

# Workers Memorial Day Focuses on Reform

Workers Memorial Day will be observed Thursday, April 28 in California this week with four major events and scores of workplace demonstrations.

The holiday was established by the AFL-CIO to remember workers killed on the job and to work for the safety of the living. The date was chosen because it is the anniversary of the signing of the 1971 federal Occupational Safety and Health Act.

There is special significance this

year because comprehensive legislation to strengthen the Occupational Safety and Health Act for the first time in its 23 years is heading for critical votes in Congress.

Trade unionists across the country are lobbying their Senators and representatives for support of the legislation, which is contained in H.R. 1280 and S. 575.

The need is evident. An American worker suffers death, disease or injury on the job every five seconds. In 1992, the latest year for

which complete figures are available, the rate of job illnesses and injuries hit a 13-year high.

California events include:

- The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor's annual Workers Memorial Day breakfast, which is set for 8 a.m. Thursday, the 28th, at the L.A. Convention Center.

- A Sacramento forum on workplace hazards and worker rights sponsored Thursday evening by the Sacramento Central Labor Council and the Sacramento Area Council

on Occupational Safety and Health (SACOSH).

- A San Jose program sponsored on Thursday evening by the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council and the Santa Clara Center for Occupational Safety and Health.

- Two San Diego events, sponsored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council: the placing of a wreath at Craftsman Hall at 10 a.m. Thursday in memory of workers who lost their lives, and the Sixth Annual Workers Memorial

Day and Awards dinner, which is set for Saturday evening, April 30, at the Hyatt Islandia Hotel.

The Los Angeles breakfast will feature a keynote address by Dave Sickler, regional director for the national AFL-CIO. Names of workers killed on the job during the year in L.A. County, which are to be added to the memorial plaque at L.A. federation headquarters, will be announced.

There also will be recognition of  
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# UFW Marchers Near Goal

The United Farm Workers neared the climax of their 330-mile, 24 day pilgrimage today, closing in on the State Capitol with more than 11,000 authorization cards signed by field workers who flocked to programs held each night at stops along the route from Delano to Sacramento.

Sunday is the big day. Thousands of trade unionists and other supporters are scheduled to join the pilgrims for the last march from Southside Park to the Capitol steps where, during a massive and festive rally starting at 11:30 a.m., President Arturo Rodriguez is to proclaim the union's aggressive new organizing campaign.

Tonight the pilgrimage—pergrinacion in Spanish—halts at Maple Elementary School at Franklin Boulevard and 35th Avenue in South Sacramento. The evening program is scheduled to start at 6 p.m. on the school grounds.

At 9 a.m. tomorrow the marchers will head into the City of Sacramento, their ranks swelled by many of the thousands who walked

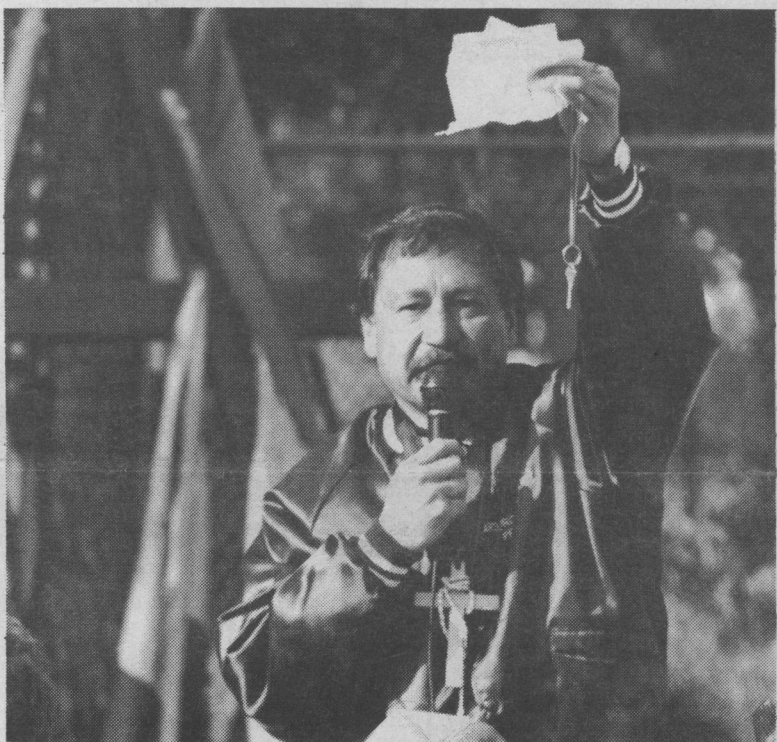


Photo by Lincoln Smith

UFW President Arturo Rodriguez talks to the news media.

with them for a day or a few miles up through California's Central Valley behind the American, Mexican and Philippine flags and the banner of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Bishop William Wiegand of the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento will celebrate mass at 3 p.m., and the final evening program of the peregrination will begin at 5:30.

The march began in Kern County on the birthday of Cesar Chavez, founder of the UFW. It ends at Sacramento on the first anniversary of Chavez' death.

"In the year since Cesar left us we have added 8,000 new members through our associate membership program," Rodriguez said today in a telephone interview from along the line of march.

"Our goal—and my personal commitment—is to win collective bargaining contracts for these 8,000 associate members and many more of the 11,000 who have signed authorization cards during this pilgrimage," Rodriguez declared.

The 2,000-member independent Farm Workers of the State of Washington, which the UFW has assisted through the years, has petitioned to come into the UFW. Rodriguez disclosed today. "Our Executive Board has approved the petition, and they soon will become UFW members," he said.

The UFW president made it clear his union will go head-on against the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board, which former Gov. George Deukmejian delivered into the hands of the growers and which has been a major obstacle to organizing farm workers for the past 12 years.

During a roadside news conference Wednesday Rodriguez blasted the ALRB and its chair, Bruce J. Jernigan, for falsely claiming credit for settlement of farm worker claims against growers.

Jernigan had issued a news release a day earlier announcing that \$1.6 million would be paid by Abatti Produce, Inc., for refusing to bargain in good faith with the UFW more than a decade ago. The release claimed credit for the ALRB.

In truth, Rodriguez pointed out, the Abatti case is one of the more blatant rip-offs engineered by the ALRB and its staff after Deukmejian appointees took control of the board.

Workers actually were owed \$10 million. In 1984 the ALRB's then-general counsel flew from Sacramento to El Centro in an Abatti corporation airplane for a settlement meeting at which he accepted the company's offer to pay only \$1.76 million. It took another decade of battles by UFW lawyers to get any money, and when the payoff finally

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## Garamendi Retaliates Over Endorsement

Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi announced last week that he was dismissing Tom Rankin, research director of the California Labor Federation, from a workers' compensation policy position.

Garamendi stated in a letter to Rankin: "Your appointment to the Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau Governing Committee is terminated, effective immediately. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions."

The letter was FAXed to the federation from Garamendi's office in Sacramento last Wednesday, April 13, a few hours after state AFL-CIO

delegates voted to endorse State Treasurer Kathleen Brown, rather than Garamendi, for governor on the Democratic ticket in the June 7 primary election.

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the federation, said Garamendi made it clear in a subsequent telephone conversation that the dismissal of Rankin was in retaliation for labor's endorsement of Brown.

Further, Garamendi said the dismissal letter was intended for Henning himself, because he said he had appointed Rankin at the request of Henning.

He added that he would not consider any

recommendation from the California Labor Federation as a replacement for Rankin even though Henning reminded him that the statute clearly requires the Insurance Commissioner to give such consideration.

It is questionable whether Garamendi has the authority to dismiss Rankin. The insurance commissioner is empowered to name public members — such as Rankin — to the Governing Committee of the Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau. However, the appointments are for two-year terms rather than at the pleasure of the commissioner. Rankin's

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# Fed Bills Win Committee OK

Four labor-backed bills were approved by the Senate Industrial Relations Committee this week on party-line votes this week, and three anti-labor measures were defeated.

Senate Bill 1419, which would make extended unemployment benefits available to more Californians who have exhausted their basic 26 weeks of benefits, passed with four Democrats voting "yes" and one Republican voting "no."

The bill, by Committee Chair Patrick Johnston, is sponsored by the California Labor Federation.

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the federation, pointed out that California's unem-

ployment rate is continuing to be the highest in the nation, thousands of willing workers are exhausting their basic benefits and are being forced onto welfare rolls or into the ranks of the homeless.

SB 2031, Dave Roberti, D-Van Nuys, raising the State Disability Insurance benefit to a weekly maximum of \$409 from \$336, also passed 4-1.

It also is sponsored by the state AFL-CIO. Henning pointed out that the SDI fund, financed completely by workers, is solvent.

The committee passed SB 1489, carried by Johnston and sponsored by the Teamsters, which would preserve confidentiality of workers'

compensation files to prevent the compilation of lists of claimants for sale to prospective employers.

A representative of Avert, Inc., one of the companies selling such computerized lists, denied that employers were using them for illegal discrimination against previously injured workers.

Approved unanimously was SB 1689 by Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, another effort to force state agencies to enforce laws requiring agri-business operators to provide toilets, drinking water, and hand-washing facilities for workers harvesting crops.

The measure, sponsored by California Rural Legal Assistance,

would increase penalties, mandate enforcement plans, and expand the definition of repeat offender.

One of the anti-worker bills scuttled by the committee would have repealed prohibitions against homework in the garment industry.

The bill, SB 1782 by Maurice Johannessen, R-Redding, is an ideological measure sponsored by the ultra-conservative Eagle Forum, which advocates keeping mothers at home with their children.

Henning pointed out that the homework bans were passed because experience showed that sewing in the home created cruel drudgery in unregulated sweatshop

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# Unions Brace for Newspaper Strike

Union-busting King & Ballow lawyers imported from Tennessee by San Francisco newspaper owners have torpedoed the area-wide, joint contract bargaining that provided 26 years of labor peace between major dailies of the Bay Area and unions representing their employees.

As a result:

- A strike has been authorized by members of one of the eight unions representing more than 2,000 workers at the S.F. Examiner, Chronicle, and Newspaper Printing Agency, and strike votes are imminent at the other seven unions.

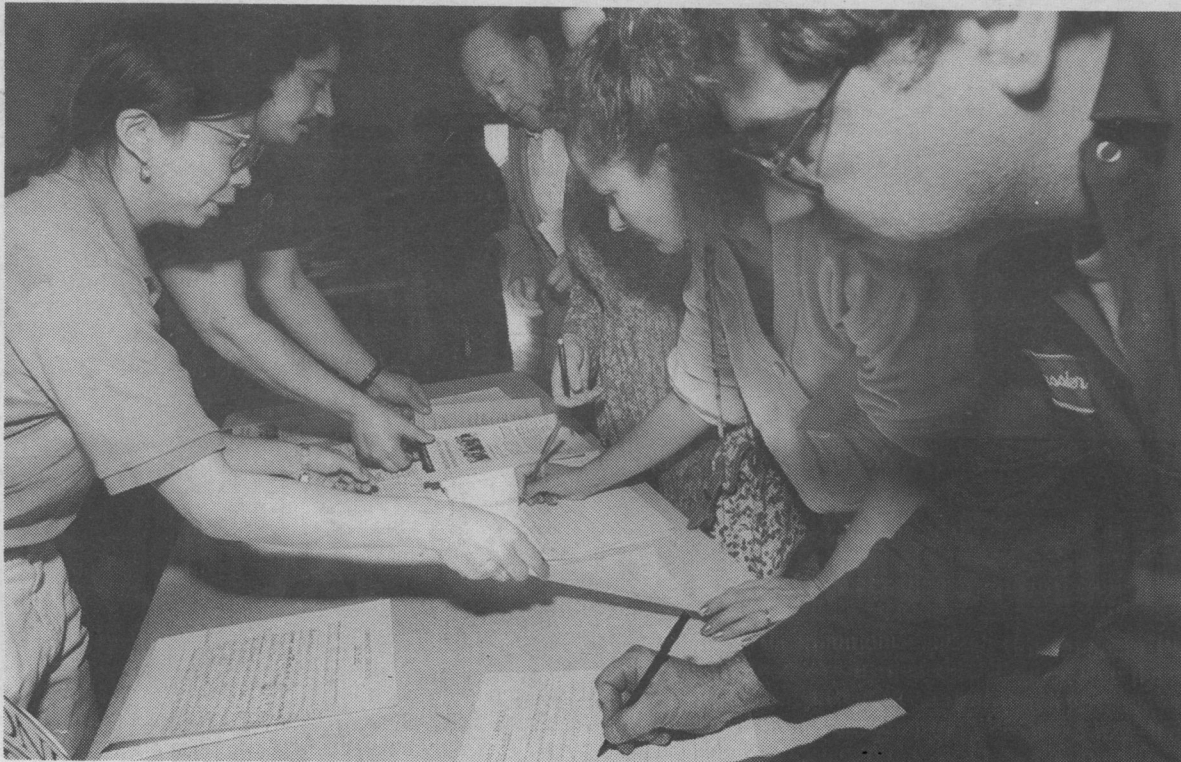
- Unfair labor practice charges have been filed with the National Labor Relations Board by the Conference of Newspaper Unions accusing the three S.F. employers and King & Ballow with bad faith bargaining.

- A de-circulation drive aimed at the Chronicle and Examiner was approved enthusiastically and without audible dissent by members of all eight unions during a solidarity mass meeting called last Sunday by the conference of unions.

Area-wide, joint bargaining dates back to the S.F. newspaper strike of 1968, from which all of the unions emerged with contracts expiring on the same date.

When those contracts came up for renewal in 1970, all parties agreed that employers would meet separately with each union on non-economic issues and then bargain economics with a committee representing all the unions.

It worked so well that the Knight-Ridder San Jose Mercury and News and the then-independent Oakland



Debbie Moy, left, AFL-CIO community services director, and Ed Rosario, Web Press Local 4, assist S.F. newspaper union members registering at one of the strike preparation sign-up tables during crisis meeting.

Photo by Nancy Wong, TNG Local 52

Tribune bought in, establishing an area-wide system that became a national model for achieving equitable settlements in a multi-employer, multi-union industry.

The San Jose papers stepped back from the current round of bargaining when it became evident that King & Ballow's priority was busting unions rather than negotiating contracts. Oakland Tribune contracts were cancelled when the paper was sold 16 months ago to Dean Singleton's Alameda Newspaper

Group, and King & Ballow lawyers employed by Singleton have stalled talks aimed at re-establishing unions there.

Solidarity was the theme at last Sunday's all-union mass meeting at Sailors' Union of the Pacific auditorium in S.F.

Present were nearly half of the 2,000 union members employed at the Hearst-owned Examiner, family-owned Chronicle, and the Newspaper Agency, which is owned by the two newspapers and handles

production, delivery, advertising, and business office functions for both papers under a joint operating agreement.

There were pledges of support from the San Jose locals of the Newspaper Guild and the Teamsters. Those two locals represent San Jose Mercury and News employees, although several of the eight other unions have members both at San Francisco and San Jose.

There was cheering and applause when Doug Cuthbertson, executive officer of the Northern California Newspaper Guild and chair of the Conference of Newspaper Unions defied the publishers' union-busting tactics.

"We will not stand by while the publishers and their hired guns violate their legal and moral responsibilities to deal with us fairly," Cuthbertson declared. "Our members won't stand for this kind of nonsense, and we are confident the NLRB won't stand for it either."

The employers agreed a year ago this month to follow the time-tested area-wide, joint procedures in negotiations for renewal of contracts that were scheduled to expire last Nov. 1.

They also agreed to open negotiations early.

That was just about the last item of significance to which the employers agreed.

King & Ballow entered the picture last summer. Their arrival was

followed by months of employer stone-walling on union proposals and take-it-or-leave-it demands for major weakenings and rollbacks.

The unions filed charges after King & Ballow lawyers reneged on last year's joint bargaining agreement and insisted on meeting the unions one-by-one to talk about economics.

Plans for the de-circulation campaign were presented last Sunday by Carl Hall, a Newspaper Guild administrative officer.

Cards signed by subscribers ordering the Newspaper Agency to stop delivering the Chronicle and Examiner will be collected by union members and held by the Conference of Newspaper Unions until the opportune moment for handing them to the employers.

"We are planning to collect hundreds of thousands of these pledge cards," Hall told the crowd of union members.

"This isn't a substitute for a strike—this is just another weapon we can use in our fight."

Union members also volunteered by the hundreds for strike committees at sign-up tables in the meeting hall.

Debbie Moy, AFL-CIO Community Services director for S.F., explained assistance available through United Way and other services to workers in financial straits because of a strike.

At one point Cuthbertson asked veterans of the 1968 strike to stand, and more than 50 who did so received a standing ovation.

Cuthbertson pointed out, "Not one person who went out during that strike lost a home or a car or anything else. The reason is that we looked out for each other, we took care of each other."

Participating Sunday were members of Teamsters Local 921, Service Employees Janitor Local 87, Newspaper Guild Local 52, Web Press Local 4 of the Graphic Communications International Union, Paper Handlers Local 24, Vendors Local 468, Teamsters Mailers Local 15, and Bay Area Typographical Union Local 21 of the Communication Workers.

## Datebook

Joint Legislative Conference: May 23-25, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento.

A. Philip Randolph Institute's 25th National Education Conference: Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans, June 8-11.

California State Labor Council for Latin American Advancement General Membership Conference: June 24-25, Oakland Airport Hilton Hotel.

Executive Council pre-convention meeting: July 22-24, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento.

Biennial Convention of the California Labor Federation: July 25-29, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento.

## Union-Buster's Vegas Fiasco

Unfair labor practice charges have been filed against the Donrey Media Corporation's Las Vegas Review-Journal by the Los Angeles Newspaper Guild over blatantly illegal electioneering tactics.

"It took an overwhelming and illegal assault to make workers earning from \$5 to \$9 per hour think that they were better off without a union," said Jim Smith, administrative officer of the L.A. Guild.

Donrey is the same Arkansas-based corporation that bought the Vallejo Times-Herald, forced a strike in 1978, and then imported scabs to break the unions.

The company's Las Vegas "consultant" is Michael Zinser, formerly a senior partner in King & Ballow, the Tennessee-based union-busting law firm. Zinser was fired by the

owners of the Bakersfield Californian in 1992 after his "consultations" unified that newspaper's employees into strike-ready solidarity.

At Las Vegas, the union lost elections in two bargaining units and asked the NLRB to cancel a third election and issue a bargaining order on the grounds that Zinser and Donrey had so poisoned the environment that a fair election was impossible.

Tactics included promoting low-wage, no-benefit part-timers to full-time, full-benefit positions in return for signing union resignation cards, Smith said.

There were illegal firings and transfers. In one department, 27 of 55 employees were fired or transferred between the election filing and the election date.

# Wal-Mart Gets Shut Out Again

Construction of another Wal-Mart has been blocked in California.

Wal-Mart's sales of clothing and other merchandise produced by child labor in third-world countries was the critical issue as the Placer County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 against a permit allowing the Arkansas-based chain to locate a giant retail outlet on Highway 49 at Auburn in the historic Mother Lode region of the Sierra Nevada.

"I cannot in clear conscience vote for a business that uses child labor," declared Supervisor Phil Ozenick of Roseville, who cast the swing vote.

Two years ago Ozenick voted to invite Wal-Mart into the county. But since then, he announced during a two-hour board debate, he has been troubled by revelations that Wal-Mart imports huge volumes of merchandise from countries where children are forced into factories.

Ozenick also raised the issue of Wal-Mart's impact upon existing businesses. He said he questioned

whether "a level playing field" exists after Wal-Mart moves into an area and begins siphoning business away from other stores.

Wal-Mart has been exposed to heavy criticism by the "No Gain From Children's Pain" campaign conducted by the Women's Division of the United Food and Commercial Workers, which targets companies profiting from the labor of exploited

## Garamendi...

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current term does not expire until March of 1995.

Rankin, who is recovering from surgery, did not attend a meeting of the Governing Committee that was held Wednesday in San Francisco. Because of this, the legality of Garamendi's action did not come up.

Rankin had served in the unpaid position since 1988 when the Legislature added two public members to the Governing Committee, one from labor and one from business.

children in foreign countries.

The Concord City Council rejected a Wal-Mart last Feb. 22 after an economic study commissioned by the city concluded that the company would not help the local economy because its anticipated high volume of sales would come at the expense of existing merchants.

The Contra Costa County Building and Construction Trades Coun-

cil, Contra Costa Central Labor Council and UFCW local spokespersons joined with Concord business operators and environmentalists to urge the council to block Wal-Mart.

Earlier, a similar labor-community coalition blocked a Wal-Mart bid for permits to build a vast new retail outlet in the Simi Valley area north of Los Angeles.

Up to that time the Committee included only insurance industry representatives.

For years the 12-member industry-controlled Rating Bureau recommended workers' comp insurance rate hikes to gubernatorially appointed insurance commissioners, who usually passed the increases along to employers without question.

Rankin and the other public member remained heavily outgunned until 1989 when reform legislation increased their number to

four, two from labor and two from business, and provided them with a budget to hire an actuary and challenge figures compiled by the well-financed insurance company actuaries.

Rankin had been appointed to the rating bureau twice during the administration of Republican Gov. George Deukmejian by Roxanne Gillespie, who was the last non-elected California insurance commissioner, and then by Garamendi, who became the first elected commissioner in 1990 after the office was reformed.

## Publisher's Notice

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Coalition members crowd Musician's parking lot for health care rally.



Dixie Belles jazz band warms up the crowd.

Photos by Jan Borunda

# L.A. Coalition Rallies for Health Care

The widening demand for real health care reform was demonstrated as hundreds packed the parking lot and grounds of Musicians Local 47 in Hollywood in a rally led by labor, seniors, consumers and community activists.

"Real People for Real Reform" was the theme of the event, which was sponsored by a coalition that took shape last month to lobby members of Congress. The coalition includes 25 organizations.

Dave Sickler, regional director for the national AFL-CIO, opened the April 11 event with a plea for

full support of the coalition's criteria for health care reform. It is essential, Sickler declared, that Congress pass a bill providing:

- Universal coverage.
- Comprehensive benefits, including preventative care, long-term care, prescription medications, and mental health services.
- Quality care with choice of provider.
- Cost containment.
- The option for establishment of single-payer plans for states that choose to do so.

The Clinton Administration's

Health Security Act is the only measure currently before Congress that meets these criteria and appears to have a chance of passage, Sickler said.

Passage of the Clinton plan, with its single-payer option, is an essential first step toward a California single-payer plan based upon the Canadian system, he pointed out. The California Labor Federation has endorsed the campaign to get the single-payer initiative on the November general election ballot.

Seymour Robinson, coordinator of the American Association of Re-

tired Persons VOTE project, reminded the crowd that attacks against real health care reform come from those who want nothing changed because they profit from the current system.

Joe Shea, director of the AFL-CIO Task Force on Health Care Reform, came from Washington, D.C., to support the coalition's lobbying goals.

Also speaking were Jackie Goldberg, member of the Los Angeles City Council; Annette Hall, president of the L.A. League of Women Voters; John Beauchamp, statewide

coordinator of Health Access of California; Kathy Ballesterio, United Nurses Assn. of California; Doug Moore, state president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and Shelley Hack, actor and activist.

There was music by the Dixie Belles, an all-female jazz band.

The afternoon also was enlivened by a presentation of "Harry & Louise — Part 3," a satirical parody on the television commercial attacking the Clinton health plan that was financed by the insurance industry.

## Letter Carriers Set Food Drive

The National Association of Letter Carriers, whose members collected an amazing 12 million pounds of food in their first national food drive last year, is predicting that the 1994 drive will bring in a stupendous 30 million pounds for food banks serving the needy across the country.

The date is Saturday, May 14, according to an announcement by NALC President Vincent R. Strombro.

The plan is the same as last year. Letter carriers will pick up donations of non-perishable food along their routes on the second Saturday of May. The donations will be gathered at postal stations for distribution later that day to food banks, pantries and shelters serving the communities in which the collections are made.

What's different is the scope of the 1994 drive. Last year, 220 local NALC branches participated. This year, more than 725 local branches already have signed up.

In California, 43 local NALC branches are taking part.

Food will be collected in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Pu-

erto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

The food drive is conducted with the cooperation of the U.S. Postal Service, the national AFL-CIO, and United Way. Other unions are expected to help move the food from postal stations to food banks, as some did a year ago.

Sombrotto pointed out that the need for the drive is as great as ever.

"Supplies on the shelves of food banks across the nation are dwindling daily," the NALC president said. "This day of effort by thousands and thousands of letter carriers will assure millions of needy men, women and children that they can obtain adequate food for their tables during the long summer months when charitable donations dwindle."

NALC represents 310,000 city delivery letter carriers across the country.

Postmaster General Marvin Runyon endorsed the drive, saying the Postal Service "cares about the success of our communities and the well-being of the people we serve."

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland called the drive one of the la-

## Unions Crank Up Grand Auto

Union employees of Grand Auto stores in Central and Northern California are accelerating their corporate campaign against PACCAR, the Seattle-based conglomerate that took over in 1987 and has been grinding down the retail chain and its workers ever since.

About 600 members of the Machinists, Teamsters, United Food and Commercial Workers, and Office and Professional Employees employed at 51 Grand Auto stores from Fresno to Redding opted for the corporate campaign when it became apparent that PACCAR was trying to force them out on strike with unreasonable demands for deep wage and benefit rollbacks and weakenings in contract renewal negotiations.

Workers are leafleting selected stores with pamphlets describing the company's actions and pointing out stores where comparable merchandise can be purchased from employees working under decent conditions.

The California Labor Federation has endorsed boycott action.

President George Kourpias of the Machinists has put PACCAR management on notice that its actions "can lead only to a confrontation affecting all of your company's operations."

PACCAR produces Peterbilt and Kenworth

trucks, among other things. Next week the unions will send a delegation to PACCAR's annual stockholder meeting at Seattle.

Bank of America, the largest single investor in PACCAR, also is targeted.

"Bank of America has the responsibility to inquire into poor management practices that have come close to destroying this company and have damaged stockholder equity," said Mike Day, directing business representative of Machinists District Lodge 190 and vice president of the California Labor Federation.

"Bank of America should be particularly concerned about the effect of the collapse of Grand Auto on jobs and business here in California, its home state," Day added.

The Machinists' contract at Grand Auto expired six months ago. The company's best and final offer includes an open shop, three-year wage freeze, \$1,800 a year in employee co-payments for health coverage, and a two-tier arrangement that would mean a tire installer hired at the Bay Area starting wage of \$5.83 per hour wouldn't reach the \$9.12 top until the year 2002.

Meanwhile, the PACCAR chief executive officer, Charles Piggot, paid himself \$1.5 million in 1991, more than the CEOs of Ford or General Motors.

bor movement's most successful efforts to help families in need.

Elaine L. Chao, president and

CEO of United Way of America, called upon local United Way organizations to actively participate.

The 46 local NALC branches participating in California represent several times that many cities.

## Teamster Backers Turn Ire on BofA

Refusal of the Teamsters to accept part-time, poverty-wage, no-benefit employment in their national freight contract was cheered by hundreds of trade unionists who rallied at Union Square in San Francisco last Friday.

Then the rally participants turned their ire on Bank of America, which last year coldly announced that it was switching a majority of its employees to part-time status, stripping them of health care and other benefits, eliminating any semblance of job security, and reducing incomes to poverty levels.

They marched in a chanting throng to the BofA branch that faces the cable car turnaround at Powell

and Market streets and continued their protest there.

Teamsters President Ron Carey addressed the rally from Washington, D.C., by audio hook-up, warning that much more is at stake in the freight strike than the well-being of workers who will be forced into part-time jobs if the employers get their way.

Health care and pensions of all IBT members will be jeopardized if the major trucking companies stop making contributions to trust funds for those switched to part-time status, Carey said, and other employers in other industries will be emboldened to do the same thing.

Jack Henning, executive secre-

tary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, praised the 10,000 Teamsters on strike in California for rejecting the demands of major trucking firms represented in negotiations by Trucking Management, Inc.

It was Henning who first denounced Bank of America's part-timer decision when the bank announced it early last year. Such a step by a corporation as prestigious as BofA encourages other employers to ignore the social and moral implications of forcing workers into part-time employment and poverty, he warned.

BofA is on the state AFL-CIO boycott list.

Also addressing the rally were Walter Johnson, secretary of the San Francisco Labor Council; Art Pulaski, executive secretary-treasurer of the San Mateo County Labor Council; Stan Smith, secretary of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council; Katy Quan, district manager for the International Ladies' Garment Workers; Ken Mee, Teamsters international vice president, and Terry Hart, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 85 in S.F.

Rep. Tom Lantos, D-San Mateo, sent a message of support from Washington stating, "I join you in your efforts today to protect those workers who have constituted the

strength of America—our middle class."

Hart told the crowd that the freight carriers' proposal would destroy the futures of Teamster members.

"Their part-time proposal is ridiculous on its face," Hart said. "It destroys full-time jobs while creating truly welfare level positions..."

Meanwhile, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland assured the striking teamsters of full support.

"All of labor stands with our Teamster brothers and sisters in their struggle to preserve good, full-time jobs at the major trucking firms," Kirkland declared.



# Garment Workers Demand Wages

There's a glimmer of hope for unorganized garment workers who were stiffed for \$102,110.98 in back wages by Moviestar Garment Manufacturing Co. of San Francisco.

More than 100 of them—assisted by the International Ladies' Garment Workers—formed a chanting, cheering picket line outside U.S. Bankruptcy Court last week to demand their share of money being paid to their former employer by companies that sold the dresses they had made.

Their voices penetrated into the court. Arguments on an injunction to prevent Moviestar and its parent company, Hong Kong-based High Fashion, from walking off with the money were suspended. Steve Nutter, western regional director of the ILGWU and vice president of the California Labor Federation, said talks under way this week could put money into the workers' pockets.

The workers, mostly Chinese immigrant women, turned to the Pacific Northwest District Council of the ILGWU after Moviestar suddenly shut its doors on March 16 with more than \$100 in wages unpaid.

Despite their glittery names, Moviestar and High Fashion have long records of worker exploitation, Katy Quan, director of the ILGWU council pointed out.

The companies present a compelling argument for passage of the bill sponsored at Sacramento by the AFL-CIO to make well-known garment firms contracting with sleazy sewing sweatshops jointly liable for wages ripped off from workers and for payroll taxes and penalties unpaid to the state.

Moviestar and High Fashion both are owned by Alice Lam, who ran the once-prominent ACA Joe chain of clothing stores into bankruptcy. Lam recently was served with a civil RICO suit over what she did to ACA Joe.

Last year the U.S. Department of Labor found that Moviestar owed workers more than \$137,000 because it wasn't paying overtime or minimum wage. Workers got none of that money because Moviestar slipped behind the protection of Chapter 11 and later Chapter 7 bankruptcy. The \$137,000 is in addition to the \$102,110.98 currently in dispute.



Garment workers cheated out of their pay picket U.S. Bankruptcy Court in San Francisco.

In 1993, when a worker was injured on the job, it was discovered that Moviestar didn't have any workers' compensation insurance. The worker still hasn't gotten the benefits the law says are his.

There's more: in 1987, Moviestar

controlled a subcontractor called Ocean Garment that closed down owing \$200,000 in back wages. The S.F. Superior Court ruled that Moviestar was responsible for the money, but very little of it ever was paid.

## Legislation...

(Continued from Page 1)

conditions and led to the spread of child labor.

"We need better enforcement of these laws, not their repeal," Henning said.

The committee also rejected SB 1820 by David G. Kelley, R-Idyllwild, which would have required the Cal-OSHA Standards Board to justify any worker protections exceeding those imposed by federal OSHA on the basis of "cost-benefit analysis."

Henning denounced the measure as an attempt to put a dollar value on human life. He pointed out that after 12 years of appointments by Republican governors, the Cal-

OSHA Appeals Board is made up of persons extremely mindful of business concerns.

Henning argued also that the voters of California made it clear in 1987 when they passed Proposition 97 and restored Cal-OSHA that they wanted health and safety standards better than those of the federal government.

SB 1842, sponsored by the anti-union Associated Building Contractors and carried by Bob Hurtt, R-Garden Grove, which would have allowed so-called alternative apprenticeship programs to go into operation before challenges were completely resolved, was rejected.

Richard Holober, assistant re-

search director of the California Labor Federation, pointed out that there are 12 Republican appointees on the Apprenticeship Standards Appeals Board to protect the interests of ABC.

Dan Curtin of the California State Council of Carpenters said it would be grossly unfair to allow apprentices to buy tools, quit other employment and enter training programs that were liable to closure because they had not been fully reviewed and certified.

The Assembly Insurance Committee this week approved Assembly Bill 2867, the state AFL-CIO bill to raise maximum weekly unemployment benefits from \$230 to

\$245.

The vote was a party-line 7-4 on the measure, which is carried by Committee Chair Juanita M. McDonald, D-Carson.

There was party-line approval also of AB 3109, a federation bill carried by Burt Margolin, D-L.A., which would require payment of interest on unemployment insurance benefits wrongfully withheld by the state Employment Development Department.

Henning pointed out that the bill is needed to correct an anti-worker precedent decision by the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board.

SB 1750, which would have farmed out the processing of state

### CLUW Sponsors Oakland Workshop

The East Bay Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women will celebrate Working Women's Awareness Week with a workshop on Taxes and the State Budget 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at the Dimond Branch of the Oakland Public Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave.

The workshop will be conducted by the Center for Ethics and Economic Policy. It is aimed at altering the perspective of persons who consider economics important but boring, according to Kerry Newkirk, East Bay CLUW president.

Admission on a \$5-\$10 sliding scale includes lunch. Child care is available by pre-registering before May 6 with Newkirk at (510) 893-8766.

in the San Francisco Bay Area. It will include a barbecue and ethnic foods prepared by workers. The site is the San Jose Labor Temple, 2102 Alameda Rd.

There will be a special showing of "The Imperialism," the award-winning documentary about the fire that killed chicken processing plant workers at Hamlet, North Carolina.

Music will be by Labor Song Network.

San Diego observances will start off with the placing of the memorial wreath at 10 a.m. on the 28th at Craftsmen Hall, 3090 Centre St.

The Saturday night dinner will open with cocktails at 6 p.m. at the Islandia Hotel on Mission Bay. Dinner is set for 7 p.m.,

law.

Earlier that day, the sponsoring Sacramento Labor Council and SACOSH will have tables of information from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the state's Twin Towers Plaza in the 700 block of P Street. Information and literature on hazards ranging from pesticides and solvents to carpal tunnel syndrome and indoor air pollution will be provided.

One of the many workplace demonstrations is scheduled by California State Employees Association, Local 1000 of the Service Employees, which will distribute "Safe Jobs Now" emblems to members to be worn at work throughout the day in state offices.

The San Jose observance is the major Workers Memorial Day event

## Memorial Day...

(Continued from Page 1)

labor's success in retaining the worker safety prosecution unit in the L.A. County district attorney's office. The unit, which was established by former Dist. Atty. Ira Reiner, was marked for elimination because of a budget crisis, but Dist. Atty. Gil Garcetti announced recently that he had found the money to keep it in operation.

The Sacramento forum will feature Dave Strickler, Cal-OSHA regional senior safety engineer. It will be held at the Sacramento Labor Center, 2840 El Centro Road, and will include a buffet dinner.

There will be an overview of work health and safety hazards and worker rights under the California

spent in this state to partially replace lost income, treat workers with job-related injury or illness, and provide support for dependents of those killed at work.

The new regulations went into effect Jan. 1 but haven't yet been implemented. They enable employers — represented in most instances by insurance carriers — to contract with specific health care providers for treatment of workers hurt on the job.

Employers must negotiate with unions for mutually satisfactory health care providers where collec-

tive bargaining contracts are in force, thanks to provisions that were championed by the California Labor Federation during last year's prolonged workers' comp debates.

Lloyd W. Aubry, director of the Department of Industrial Relations, said application packages were being mailed to health care providers throughout the state with detailed instructions for complying with the new law's requirements for certification as "health care organizations," a designation that's already been shortened to "HCOs."

"Employers have been contract-

ing with health maintenance organizations and other health care providers for years for low-cost health insurance benefits covering the non-job-related injuries and illnesses of employees and their families," Aubry pointed out. "This will allow the same cost-effective approach to be used for injuries and illnesses covered by workers' compensation."

Aubry predicted that in many cases the same organizations currently providing treatment under health plans will wind up taking care of the same employers' workers

## UFW...

(Continued from Page 1)

came it was reduced further to \$1.6 million, Rodriguez pointed out.

Jernigan also attempted to take credit for the largest pay-back ever exacted from a grower for violating California's farm labor law. This was \$2.5 million that Mario Saikhon, Inc., of the Imperial Valley had to pay to 196 farm workers who were illegally denied their jobs back after a strike in 1979.

The truth is that UFW lawyers had to fight for nine years to pry the money out of the ALRB after Saikhon finally was found guilty, Rodriguez said.

In his interview today Rodriguez praised the support the marchers are receiving from other unions and from concerned persons.

He pointed out that more than 19,000 persons have marched along with the pilgrimage, including not only farm workers and trade unionists, but thousands of concerned friends of the farm workers from urban areas as well.

"Cesar's great legacy to us is the tremendous foundation, the support network he built in urban areas throughout the United States and in Canada," The UFW president declared.

employees' workers' comp claims in a test of privatization, got dumped in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee.

The measure, by Bill Leonard, R-Upland, earlier got past the Industrial Relations Committee despite strong objections from labor.

The Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee approved AB 3720, sponsored by the Communications Workers and carried by Jim Costa, D-Fresno, which would allow local phone companies to carry intrastate long distance calls.

Defeated was AB 2993 by James Brulte, R-Rancho Cucamonga, which would have made "disrupting" the filming of a movie punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000.

The measure aimed at halting shakedowns by persons who get in the way of movie crews filming street scenes and refuse to leave until producers hand them money.

However, Eddie Powell, vice president of the California Labor Federation, head of the State Theatrical Federation and international vice president of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, testified that the measure could be used also to prevent picketing or other legitimate activities.

Also speaking against the measure were Henning, Jerry Fitzpatrick, Executive Board Member of Property Masters Local 44, I.A.T.S.E.; Fred Albrecht, President of Studio Grips Local 80, I.A.T.S.E.; and Steve Flint, Business Manager, International Photographers Local 659, I.A.T.S.E.

# State Urges Managed Care Certification

The state Division of Workers' Compensation is urging health care organizations to get themselves certified as providers of the "managed care" that is newly authorized for Californians with job-related illness or injury.

Managed care, part of last year's workers' compensation reform legislation, aims at slowing the rate at which the health industry is increasing its slice of the comp pie in California.

Doctors, hospitals and other medical providers now take almost half of the \$11 million a year that is

receiving treatment under workers' comp for job-related illness or injury.

There are three main requirements for certification as an HCO, Aubry said. Applicants must be pre-authorized, full-service health care service plans as defined in the Knox-Keene Act and be licensed by the state Department of Corporations; or a disability insurer licensed by the state Department of Insurance, or a Workers' Compensation Health Care Provider Organization licensed by the Department of Corporations.