court ruling that the Wilson Administration had the right to expropriate \$1.9 billion in public pension reserves makes passage of a ballot initiative safeguarding retirement funds essential, President Yolanda Solari of the California State Employees Association said this week.

"This is our money," Solari declared. "State employees deposited it with the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) to ensure that their pensions would be protected."

"The governor had no right to this money, and we intend to continue to fight for its return."

The decision will be appealed to the California Supreme Court, Solari said. But public employees will focus immediately on passage of the

Pension Protection Act in November.

Enough signatures to place the initiative on the general election ballot apparently have been gathered by a coalition including CSEA and other state employee unions along with anti-tax conservatives not usually allied with labor.

Last week the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation put the state AFL-CIO officially on record in favor of the pension protection initiative. Solari is a state AFL-CIO vice president and a member of the council.

Also last week, Rep. Pete Stark, D-Hayward, announced that he was endorsing the initiative. Stark also said he would introduce federal legislation to provide similar safeguards for all public worker

pensions.

A three-judge panel in the 3rd District Court of Appeal ruled last Friday that no constitutional rights were violated when \$1.9 billion was taken from reserves set aside to ensure that public employee pensions keep pace with inflation.

The three judges said that public employees had no vested right to such protection against having their pensions eroded by inflation.

The taking of the money was authorized last year when the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 702 during the struggle to bridge a record \$14.3 billion deficit in the state budget.

Wilson threatened to veto the entire state budget unless the Legislature went along with AB 702.

The governor had already tried and failed to gain control of CalPERS and its \$63 billion pension fund — the largest in the nation — by stacking the CalPERS with gubernatorial appointees.

Employee and retiree representatives remain on the board, but AB 702 did give the governor the authority to name the CalPERS actuary, the person who ultimately decides how much money the state must contribute to the fund.

State employees went into court last Aug. 1 demanding return of the \$1.9 billion and restoration of the board's authority to select its own actuary.

Pat McConahay, CSEA director of communications, said the union leaders are convinced that the Ap-

peal Court erred and that taking the pension funds will be ruled unconstitutional by the California Supreme Court.

"We feel the court's decision is onerous and a dangerous precedent," McConahay said.

"Many other states are watching this decision because they're in similar situations. Now they'll feel they can just go ahead and take public employee retirement reserves."

Richard Koppes, CalPERS general counsel, said he was "disappointed and surprised" by the decision.

CalPERS technically was the defendant but was supporting the public employee plaintiffs. Koppes said he had been optimistic after listening to oral arguments last month.

S.F. Labor, Business Luncheon

"Business & Labor: Building a New Partnership" is the title of a luncheon program set for Thursday, April 2, under sponsorship of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and a coalition of San Francisco organized labor.

Scheduled to speak are Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council; Leland M. Gustafson, chairman of the S.F. Chamber of Commerce, and Mayor Frank Jordan of the City and County of San Francisco.

Invitations predict that the event at the Palace Hotel will be historic.

It is scheduled to open at 11:15 a.m. Luncheon is to be served starting at noon.

Tickets are \$35, with tables of 10 available. Blocks of 10 tickets will be split between two tables so that labor and business representatives can be mixed.



Festival Aids Disaster Fund

Jack Henning, left, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, accepts \$500 contribution to the federation's disaster emergency fund from David Winters, director of the Western Workers Labor Heritage Festival. The money is for assistance to union members burned out of their homes in the Oakland Hills fire last October. It was raised through admissions to the benefit concert held Jan. 19 at Oakland on the final evening of the sixth annual festival.

Retiree Activists Turn Up At COPE's Open House

A retired electrician who had been out of touch with the labor movement since moving from Minnesota to Sacramento found himself taking the floor during last Friday's COPE open house for retired union members.

"I'm ready to work on the phone banks," declared Emmet Solomon. "When do we start?"

The question was music to the ears of activists of the state AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education (COPE).

The open house at Machinists Local 946 of Sacramento and a series of sessions like it sponsored by other labor councils were held specifically to reach out to retired trade unionists—especially those who have lost contact with their

unions—in order to enlist their energies in electing candidates friendly to workers during 1992.

A score of retirees, many of them long out of touch, volunteered for COPE projects after hearing an explanation of the COPE Retiree Plan by Bill Camp, assistant COPE director for the California Labor Federation. Others returned postcards to the sponsoring Sacramento County Central Labor Council asking to be included in future COPE-Retiree Plan functions, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Harbolt announced.

Eddie Peralta, Sacramento area coordinator of the COPE Retiree Plan, said the open house had turned up volunteers enough to as-

sure staffing of voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns.

"People are signing up to kick off the phone bank on April 1," Peralta said.

Participants got political education along with the opportunity to volunteer their services.

Peter Hansel of the Senate Office of Research gave them reviews of proposals for comprehensive health care now being debated in California.

Paul Minicucci, consultant to the State Senate Committee on Aging, spoke on additional bills affecting retirees.

Charles Toby, business manager of Machinists Local 946, served as host for the open house.

Another Wage Board Splits On 12-Hr. Day

A labor-management wage board split down the middle last week on the question of whether eight-hour-day protections ought to be abolished and the 12-hour, no-overtime day legalized in the state industrial wage order covering workers who prepare and pack agricultural products for shipping on the farms where the products are grown.

The stalemate came as no surprise. The result was the same as a week earlier when a wage board considered employer arguments in favor of legalizing the 12-hour day in a separate wage order covering workers who process agricultural products in canneries and packing plants away from the farm.

The session was part of a series of hearings and wage board sessions being held in connection with the state Industrial Welfare Commission's accelerating campaign to eradicate worker protections built up over decades.

Legalizing the 12-hour day for workers unprotected by union contracts in the television and radio broadcast industry will be considered by a wage board on April 1 at San Francisco.

On April 10 the IWC itself will hold a hearing at Sacramento on a proposal to strip all daily overtime requirements out of the California workplace regulations.

Last week's hearing was without the emotional clashes that marked the earlier off-farm wage board hearing.

This was attributed partially to the fact that most of the ground had been covered, and also to the absence of a management representative who attracted a picket line and incited angry denunciations at the earlier session because he is the personnel manager who recruited scabs as permanent replacements

Two Vacancies As IWC Meets

The California Industrial Commission is two members short today as it convenes in San Francisco for the first of a series of hearings on whether to open a review of the adequacy of the state minimum wage.

The commission's public representative, Muriel Morse of Los Angeles, whose term has expired, was notified this week by Gov. Pete Wilson's office that she won't be reappointed.

Also vacant is one of the two labor representative seats. A labor seat has been left vacant for nearly two years, first by former Gov. George Deukmejian and then by Gov. Pete Wilson.

for some 600 Teamster members on strike at Diamond Walnut Co. in Stockton.

As at the earlier wage board session, there was agreement last week on only one point: that the on-farm and off-farm processing wage orders should not be combined.

Representing labor last week were Barry Broad, California Teamsters Public Affairs Council; Michael Lyons, president of Local 78-B of the United Food and Commercial Workers, Salinas; Ruben F. Salazar, business agent, UFCW Local 1036, Goleta; and John Govea, Salinas attorney.

A report by the wage board's non-voting chair, arbitrator Matthew Goldberg of Oakland, is scheduled to be handed over to the IWC no later than April 27.

State Forum Sets North, South Units

Delegates to the first anniversary convention of the California Chapter of Federation of Retired Union Members agreed to establish caucuses in both Northern and Southern California in order to involve members more closely in decision-making.

The action was taken on recommendation of Bill Price, state FORUM president and coordinator of retiree affairs for the California Labor Federation, during sessions held March 9 at the Concord Hilton Hotel. FORUM delegates met imme-

diately prior to the March 10-11 convention of the Congress of California Seniors.

Price named Morris Jones of San Diego FORUM to co-ordinate the Southern California caucus. Price will direct the Northern California group.

The key role that union retirees can play in the 1992 elections was outlined by Steve Protulus, coordinator on the staff of national AFL-CIO COPE.

Delegates were welcomed by

Steve Roberti, executive secretary-treasurer of the Contra Costa County Central Labor Council, who was introduced by Ray Johnson, secretary-treasurer of Contra Costa FORUM.

President Albin J. Gruhn of the California Labor Federation spoke on political muscle of trade union retirees, explaining that the state AFL-CIO federation established the country's first state-wide FORUM chapter in order to provide seniors with the means of harnessing their

potential.

Margaret Shelleda, vice president of the state federation and deputy executive director of Service Employees Local 790, stressed the importance of union retirees and cited the expanding roles of women in local unions and retiree organizations.

Also speaking was Edith Withington, secretary-treasurer of Alameda County FORUM.

Delegates adopted a resolution calling upon Kaiser Permanente Health Plan to extend to Northern California retirees the same Medi-

care procedures that the health maintenance organization uses in Southern California.

Leon Olson of San Francisco FORUM presented the resolution, which had been passed earlier by the S.F. Labor Council.

Kaiser in Southern California takes advantage of a federal provision enabling HMOs to contract with Medicare for services to retirees under circumstances that reduce or eliminate costs to Medicare recipients, Olson told the convention.

Safeway...

(Continued from page 1)

ago all of labor would retaliate if Safeway pursued its worker-bashing course.

"Stay out of Safeway! That's the simple word we'll put out to all of our two million members in California," Henning warned then.

Boycott plans had been placed on hold to see whether Safeway relented, Mack and Rome Aloise, vice president of Teamsters Local 853, noted during the briefing.

But this week Safeway began stocking the Tracy distribution center, and the coalition decided to launch its economic action, they said.

Safeway plans to switch all Northern California and Nevada distribution operations to the new Tracy facility as of May 1, one day after expiration of collective bargaining contracts covering the more than 800 workers currently handling the operations out of warehouses at Richmond and at Fremont.

The company demanded heavy rollbacks in pay and benefits as the price of contract renewals.

Even worse, Safeway demanded that any worker following his or her job to the new Tracy facility would have to surrender all seniority rights and become a probationer liable to instant dismissal, regardless of years with the company or quality of past service.

When workers predictably balked, Safeway declared that bargaining was at an impasse and that

all workers would be dismissed on April 30.

The company said it had retained a new firm to manage distribution and operate the new, multi-million-dollar warehouse, biggest of its kind in the United States.

That company said it would employ a non-union workforce and that Safeway workers could get in line along with other applicants.

The transparency of this subterfuge was pointed out during yesterday's news media briefing.

Although the so-called independent contractor firm nominally is headed by a husband and wife with some trucking interests at Sacramento, the chief executive officer happens to be Safeway's long time director of corporate operations.

"The bosses at Tracy are the same people who are the bosses at Richmond and at Fremont," Aloise told the reporters.

"It is absurd for Safeway to keep insisting in public statements that it has no control over who is hired by the new company," Mack said.

"Safeway is telling this new company to stock Safeway-owned supplies in this multi-million-dollar Safeway warehouse and to make deliveries to Safeway stores in amounts and at times designated by Safeway executives in Safeway trucks with those big red 'S' logos on the sides.

"The only thing they say they have no control over is what happens to a workforce that has served

Food Clerks Vote In North State

Members of United Food and Commercial Workers are voting this week and next on collective bargaining contracts with major supermarket chains throughout Northern California.

Eleven of the 12 Northern California food clerk locals reached tentative agreement last week in renewed bargaining after members overwhelmingly rejected an earlier offer and authorized a strike against companies represented by the Food Employers Council in the northern half of the state.

One local, 648 of San Francisco, has been bargaining on its own and has not scheduled a ratification vote.

Union leaders declined to discuss specifics of the settlement until all of the locals have held their ratification elections. Most will have voted by this weekend, but some are conducting mail ballots that are not expected to be completed until week after next.

Ratification was recommended to the mem-

bers by officers of all of the locals bargaining jointly.

Employers involved in the joint bargaining are Safeway, Lucky, Albertson's, Raley's and Nob Hill. Historically, other market owners have signed contracts based upon the agreement reached with the Food Employers Council.

The UFCW locals are 428, with jurisdiction in Santa Clara County and part of San Benito; 839, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties and part of San Benito; 1288, Fresno; 775, San Mateo; 870, Alameda; 1179, Contra Costa; 1119, Marin; 373, Napa and Solano; 1532, Mendocino, Sonoma and Lake; 115, with jurisdiction over food clerks in the northern coastal counties, and 558, covering the balance of northern California from Modesto to the Oregon border.

Local 648, negotiating alone, has jurisdiction in the City and County of San Francisco.

them well and faithfully for decades but which they now want to dump in favor of younger, non-union workers inexperienced in standing up for their rights, who will work for much lower wages without any benefits," he said.

Ray Lenz, a threatened worker with 26 years experience in the Safeway produce distribution warehouse at Richmond, told reporters what happened when he applied to the supposedly independent warehouse operator for a job at Tracy.

The person who interviewed him was his long-time boss at Richmond.

"I asked what the pay scales would be, and he said there was no pay scale, that wages would be quoted if a job was offered," Lenz related.

"I asked about medical coverage and pensions, and he said there weren't any.

"I asked what jobs were available, and he said nobody was being offered any specific job in any defi-

nite department, that workers would be shifted around anywhere the employer wanted them at any time on any day.

"He told me they would notify me if anything was available. I haven't heard from them."

Lenz continued with choking voice and tears welling in his eyes:

"I'm a good worker. My attendance record is perfect. I know my job and I'm good at it. It is my pride.

"This really hurts. It's scary."

BART Cars...

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could be the beginning of a renaissance of the transportation industry in the United States and a reversal of the hemorrhage of American jobs to foreign countries while skilled U.S. workers stand in line for unemployment benefits.

"The next wave of manufacturing will be production of vehicles to satisfy growing demand for mass transit in this country and abroad into the 21st century," Quillin predicted.

Rail car production can take the place of the faltering aerospace industry as a mainstay of manufacturing in California, Quillin added.

Johnson praised the Bay Area labor unity that brought arguments in favor of domestic production into BART's deliberations.

It was the second victory for the Bay Area labor councils in a week, Johnson pointed out. He, with the same central body leaders, was able to bring S.F. Mayor Frank Jordan into talks that averted a strike at KQED, the Public Broadcasting System affiliate.

"Labor's unified approach, in conjunction with open minds, sends a signal across the nation that buying American is the best route to the future," Johnson declared.

Roberti of the Contra Costa County Central Labor Council said keeping the BART car work from going overseas was a major victory for labor and for the U.S. economy.

"We still have a highly skilled, motivated workforce available here, and Morrison-Knudsen knew that when the company bid on the contract and agreed to do the assembly here," Roberti said.

Pulaski praised the unified efforts of the labor councils.

"We see this as a major victory," the San Mateo council leader said.

"The labor councils, working together, were able to provide a larger labor perspective and work with BART to assure that these cars would be built locally by a company with a union history."

This was a reference to Morrison-Knudsen's contract with the Machinists at its rail car facility in New York.

Marron also acknowledged what had been achieved through labor unity.

The Alameda County leader said he was especially pleased that the bid of the Kawasaki Corporation had been rejected. Kawasaki, one of the two Japanese firms seeking the BART contract, has been placed on the national AFL-CIO boycott

list for firing American workers and replacing them with workers supplied by a Korean labor contractor when it purchased a rail car plant in New York.

William J. Agee, the Morrison-Knudsen chairman and chief executive officer, reaffirmed the company's commitment to open a plant in the S.F. Bay Area for assembly of the BART cars and 88 additional commuter and long-haul passenger cars it has contracted to build for the California Department of Transportation.

Agee also hailed the contract as the beginning of a new manufacturing era. He called the BART contract "the first of many orders we expect to see."

"This is going to be a great industry," Agee added.

William Ussery, president of the BART board, also predicted far-reaching results.

"This contract means jobs," Ussery said. "This contract means the renewal of a once-dormant American industry.

"With foresight and the proper leadership, this single plant could become the springboard for the development of public transit across the country."

APRI...

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San Bernardino and Riverside Counties Central Labor Council and Mayor Robert Holcomb of San Bernardino.

Larry Martin, APRI western region director and international representative of the Transport Workers Union, also will speak to the delegates before Henning and Hill deliver their addresses.

The Friday luncheon speaker is Valerie Pope-Ludlam, member of the San Bernardino City Council. There will be luncheon remarks as well by Wilmer Carter, member of the board of the Rialto School District.

The Saturday session will open with a retrospective on the history of APRI led by Hill.

The workshop on leadership and communications skills and parliamentary procedure will be led by James Marshall of the Laborers with Norma Ricker of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Guidry and Andy Anderson of the Communications Workers.

Invocations will be led by Dr. Lemar Foster, pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and The Rev. Marvin L. Brown, pastor of

the First Baptist Church of Perris.

State APRI elections are scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Saturday with Claire Caldwell of TWU as chairperson.

Shannon Reeves, western region representative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is scheduled to deliver the principal address at the convention dinner on Saturday evening at the hotel.

A no-host reception will precede the dinner. Sandra Hudnall and Leon Harris are chairing the event. There will be a greeting by Albert Casey, Jr.

Hudnall, Martin and Hill are scheduled to address a general session on Sunday before Hightower brings down the gavel to conclude the convention.

The financial planning workshop will be led by Richard Wuerther, vice president and chief loan officer of the new United Labor Bank, and by Cheryl Broussard, investment advisor.

The workshop on strategies for turning out the vote will be led by Andy Barnes, representative of the Grand Lodge of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. He'll be backed by Cleotha Garrett and Alex Sweeten of the United Auto Workers. Panelists will include Andrea Strader, political director of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Willie Robinson, business agent with Laborers Local 300, and Ella Lane, political consultant.

Hightower will lead the workshop on new workers' compensation legislation and on the Americans With Disabilities Act, assisted by Barbara Banford of the Office and Professional Employees.

Panelists will be Tom Rankin, research director of the California Labor Federation; Peter Guidry, coordinator at the U.C.-Berkeley Labor Center; Ron Field, representative of California Employers for Compensation Reform, and Casey Young, administrative director of the state Division of Workers' Compensation.

Henning Addresses LCLAA Meeting

Delegates from Labor Council for Latin American Advancement chapters throughout the western U.S. focused on tools and tactics for political empowerment last weekend in Ventura.

Speakers stressed mobilization of the Latino vote during sessions at the Harbortown Marina Resort.

Included were Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, and Jack Otero, national president of LCLAA and a member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council.

Henning, making his presentation in Spanish, emphasized the need of getting more Latinos in-

volved in the political process.

Otero told the participants that the empowerment of union members in political action and joining coalitions with similar objectives were going to be the difference in this election year. Otero praised support of LCLAA by Henning and the federation.

"The cooperation obtained from the federation made it possible to obtain the cross section participation of all unions present," Otero said.

Richard Martinez, of the Southwest Voter Education Project urged COPE-endorsed candidates not to ignore the Latino vote strength. He said that disregard of California

Latinos in the 1990 election cost the COPE-endorsed candidate the governorship.

A workshop entitled "Hispanic Political Empowerment" featured Mickey Ybarra of the National Education Association and Jose La Luz, national education director of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers.

The second workshop, "Mobilizing Hispanics," included Anita Perez Ferguson, professor of Chicano Studies at California State University, Northridge.

It was the first such regional conference ever organized by LCLAA. Hank Lacayo, past president of the

national organization and retired UAW-CAP director, served as the conference director.

Master of ceremonies for the Saturday night banquet was Danny Villanueva, longtime Hispanic community activist and member of the L.A. Rams and the Dallas Cowboys NFL teams in the 60s.

At the banquet, the Ventura LCLAA chapter and its chair, Vince Ruiz, presented Henning and Otero with plaques thanking them for their support. Henning also received a California State Senate Resolution from Senator Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and a City of Oxnard resolution from Mayor Manuel Lopez.