

Labor: No Deals on Health

The AFL-CIO and its coalition allies in the campaign for real health care reform declared yesterday that they will fight any compromise plan that fails to provide affordable universal coverage.

The warning by the Health Care Reform Project was sent to the Senate Finance Committee, where a compromise reportedly is taking shape that would require some individual Americans, rather than employers, to purchase health insurance.

"We strongly urge you to reject this approach or any others that fail to meet the test of guaranteeing all Americans affordable, comprehensive coverage," the coalition said in

Consumers endorse single-payer plan.

Page 2

APRI delegates march for reform.

Page 3

a letter to committee members.

Fifty-six organizations with a diverse, nationwide power base make up the Health Care Reform Project. The American Association of Retired Persons and the Catholic Health Associations of the United States are participants along with the AFL-CIO.

President Clinton told reporters

earlier this week that he remains firm on universal coverage.

"We should not walk away from this Congress without a commitment to cover everyone," Clinton said.

Meanwhile, a special report by Families USA holds out that 1.3 million Americans would continue to lose insurance every month under

the "Managed Competition Act" being proposed in Congress as an alternative to the Clinton Administration's Health Security Act.

The report says so-called managed competition "fails to guarantee Americans that they would never lose their health insurance."


The Congressional Budget Office concluded separately that "nearly two-thirds of those without insurance at any one time during 1996 would remain without insurance" under managed competition.

A study showing that the health care status quo eliminates consumer choice is scheduled to be made public on June 30 by the Kaiser Family

Foundation in news conferences at numerous sites across the country.

The AFL-CIO and seven of its affiliated unions signed a letter from the Health Care Reform Project urging Clinton to forcefully reject the so-called "soft trigger" idea under which Congress would pledge to come back and vote on universal coverage at a later date if "market reforms" fail to bring specific percentages of the population under health insurance plans.

The coalition said, "Soft triggers may be politically attractive because they would enable some members of Congress to state a commitment to universal coverage without voting to guarantee it."



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Most Americans Say Ban The Scabs

A survey shows that American voters by a 65-31 percent majority believe companies should not be allowed to permanently replace striking workers.

When the same voters are asked whether employers should be permitted to permanently replace workers striking over health care coverage, the margin goes to 72-25. And when the question is about a strike over unsafe working conditions, a massive 86 percent of American voters are against permanent replacements.

The figures take on special importance this week with the U.S. Senate poised to vote on S. 55—the Workplace Fairness Act—and a minority of senators ready to block the vote with a filibuster.

"Senators planning to hold S.55 hostage to a filibuster should consider the will of the voters, not merely corporate special interests," declared President Elmer Chatak of the Industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO. "An overwhelming majority of the country supports this legislation. It's time to let the majority rule."

Chatak, speaking at a news conference in Washington, D.C. presented a list of 19,722 union members who have been permanently replaced by scabs in recent years

(Continued on Page 4)



HERE Hits the Road

Flag Day was the occasion and Oakland Airport hotels were the target of a motorized demonstration of solidarity by members of Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 2850 who are renegotiating their East Bay Hotel master contract. Above, the 50 decorated cars in the caravan prepare to start the June 14 autocade. At right, HERE members decorate one of the vehicles.

Photo by Stephanie Ruby, HERE Local 2850



Kmart Nixed for Low Wages

A huge new Kmart "superstore" was rejected unanimously by the Milpitas City Council Tuesday night following testimony about the toll the corporation's poverty-wage, no-benefit practices would exact from the community.

Kmart was asking the council to overrule the planning commission and rezone a piece of the industrial area set aside to attract companies with wages and benefits sufficient to permit workers to buy homes and keep their families off public assistance rolls.

Council members agonized over the fact that a company storing and shipping toxic chemicals stands next door to the site Kmart wants to

crowd with thousands of shoppers.

But the dramatic testimony and debate came over the 500 poverty-level, no-benefit jobs that Kmart said it would bring to the location on Interstate 680 in Northern Santa Clara County just below the Alameda County line.

Speakers pointed out that Kmart, which provides no employee medical coverage, is one of the main corporate opponents of national health care reform. Council members were reminded that Kmart is being sued in the Midwest for hiring private detectives to spy on workers suspected of pro-union sympathies.

Milpitas resident Ron Lind noted that the city planning staff, which

originally opposed the Kmart plan but subsequently changed sides, was the target of intense lobbying in the weeks after the planning commission's rejection.

"We elected this City Council because we thought that its members shared our vision of what the future City of Milpitas should look like," Lind declared.

"For most of us, that vision does not include undermining our industrial base and converting Milpitas into the low-wage retail capital of Northern California."

Lind, organizing director of Local 428 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, focused his arguments on community concerns.

So did Amy Dean, business manager of the South Bay Labor Council, which covers Santa Clara and San Benito counties.

"This proposal offers absolutely no social or economic benefits to this community," Dean told the council.

"We have got to stop allowing ourselves to be seduced by simple-minded, short-term economic deals that benefit the few at the expense of the many."

Also speaking were Jim Calvarese, a member of the Executive Board of the Alameda County Central Labor Council; Louie Betten-court, Teamsters Local 287, and Stephen Stamm, secretary-treasurer of UFCW Local 428.

Fed's Jobless Pay Bill Advances

The California Labor Federation's bill boosting unemployment insurance benefits cleared the Senate Industrial Relations Committee Wednesday and was only one step away from final legislative action.

Assembly Bill 2867, carried by Juanita McDonald, D-Carson, and sponsored by the state AFL-CIO, would increase the maximum unemployment insurance benefit by \$15 a week to \$245.

It was approved 5-1 after Jack

Farm pesticide rules in jeopardy

Page 4

Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the state federation, reminded committee members that benefits in California, which once led in such programs, now rank behind those of 29 other states, including Arkansas. Nine states have benefits exceeding \$300 a week, he said.

There was opposition to the bill from employer organizations, including the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Manufacturers Association, and from the Wilson Administration in the form of the Employment Development Department.

AB 2867 goes next to the Senate Appropriations Committee enroute to the Senate floor where passage will send it to the governor's desk.

The lone "no" vote was by Rob Hurtt, the only Republican present Wednesday.

The same committee approved Assembly Member Delaine Eastin's AB 2590, which would require employers to allow workers to use up to 40 hours a year of their earned

(Continued on Page 4)

Consumers Back Single-Payer Plan

The Consumer Federation of California has come out in favor of a single-payer health care system.

A resolution adopted at the federation's biennial convention June 11 in Los Angeles declares that the state-wide, labor-backed organization supports both the single-payer Health Security Initiative in California and the federal single-payer proposal named for its author, Sen. Paul D. Wellstone, D-Minnesota.

The resolution also declares "support of the AFL-CIO and the National Council of Senior Citizens in their campaign for national health care reform."

The California single-payer initiative has qualified for the November 8 general election ballot. The Wellstone bill is one of three single-payer proposals based upon the Canadian system that are currently before Congress. The AFL-CIO is campaigning for passage of the Clinton Administration's Health Security Act, which would allow states to opt for single-payer systems.

The single payer endorsement was approved as part of a sweeping policy statement that calls also for universal coverage, quality care, cost containment, protection of wages and conditions of health care workers, preventative care and other fundamental health care reform and redirection.



State Sen. Art Torres

It came after delegates heard health care reform explored in a panel discussion by speakers June McMahon, program coordinator at the UCLA Labor Center, and Howard Owens, legislative director of the California Congress of Seniors.

State Sen. Herschel Rosenthal and Assembly Member Gwen Moore led a panel discussion of consumer rights on the information superhighway that also helped shape a convention resolution.

State Sen. Art Torres, chair of the Senate Insurance, Claims and Corporations Committee and labor's endorsed candidate for state insurance commissioner, called in his convention keynote address for affordable, effective and accessible insurance

for all California consumers and an end to all "redlining."

The Albin J. Gruhn Consumer Advocate Award, named for the president of the California Labor Federation, was awarded posthumously to Shirley Goldinger, a founding member of the consumer organization, past president of the Los Angeles chapter, and director of the Consumer Affairs Department of the City of Los Angeles. The award was accepted by the honoree's daughter, Sharon Goldinger.

Regene Mitchell was reelected federation president. Also named were Gruhn, Gerald Rubin and Mary Solow, vice presidents; Michael C. Grimes, secretary, and Jan Borunda, treasurer.

Named to the policy board were Dan Curtin, Pastor Herrera, Jr., Ruth Jernigan, Harry Jordan, Roy Kiesling, Mike Nye, Howard Owens, Willie Robinson, Michael Shames, George Soares, Michael Straeter, Dan Swinton, Dr. Ruby Trow, Chester B. Wray, and Rosemary Shahan.

The health care resolution warned that existing systems of private insurance are not able to keep pace with rising costs and lack the power to bring about fundamental reforms.

It called for a tighter rein on so-called "medi-gap" insurance policies, public support for health care

Bill Would Ease Product Liability

The AFL-CIO is calling for grass-roots lobbying against S. 687, the bill to relieve manufacturers of responsibility for injuries to consumers and workers caused by faulty products.

Such legislation was denounced by delegates to the recent convention of the Consumer Federation of California.

facilities including nursing homes and inner city hospitals, more equitable distribution of the burden of treating the medically indigent, and an end to preferential treatment of for-profit hospitals' capital investment under the Medicare reimbursement system. The delegates denounced cutbacks in Medicare and Medi-Cal, urged Medicare coverage of prescription drugs, and called for a broad-based AIDS awareness educational program.

A consumer credit resolution calls for a statutory 12 percent interest rate ceiling on retail credit, fairer billing on retail credit accounts, guarantees of privacy in electronic fund transfers and holding financial institutions responsible for losses incurred due to error or misuse of their designed systems, and defeat of Senate Bill 1538, which would increase retail credit late fees seven-

The so-called "product liability fairness act" is scheduled for consideration next week in the U.S. Senate, Robert McGlotten, director of the AFL-CIO Department of Legislation, said yesterday.

McGlotten asked trade unionists to urge their U.S. senators to vote against the measure.

fold.

Other resolutions call for:

- Curbs on banks, including clear and timely disclosure of requirements and charges.

- Implementation of re-regulation of cable television companies by support of SB 1942 and SB 1941 (Rosenthal).

- New guarantees of insurance availability and affordability.

- Defense of hard-won food labeling laws.

- Opposition to deregulation of the California intrastate trucking industry.

- Solution of environmental problems by means that create jobs instead of unemployment.

- Continued testing by medical authorities of pesticides sprayed on foodstuffs.

- A ban on plastic pipe until it can be shown that it poses no health risks.

- Strengthening of the state's item-pricing act.

- Defense of collective bargaining as the means of establishing wages and benefits of public utility employees.

- A federal housing program including funding for low- and moderate-income families, the elderly, the handicapped and the homeless.

- Mandatory improvement of energy efficiency of appliances, vehicles and buildings.

- Universal telephone service and curbs on robotic answering systems.

- Support of any national telecommunications plan—or telecommunication superhighway—that includes universal access, affordability, fair competition and consumer protection against abuses.

- Opposition to any legislation aimed at limiting corporate accountability for injuries to workers or consumers.

Datebook

Executive Council pre-convention meeting: July 20-22, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento.

Biennial Convention of the California Labor Federation: July 25-27, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento.

National Membership Meeting, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement: Aug. 4-6, Fairmont Hotel, San Jose.

Publisher's Notice

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U.S. Pay Lags as Worker Output Rises

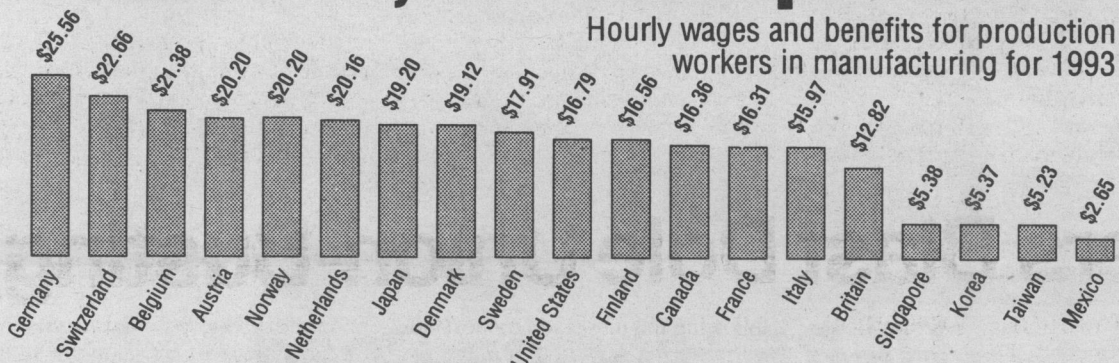
Even though American factory workers are the most productive in the world, their pay and benefits ranked only 10th among industrialized nations last year.

According to data compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and reported by the national AFL-CIO News, the average hourly compensation for American factory workers was \$16.79 last year. This was nearly \$9 behind the average in the former West Germany and almost \$2.50 less than in Japan. Swiss, Belgian, Austrian, Norwegian, Dutch, Danish and Swedish workers also averaged more pay and benefits than Americans.

At the same time BLS reported that American factory output increased 5.1 percent during the year while unit labor costs dropped 2.8 percent. In the fourth quarter of the year output surged 8.6 percent while unit labor costs fell 3.8 percent.

This is expected to increase the U.S. lead in productivity when all the data for 1993 is available, according the AFL-CIO economist

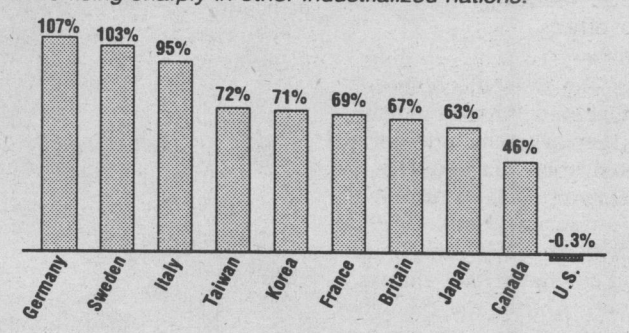
Good work, little compensation



Although U.S. factory workers continue to widen their advantage in productivity, they rank only 10th in total hourly compensation among industrialized countries. In 1993, Bureau of Labor Statistics data showed that wages and benefits averaged \$16.79 an hour in U.S. manufacturing — nearly \$9 behind Germany's and almost \$2.50 less than Japan's. In the fourth quarter, productivity in U.S. factories shot up at an annual rate of 7.2 percent, with output surging 8.6 percent while unit labor costs fell 3.8 percent.

Comparative labor costs — 1985 - 1990

Unit labor costs in manufacturing declined in United States while rising sharply in other industrialized nations.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Bill Cunningham.

In 1992, the last year for which full productivity figures are known, the closest competitors were French workers producing 96 percent of the Americans' average. Italians were at 93 percent, Germans at 89 percent, Japanese at 76 percent and Britain at 74 percent.

Clearly, the data belie claims by corporate economists and commercial news media pundits that "overpaid" American workers cannot

compete in world markets.

And even with its productivity advantage, the United States continues to run up the largest merchandise trade deficit of any industrialized country. In 1993, the total imbalance widened by \$31.3 billion to \$115.8 billion.

Trade balance figures for 1994 are not complete, but it is known that the imbalance with Germany surged by \$2 billion to \$9.6 billion and that the monstrous deficit with

Japan swelled to \$59.3 billion from \$49.6 billion a year ago.

Seriously flawed U.S. foreign trade policies are blamed by Mark A. Anderson, head of the AFL-CIO Task Force on Foreign Trade.

Anderson noted that the U.S. trade performance deteriorated by 59 percent in the first quarter of 1994 from a year ago, on course for a 1994 shortfall of \$148 billion in merchandised goods — the worst since the \$159.6 billion deficit in 1987.

Nurses, City of Hope Settle \$5 Million Suit

California Nurses Association has announced that City of Hope is calling off the \$5 million suit against the nurses that was scheduled to go to trial June 27 in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

CNA announced that all suits involving it and City of Hope would be dismissed entirely without payment of any penalties or costs.

"As part of the settlement, the City of Hope and CNA have agreed on a date when City of Hope nurses will vote in a National Labor Rela-

tions Board-supervised election to determine what organization, if any, will represent them in future collective bargaining. The election will be held on Aug. 4 and 5, 1994," the CNA announced.

Other details of the settlement are "confidential," CNA said.

The suit, filed for City of Hope by the St. Louis union-busting lawyer firm of Brian Cage, sought to make the unaffiliated nurses' union liable for any shortfall of income below budget estimate that occurred

last year while the nurses were striking, picketing and boycotting the Duarte-based research and treatment facility in a collective bargaining dispute. Such a precedent, if actually established, would have far-reaching impact on union boycotts and corporate campaigns.

Much of the shortfall City of Hope was seeking to recover from the nurses apparently occurred because AFL-CIO unions cancelled fund-raising events benefitting the medical center.

City of Hope long has been a favorite charity of many AFL-CIO unions. Labor support dried up earlier during a lengthy City of Hope dispute with its clerical workers, who are represented by the Office and Professional Employees. That situation had cleared up and union-sponsored fundraising events had been resumed when the nurses struck last year rather than accept contract takeaways they said would seriously compromise patient care.

APRI: Health Care Reform Crucial

More than 1,000 activists representing A. Philip Randolph chapters across the country focused on health care, labor law reform, international workers' rights, and organizing community support during the institute's 25th National Education Conference June 8-12 at New Orleans.

The delegates took labor's health care reform message to the streets with a march and rally outside local offices of Louisiana members of Congress.

Don Hightower, state APRI coordinator and California Labor Federation field representative, was one of the leaders of the California delegation.

APRI President Norman Hill declared in his keynote address that the Black Labor Alliance must hold Bill Clinton to his campaign promises of universal health care and labor law reform.

Hill stressed the importance of registering voters, educating them on general election issues, and getting them to the polls on Nov. 8.

Also among the conference speakers were Robert McGlotten, director of the AFL-CIO Depart-



Members of the California delegation to A. Philip Randolph Institute's National Education Conference preparing to join health care reform march and rally are, front row, from left: Julius Lucas, TWU; Sylvester Armstrong, CWA; Mary Thomas, CWA; James Liggins, UFCW; Delores Joyner, CWA, and Don Hightower, state APRI coordinator. Behind them: Linda Templeton-Dent, SEIU; Geraldine Willey, IL-

ment of Legislation; Ceremia Padan, labor affairs counselor at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C.; Rep. William Jefferson, D-Louisiana; Gary Horton, director of AFL-CIO Region IV, and Victor Bussie, president of the Louisiana AFL-CIO.

"Continuing the Struggle" was the conference theme. Panels con-

centrated on health care reform, labor law reform, organizing and community support, and substance and abuse prevention.

Mahlomola Skhosana, general secretary of NACTU of South Africa, and Jean Philippe Gesner, acting general secretary of OGITH, Haiti, joined U.S. labor leaders on the panel discussing international

workers' rights. Also among the foreign guests were South Africans Sphiwa Ganca, NACTU, and Dan Van der Merwe, FEDSAL.

Receiving the APRI Achievement Award during the conference banquet was Gloria Johnson, president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, international vice

president of the International Union of Electrical Workers and member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council.

The Bayard Rustin Humanitarian Award went to Ernest Green, member of the APRI National Board, while Clayola Brown, international vice president of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers, received the Rosina Tucker Award.

Photo by Johnny A. Knox, SEIU Local 660

Farm Workers Blast Dole Union-Busting

Angry farm workers straight out of the fields marched into up-scale Westwood yesterday to confront the head of the giant Dole agri-business corporation over illegal firings of union activists and racial taunts by company straw bosses.

President Arturo Rodriguez of the United Farm Workers and the several hundred workers who followed him were told that Dole Chief Executive Officer David Murdock was not available.

This came as no surprise, and the demonstrators were prepared with an alternative means of presenting their message.

They stretched a "human bill-

board" along busy Wilshire Boulevard from the Dole office tower at Westwood Boulevard near the UCLA Campus, displaying their grievances on large signs to passing motorists and to Murdock or any other executive looking down from the Dole offices.

A company security guard accepted 4,000 post cards signed by UFW supporters pledging to boycott the corporation's products if persecution of union members continues.

It was one of a number of public actions taking place this week as the UFW pursued the aggressive organizing drive launched this spring

following the union's dramatic, 350-mile pilgrimage march from Delano to Sacramento.

In Salinas on Wednesday, union leaders and rank-and-file members testified at the second of the series of hearings scheduled by the state Agricultural Labor Relations Board to extend through the harvest season, preventing ALRB staffers from investigating charges against growers and forcing organizers to come in from the fields to present the union's case.

At Lamont in southern Kern County, preparations were being made today for a march and rally on Sunday that will mark the opening

of an organizing drive that opens as the grape harvest moves north into the San Joaquin Valley.

The Westwood human billboard went up early yesterday afternoon shortly after Rodriguez convened a news conference at Dole's front door to lay out the details of the corporation's union-busting.

Rodriguez told news media reporters that the ALRB had issued a complaint against Oceanview Produce Co., a Dole subsidiary in Ventura County, for firing two farm workers and disciplining others for union activity.

Some 600 Oceanview workers voted for UFW representation in an

election May 18 supervised by the ALRB.

The ALRB complaint accuses Dole of denying UFW organizers opportunity to communicate with workers and also with threatening an organizer with bodily harm.

Workers at the Dole subsidiary were told by a company agent, "Mexicans are ignorant fools and animals."

The ALRB also has issued a complaint against another Dole subsidiary, Dole Fresh Fruit Co. in the Coachella Valley, for illegally refusing to negotiate with the UFW after some 1,000 vineyard workers voted for UFW representation in a secret ballot.

Supercuts Pays Its Ex-Strikers

The 35 Supercuts employees fired for trying to form a union are sharing \$75,000 in back pay awarded in an unfair labor practice case won by Local 428 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

Checks ranging from \$665 to \$4397 were handed to the jubilant workers. Payoffs depended upon amounts of pay lost after the anti-union hair salon franchiser locked them out at three locations in Marin and Sonoma counties in 1992.

The workers had asked for help from Local 428 after the operator of the three franchises refused to listen to their pleas about low pay, sweatshop productions quotas and miserable working conditions.

Ron Lind, organizing director of the San Jose-based local, signed them up as members and got the National Labor Relations Board to schedule an election.

What followed has become a

paradigm of the need for national labor law reform.

It was presented to the President's Commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations — the Dunlop Commission — as a demonstration of the need to rewrite labor laws that employers flout with impunity.

Faced with the prospect of a union shop only steps away from Supercuts headquarters in San Rafael, national corporate management padlocked the three locations and fired all 35 workers.

The company's excuse was that the three shops needed remodeling, but this fiction proved to be transparent once Local 428's unfair labor practice charge was investigated by the NLRB.

Supercuts lawyers were able to stall hearings through the balance of 1992 and most of 1993 before any testimony was presented to an ad-

AFL-CIO Backs Gay Rights Bill

The national AFL-CIO yesterday declared its support for the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1994, which aims at ensuring equal rights in the workplace for all workers without regard to sexual orientation.

The California Labor Federation supported similar state legislation in 1992, authored by Assembly Member Terry Friedman (D-Encino) and signed by Governor Wilson.

"Employment decisions should be made on the basis of an individual's ability to perform a job," the

national AFL-CIO said in a statement issued at Washington, D.C.

"Dismissal, harassment and intimidation of workers for reasons unrelated to job performance is an employer tactic well known to the labor movement. Trade unions have long fought for the right of workers to be judged on their work and not on irrelevant criteria that address their private lives.

"This bill extends the legal protections from employment discrimination provided to those who historically have been denied equal

opportunity in the workplace. It is a step in the right direction of providing equal opportunity for all Americans.

"The AFL-CIO also supports enactment of legislation at all levels of government to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, credit, public accommodations and public services," the statement concludes.

"We further denounce harassment or violence against anyone because of his or her sexual orientation."

ministrative law judge.

With 15 days of hearings held and 25 additional days scheduled and 1994 nearly half gone, Local 428 decided to go for a settlement putting lost pay into the pockets of the workers immediately.

The settlement includes withdrawal of the union's demand for an order to negotiate and agreement not to file for a new election within six months.

The shops are reopened, and any of the 35 who wanted to be rehired are back on the job.

"It became clear during the hearing that the company would continue to delay the process and would appeal any decision favorable to the workers," Lind said this week. "Local 428 and the affected workers might have been victorious ultimately, but such a victory wasn't likely to take place until sometime

into the 21st Century."

The union intends to come back with a new election as soon as the six-month wait is over, Lind said.

Workers say they will be ready. "The union stood up for us for nearly two years," hairstylist Sagra Romero declared.

"Our reasons for wanting representation haven't changed. We're not going to give up until we have a contract."

Farm Pesticide Rules in Jeopardy

The brute power of California's agri-business lobby was demonstrated anew Monday as the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources voted to weaken state controls over toxic farm chemicals.

Assembly Bill 2888 by Julie Bornstein, a Democrat from Palm Desert, passed the committee 6-1 despite warnings and pleas from the California Labor Federation, United Farm Workers of America, the Teamsters, Sierra Club and California Rural Legal Assistance.

Only one Democrat, Ruben Ayala of Chino, stood with labor and voted against the bill.

Three Democrats absented themselves: Charles Calderon, Whittier; Robert Presley, Riverside, and Mike Thompson, Napa Valley.

Democrat Dan McCorquodale, Modesto, the committee chair, voted for the measure along with all four Republicans who were present. So did Quentin Kopp, the San Fran-

Tie Vote Saves Local Rent Control

A tie vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee has blocked Assembly Bill 1320, the measure that would pre-empt local rent controls.

The California Labor Federation opposes the measure along with a long list of unions, housing advocate groups, cities and legal rights advocates. It popped up after Jim Costa, D-Fresno, amended its provisions into a totally different bill

cisco independent. The effort carried the measure through the Assembly earlier. It is scheduled to go to the Senate Committee on Toxics and Public Safety Management, which meets at 1:30 p.m. Monday, June 27, in Room 407 of the State Capitol. That committee is chaired by Calderon.

AB 2888 would give the politically appointed head of the state

that already had passed the Assembly.

AB 1320 would pre-empt the authority of local boards and elected officials to limit rent increases imposed when a rental unit becomes vacant. It also would exempt single-family, duplex, condo and other multiple unit dwellings from any rent controls at all, removing thousands of dwelling units from the af-

fordable housing market.

Executive Secretary Treasurer Jack Henning of the state federation warned that the measure could create havoc and hardship in California, which has the highest housing prices in the continental U.S. and the widest gap between incomes and housing prices.

League, Cotton Growers Association, Rice Growers Association and Agricultural Council also asserted repeatedly that this state's growers never would ask the Legislature to approve anything that might jeopardize the safety or health of farm workers.

Both claims were greeted with skepticism.

Dolores Huerta, first vice president of the United Farm Workers, reminded the committee that the same grower organizations ridiculed the late Cesar Chavez when he began warning more than a decade ago that unregulated pesticides were poisoning workers and consumers and were causing "cancer clusters" among rural children.

Since then, Huerta pointed out, Chavez' warnings have been substantiated and his concerns vindicated.

"We need stronger controls on pesticides, not weaker ones," the UFW leader argued. "We need to slow down the licensing process to guarantee thorough testing, not speed it up."

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, called AB 2888 "a growers' bill" aimed solely at in-

A massive agri-business lobby-Department of Pesticide Regulation the authority to eliminate independent scientific reviews of the toxicity of new farm chemicals that currently are required by California law.

Instead, this official would be empowered to rely solely upon federal "evaluation" of data provided by manufacturers of new pesticides.

In the past, the state agency's independent scientific tests have discovered significant hazards in pesticides approved by federal authorities on the basis of claims made by the chemical companies.

Bornstein and agri-business lobbyists told the committee the bill is aimed at eliminating needless red tape so that chemical companies can put new pesticides into the hands of growers more quickly.

They called it "harmonization" of state and federal regulations and intimated that unless California eases up on pesticide testing growers will move their operations to Arizona and other states that allow them to use deadly new bug-killers more freely.

Spokespersons for the California Farm Bureau Federation, Citrus

creasing profits without regard to health and safety of workers, farm communities or consumers.

He asked the committee to refer the bill to interim study, pointing out that it would directly affect millions of consumers as well as farm workers.

The state AFL-CIO leader also warned committee members against allowing growers to beguile them with assurances about federal regulations.

"We are naturally suspicious of the effectiveness of federal regulations because we know they have been shaped in large part by Democrats from the Deep South hostile to organized labor and the best interests of working people," Henning said.

Barry Broad of the California Teamsters Public Affairs Council warned that the so-called "harmonization" measure would allow political, rather than scientific, decisions to prevail in the licensing of new farm pesticides.

Ralph Lightstone of California Rural Legal Assistance pointed out that the measure would allow the Department of Pesticide Regulation to bypass scientists. He cited examples of hazardous materials and products being approved for use and sale under federal procedures relying upon the manufacturers' own reports.

Mike Peparian of the Sierra Club asked the committee to kill AB 2888 and leave in place the state regulation requiring independent scientific assessments of perils posed by new pesticides.

He compared the scientific testing required by current California law to obtaining a second doctor's opinion.

"Given the serious consequences of pesticides, this appears only prudent," Peparian said.

Voting in favor of AB 2888 in addition to Democrat McCorquodale and independent Kopp were Republicans John Lewis, Orange; David G. Kelley, Idyllwild; Don Rogers, Tehachapi, and Phil Wyman, Hanford.

Republican William A. Craven of Oceanside was absent.

S.55...

(Continued from Page 1)

because they exercised their legal right to withhold labor in disputes with employers.

Federal law protects a worker from being fired for taking part in a legal strike. But that protection is meaningless because the courts have decided that it is legal to "permanently replace" a striker even though it is illegal to fire him or her.

The survey was conducted by the opinion research firm of Fingerhut and Granados. Other key findings include:

- By a margin of 74-23, American voters support a worker's right to strike if a collective bargaining agreement cannot be reached and a majority of the workers vote to strike.

- There is strong opposition to permanent replacement workers—scabs—in all regions of the country, among all age groups, in union and non-union households, among both Republicans and Democrats and men and women.

- The only income group favoring permanent replacement of strikers was those with more than \$100,000 a year.

- By an 89-10 margin, the pollsters concluded, "regardless of region, sex, party, income and age, a majority of Americans support the right of employees to strike if a majority agrees to do so and efforts at collective bargaining break down."

Legislation...

(Continued from Page 1)

time off for volunteer work in their children's schools.

Eastin, labor's endorsed candidate for state superintendent of public instruction, has been stressing the need to involve parents in solving the problems of the public schools.

Henning urged approval, telling the committee members that schools and families are interdependent.

The labor-sponsored home insulation safety measure, AB 2182 by Barbara Lee, D-Oakland, was approved last week by the Senate Business and Professions Commit-

tee and was sent to the Appropriations Committee.

The bill mandates state studies to determine how long insulation retains its fire retardancy. There is evidence that cellulose insulation, which is chemically treated shredded newspaper, loses retardancy soon after installation.

Arguing for passage of the bill were Richard Holober, California Labor Federation; Joe Mitchell, GMP, and Brian Hatch, California Professional Fire Fighters.

The state Department of Consumer Affairs opposed the measure, as did the Insulation Contractors Association.

Community Services to Convene

Labor Leaders, Assistance Experts to Attend Sessions at S.F.

The 32nd National AFL-CIO Conference on Community Services is expected to draw 500 union and community activists from across the country for sessions scheduled July 17-21 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco.

"Changing America: Unions Make the Difference" is the theme for the conference. The spotlight will be on innovative and resourceful programs targeting problems of working families, the unemployed, children at risk, the homeless, the elderly and the working poor.

Speakers from labor, government and community organizations will address plenary sessions on welfare reform, coalition building, health care reform, AIDS, and the future of United Way.

Workshop topics will include Labor Net, National Service, funding sources for service agencies, and changes in United Way.

Green P. Lewis, AFL-CIO director of community services, will lead the sessions.

Rep. William D. Ford, D-Michigan, will be the guest of honor at the Murray-Green Award Dinner, a highlight of the conference, which will be held at the hotel Thursday evening, July 21.

Participants will be welcomed at a reception to be sponsored by United Way of the S.F. Bay Area at International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Local 34 Hall from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday evening, July 17.

Vincent R. Sombrotto, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, and John Sweeney, president of the Service Employees International Union, are scheduled to address the opening session Mon-

day morning. Sombrotto's topic is the leadership role of unions in a changing America. Sweeney will speak on labor and health care reform, according to the tentative agenda.

Lewis, the AFL-CIO Community Services Director, and Charles McDonald, president of Union Privilege, also are scheduled to address the opening session, which will get under way at 9 a.m. with a welcome from Johnson of the S.F. Labor Council.

Dave Sickler, director of AFL-CIO Region VI, is scheduled to open the Tuesday session. He is to be followed by Gloria Johnson, vice president of the AFL-CIO and director of social action for the International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers.

Jim Baker, executive assistant to AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, will moderate a Tuesday panel on labor's changing role in community services.

Panelists include Richard Bensing, executive director of the

AFL-CIO Organizing Institute; Lynn Myers, executive director of the Human Resources Development Institute; Joe Shantz, director of the Department of Organization and Field Services; Dorothy Shields, director of the Department of Education, and Richard J. Walsh, director of the National Committee on Political Education.

Wednesday's tentative agenda opens with an address by Robert Quintana, community liaison police officer from Buffalo, New York. Elaine M. Johnson, director of the center for Substance Abuse Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will conduct a question and answer session.

James Norton, president of the Graphic Communications International Union, will speak Wednesday on community service, as will Linda Chavez-Thompson, international vice president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Also speaking will be Don McKee, president of AFSCME District Council 61 at

Des Moines, Iowa.

A panel discussion on community services in a changing America will be led by David Leicher of Buffalo. Panelists, all local AFL-CIO community services liaison officers, are Walter J. Cleveland, Atlanta; Shirley L. Dabney, Indianapolis; F. Charles Duran, Topeka; Vincent Mortellaro, Tampa, and Carol Webb, San Jose.

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, will open the Thursday session of the conference. He will be followed by Harold D. Scott, U.S. Department of the Treasury; Thomas A. Ruppner, president of S.F. United Way; Tom Owens, assistant to the director of the AFL-CIO Department of Legislation; and Leon Lynch, international vice president for human affairs of the United Steelworkers of America.

The Murray-Green-Meany Award Dinner Wednesday evening will conclude the conference. There will be a reception at 7 p.m. in the hotel's Grand Foyer followed by dinner at 7:30 in the Grand Ballroom.

Conference participants receive dinner tickets and a special rate for guests. Others may purchase dinner tickets through the AFL-CIO Community Services Department, 815 16th St. NW., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Information about the conference also is available from Secretary-Treasurer Walter Johnson of the San Francisco Labor Council or Deborah Moy, AFL-CIO Community Services director for S.F., at (415) 543-2699.

AFL-CIO Reassigns Five

New assignments have been announced for five officials of the national AFL-CIO.

- Gerald M. Shea has been named executive assistant to Secretary-Treasurer Thomas R. Donahue, replacing Charles McDonald.

- Charles McDonald has become president of Union Privilege, succeeding David Silberman.

- David Silberman has moved from Union Privilege to head the AFL-CIO's new Task Force on Labor Law.

- Lynn Meyers has been named Executive Director of the Human Resources Development Institute, succeeding Michael McMillan.

- Michael McMillan has moved to the Department of Organization and Field Services.

Shea, Secretary-Treasurer Donahue's new top aide, came to the AFL-CIO last August from the Service Employees where he was assistant to the president for governmental affairs. He went to work for SEIU in 1973 as an organizer.