

# Sewing Shop Liability Passes

The bill making garment manufacturers jointly responsible for labor law violations by their sewing contractors was passed by the State Senate yesterday after a floor debate that aired issues basic to the labor movement.

Assembly Bill 3046 by Hilda Solis, D-El Monte, won on a 21-14 vote that was essentially party-line. The Assembly is expected to quickly concur in Senate amend-

ments and send the measure to Gov. Pete Wilson's desk.

The action came as legislators prepared to work into the weekend in preparation for the close of the session next Wednesday.

Sen. David Roberti, D-Van Nuys, took the lead in the floor debate, pointing out that there is undisputed evidence of widespread abuse in the garment industry.

He cited findings from a survey

conducted jointly by the U.S. Department of Labor and the State Department of Industrial Relations of 69 clothing factories randomly selected from a pool of more than 4,000 drawn from tax records of the state Employment Development Department.

"The survey showed that all but two of these firms were in violation of federal or state law or both," Roberti said.

"There were minimum wage violations in 50 percent of the shops, overtime pay violations in 68 percent of the shops, cash pay violations, indicating that taxes due the state were not being paid, in 30 percent.

"There were Cal-OSHA violations in 92.8 percent of the shops," Roberti continued. Fifteen percent of the shops were using child labor in workers' homes.

"Seven of the 69 shops were ordered closed because they had absolutely no workers' compensation coverage for their employees."

Roberti argued that AB 3046 will create incentive for the garment industry to police itself.

"Manufacturers who already have their agents visiting these small sewing contractor shops to check on quality and delivery time

(Continued on Page 4)



## California AFL-CIO News

Official Publication of The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Vol. 37—No. 33

August 26, 1994

## Ready for Labor's Own Day

Labor Day celebrations from San Diego to Del Norte County will focus this year on crucial political issues as well as traditional end-of-summer good times, a survey showed this week.

Kathleen Brown, labor's endorsed candidate for governor, will be the featured speaker at two of the largest events, those being held by the Alameda County Central Labor Council and the Los Angeles County Federation. Scores of candidates and political leaders will speak at other events as well.

At Stockton, an emotion-filled rally will mark the third anniversary of the strike at Diamond Walnut that has become a national symbol of the injustice of federal laws that enable union-busting managements to permanently replace workers exercising their right to withhold labor in collective bargaining disputes.

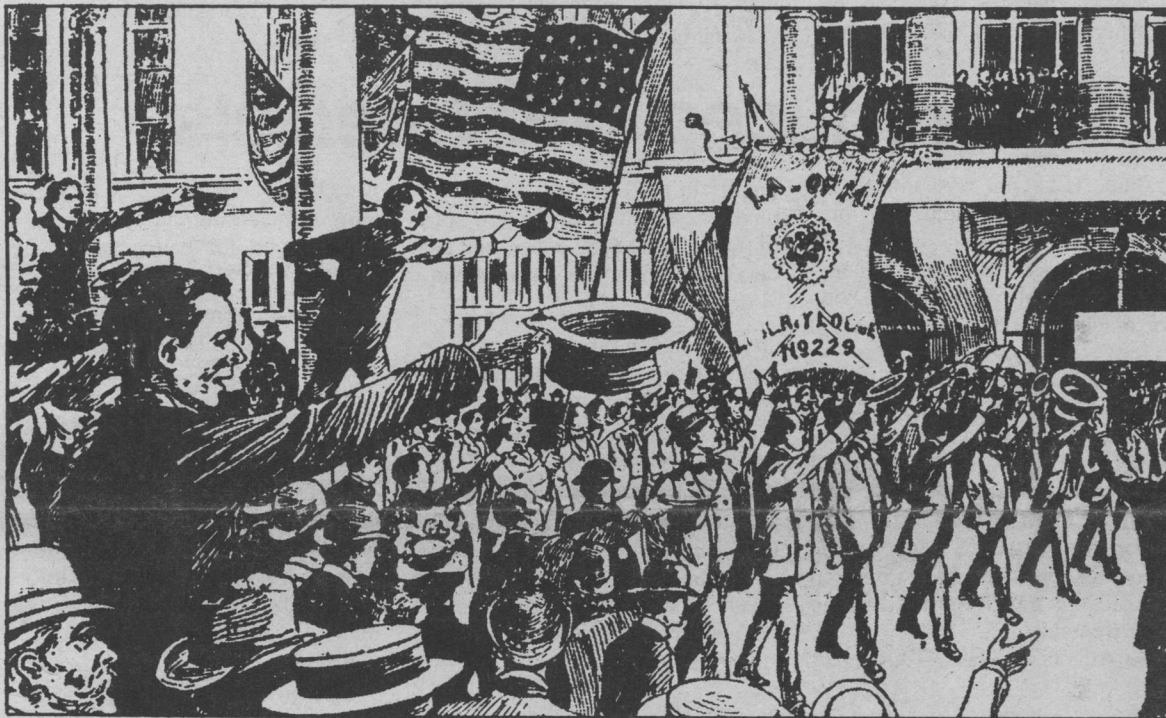
And at Fresno, the United Farm Workers of America will meet Labor Day weekend for its first convention since the death of Cesar Chavez. (Story, Page 2.)

The list of California observances on Labor Day, Sept. 5, the first Monday of September includes:

- **The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor Centennial**, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, 400 West Washington Blvd.

The L.A. centennial celebration replaces two long-time Labor Day events: the traditional breakfast and the Valley Political Education Committee picnic.

This year's event opens with a pancake breakfast from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Trade Tech with political candidates serving the food. The candidates' turn will come during a



program at 10 a.m. at which Brown will deliver what is expected to be a major address in her campaign to replace Pete Wilson as governor of California. Also scheduled to speak is John Sweeney, president of the Service Employees International Union.

The centennial festival will include exhibits of labor memorabilia, historic photos and artifacts, arts and crafts vendor booths, music, door prizes and raffles, special surprises, and games for participants of all ages.

- **The Alameda County Central Labor Council's 37th annual Labor Day Picnic** is scheduled to get under way at 10 a.m. at the County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

Kathleen Brown will head a galaxy of COPE-endorsed candidates

- We Do The Work readies Labor Day special.
- Two new programs from LIPA for holiday.

Page 2

who will be introduced during a program scheduled to start at or near 2:30 p.m., depending upon when the main speaker's plane arrives from Southern California.

This is the 37th annual Alameda picnic, making it the longest-running Labor Day event in the state. It is the main observance for the entire S.F. Bay Area.

Booths will serve hot dogs, corn on the cob and other treats, while scores of individual and group picnic and barbecue facilities are available to those who choose to bring their food.

The Mike Tilles Dixieland Jazz

Band will perform for the 25th consecutive year, and there will be the usual array of booths, entertainments and games for all ages, including the ever-popular dunk tank featuring union business representatives as targets.

- **The annual Labor Day parade of the Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor Labor Coalition** will start at 10 a.m. from Broad and E streets in Wilmington.

Marchers will head up Avalon Boulevard to Banning Park where

(Continued on Page 2)

## Health: 'No' on Newest Plan

The AFL-CIO has launched a grass-roots lobbying counter attack against the newest health care reform proposal to emerge in the U.S. Senate, warning that it would leave workers worse off than they are now and jeopardize the very existence of the current employer-based system.

"Mainstream" is what the new proposal is called by the bi-partisan group of Senators pushing it. That designation was protested by Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jack Henning of the California Labor Federation.

"It has been clearly established that a majority of Americans want real health care reform with a mandate for employer financing," Henning said. "That's what any mainstream plan would have to provide."

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland declared Wednesday that the national federation was "dismayed" at the so-called mainstream coalition plan and "deeply distressed" that a historic opportunity to reform the nation's health care system seemed to be slipping away.

Yesterday, during a nationwide conference call with labor leaders including Henning, Kirkland outlined the plan to increase the pressure for real health care reform while members of Congress are at home during the Labor Day recess.

Kirkland declared, "To our great dismay, the so-called mainstream coalition plan has emerged as a possible alternative to genuine health care reform."

"Until recently, congressional debate of health care has focused on ways to expand coverage to all Americans while taking measures to contain spiraling costs."

"Under this new proposal, however, the focus changes. It would

(Continued on Page 4)

## Attacks on Eastin Spur Support

A fund-raising reception to benefit Delaine Eastin's campaign for state superintendent of public instruction is scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14, at Operating Engineers Local 3 headquarters in Alameda by the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California. The address is 1620 South Loop Rd.

Bob Balgenorth, council president, pointed out that there are plenty of reasons for supporting Eastin over and above the record of support for schools that she has compiled as chair of the Assembly Committee on Education.

Eastin has been exceptionally supportive of labor and the building trades as Assembly member from

the 20th District, which includes Fremont, Balgenorth noted.

"Her opponent advocates eliminating prevailing wages for school construction," Balgenorth said. "As superintendent of public instruction, she will be entitled to an appointment to the Apprenticeship Council. Her appointee will be from organized labor rather than from the anti-union Associated Builders and Contractors, as would be the case if her opponent were elected."

Eastin carries the endorsement of the state AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education (COPE) because of her commitment to public education as well as her record of voting in the interests of wage earners throughout her eight years in the

Legislature.

Her opponent, Maureen DiMarco, running with the blessing and support of Republican Gov. Pete Wilson, has been urging voters to reject Eastin simply because Eastin is supported by labor.

A recent opposition mailing stated:

"After the re-election of Pete Wilson, no other election is as important to the future of our state as that of Maureen DiMarco as superintendent of public instruction."

In contrast to Eastin's commitment to strong public schools, DiMarco is backed by those who would divert education dollars to

private schools through the "voucher" system.

DiMarco's camp claims Eastin killed "education reforms," but the only grounds for this accusation is Eastin's insistence upon safeguards for quality of teaching in so-called charter schools operated with public funds.

The Sept. 14 fund-raiser reception is important because Eastin's well-heeled opposition is poised to pour large sums into television ads and other campaign devices in the final days before the Nov. 8 election, Balgenorth said this week.

"Your financial support is needed now," the state building trades leader declared.



# Labor Day TV Hails Heroes

We Do The Work, the nationally acclaimed television series about workers and workplace issues, celebrates Labor Day 1994 with a one-hour special program that will be aired by seven public TV stations in California and more than 70 nationwide during the upcoming holiday weekend.

"Heroes 2" is the title of the program. Like the original "Heroes," which was We Do The Work's 1993 Labor Day special, the new production celebrates the spirit of working men and women by featuring several whose lives are an inspiration to their families, their co-workers and their communities.

The special kicks off the 1994-1995 season and We Do The Work's leap forward from monthly to weekly episodes. California Working, the Oakland-based, independent, non-profit production company, has scheduled 26 episodes for the new season, more than twice the number issued in any of the four years since the program acquired national status.

A segment entitled "Not in Our Town" discovers an entire community of heroes in Billings, Montana, where residents recently joined together to fight racism and anti-Semitism.

After a brick was thrown through a window where a five-year-old boy had displayed a menorah in preparation for Hanukkah, the local newspaper published a full-page picture of a menorah and some 10,000 menorahs or pictures were hung in windows of homes and places of business.

Will Durst, a frequent WDTW commentator, interviews members of the Painters Union who volunteered to be on call to immediately paint out any anti-Semitic or hate graffiti, members of the Laborers

who stood guard outside a synagogue while Jewish residents attended services, Catholics who hung a "Happy Hanukkah" on their church, and merchants who used their advertisement marquees to display such words as "Not in Our Town," "No Hate, No Violence," and "Peace on Earth."

In a segment entitled "Staying and Playing," the special tells how Ron Carter, a teacher at Lincoln High School in East St. Louis, Ill., one of the poorest districts in the country, kept kids in class and off the streets by forming a jazz band that has gained international acclaim.

"Healer" examines the struggle of Esther Bia, a pediatric nurse, against infant mortality among the Navajos at Chinle, Arizona, using both modern medicine and the traditional ways of medicine men among whom she grew up.

"Asbestos Exposure" visits Bill Ravanese, a documentary photographer whose pictures expose the devastating effects of asbestos and



Will Durst interviews Michael Schmidt, one of the Billings, Montana, union painters who volunteered to brush out racist graffiti.

other hazards in the environment.

Another segment, entitled "The Real Norma Rae," focuses on Crystal Lee Sutton, the former cotton mill worker whose activism helped bring union protections to workers at J.P. Stevens Co. and was portrayed in the movie "Norma Rae."

A number of corporate sponsors

have contributed to the cost of the Labor Day special. Among them are Kaiser Permanente of Northern California, Lifeguard Health Plan, The Claremont Companies, Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound, Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York, and Health Net, the major sponsor.

## LIPA Produces Two Specials

The AFL-CIO has announced two new half-hour television programs for Labor Day showing by public television affiliates: "Changing the Way We Work" and "Dying for a Job—Workers' Stories About Safety."

"Changing the Way We Work" examines what it takes to produce true labor-management partnership, using as examples an AT&T repair facility in Atlanta, Georgia, and Transit Tech High School in Brooklyn, New York, where giving union members a greater voice in operations has led to dramatic improvements.

At Atlanta, the last AT&T repair

facility in the U.S. had been scheduled for extinction until a new spirit of mutual trust and cooperation produced a spectacular turn-around.

At Brooklyn, a different set of challenges for labor and management was met through an effective working relationship between school officials, teachers, the city transportation agency and unions.

"Dying for a Job" takes viewers to a town meeting held at AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, D.C., to let Secretary of Labor Robert Reich hear firsthand from workers who survived jobsite accidents and survivors of other workers who

were killed on the job. The program aims at increasing public awareness of the need for better workplace safety and OSHA reform.

Both programs were produced by the AFL-CIO's Labor Institute of Public Affairs (LIPA) and distributed to PBS stations by the Central Educational Network, a PBS regional programming service.

LIPA is urging AFL-CIO affiliates to contact PBS stations and encourage them to include both programs in their schedules. Information about the shows can be obtained by calling LIPA at (800) 242-UNION.

## Times Set By PBS Affiliates

"Heroes 2" will be the centerpiece of a day of We Do The Work programming over KQED, Channel 9, the San Francisco public broadcasting affiliate, on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5.

"Heroes 2" will have the 9 p.m. prime time spot. KQED will show We Do The Work reruns starting at noon on Labor Day, interrupt them for one hour to show the special from 9 to 10 p.m. and then return to WDTW productions from previous seasons for another hour.

KCET, Channel 28 in Los Angeles, will show the special at 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4.

KCSM, Channel 60 in San Mateo, has slotted the special at 9 p.m. on Labor Day, the same time as KQED.

KTEH, Channel 54 in San Jose, will air the special at 10 p.m. on Labor Day.

Viewers within range of KEET, Channel 13 in Eureka, will see it at 7 p.m. on Labor Day.

Sacramento Cable 7 has scheduled "Heroes 2" for 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7, and 1 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 8.

KVCN, Channel 24 in San Bernardino, was yet to announce its schedule for airing "Heroes 2." Times for it and other showings can be obtained by phoning local PBS stations or We Do The Work at (415) 547-8484.

## Datebook

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement State Council membership meeting: Sept. 10, Los Angeles Airport Hyatt Hotel.

### Publisher's Notice

The California AFL-CIO News (ISSN: 0008-0802) is published weekly except during the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, 417 Montgomery St., Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94104. Second class postage paid at San Francisco, Calif.—Individual subscription, \$10 a year; corporate rate, \$20. USPS Publication Number 083-400. John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer; Floyd Tucker, editor. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: California AFL-CIO News, 417 Montgomery St., Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94104. Phone, (415) 986-3585. FAX, (415) 392-8505.



August 26, 1994

# Labor Day Celebrations...

(Continued from Page 1)

hamburgers and hot dogs will be served.

Speakers will highlight labor issues, including jobs with justice, workplace fairness, education, national health care reform, and defeat of Proposition 187, the so-called "save our state" initiative that targets immigrant workers.

• **The ninth annual Labor Day Picnic at Anderson River Park** starts at 11 a.m. under sponsorship of Redding organized labor unions, the Northeastern California Building and Construction Trades Council, and the Five Counties Central Labor Council covering Shasta,

Tehama, Siskiyou, Modoc and Trinity counties.

Food is included in the price of admission, along with horseshoes, softball, children's games, volleyball, a fishing derby and watermelon eating contest. There also will be bingo, beverages and raffles. Tickets are \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for those under 12, and free for those under five.

• **The 15th Annual Santa Cruz County Central Labor Council picnic** will be held from noon to 5 p.m. at Delaveaga Park in the City of Santa Cruz.

The program this year includes,

in addition to office holders and candidates, remarks by leaders of local unions on victories, crises and plans for the future.

There will be music, bingo and children's games. Tickets at \$5 for adults and \$2 for children cover chicken, chile beans, salad and garlic bread, and hot dogs for the youngsters. Beer, wine and soda also will be available.

• **The San Bernardino & Riverside Counties Central Labor Council** holds its 10th annual Labor Day Brunch from 9 a.m. to noon at the San Bernardino Hilton.

The event is a fund-raiser for the

local Committee on Political Education (COPE), and tickets are \$20. Candidates running Nov. 8 with council endorsement will be among the speakers.

• **The San Diego-Imperial Counties Central Labor Council** Seventh Annual Labor Day Breakfast is set for 10 a.m. at the Hyatt Islandia Hotel on Mission Bay.

Five local union activists will be recognized during the event for their contributions to organized labor. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children.

• **The Napa-Solano and Contra Costa building trades councils and the Napa-Solano and Contra Costa central labor councils** are holding their picnic at Marine World Africa USA, in Vallejo.

The event is scheduled for 9:30 to 6:30 p.m. Trade unionists and their families and guests will have exclusive use of the park's lakeside picnic area until 4 p.m. for socializing, surprise visits by animals, games and entertainment. All-you-can-eat chicken barbecue will be served from noon to 2 p.m., and all of the park's attractions will be available throughout the day.

• **The 10th annual Democrats United/Labor United Labor Day Barbecue Celebration** is set for noon to 4 p.m. at Freedom Park near Camarillo Airport.

Bob Balgenorth, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, is

(Continued on Page 3)

## UFW Convention Set at Fresno

The United Farm Workers of America meets Sept. 3 and 4 at the Fresno Convention Center for its 12th constitutional convention and the first it has held without Cesar Chavez.

Delegates will review the 16-month record of President Arturo Rodriguez, who was appointed by the Executive Board following Chavez' death in April of last year and who has led the union on an aggressive new organizing campaign.

Rodriguez, who will stand for election during the convention, will deliver his report at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 3, shortly after the call to order.

U.S. Secretary of Housing and Page 2

Urban Development Henry Cisneros is to address the convention at 11:30 a.m. that day as the official representative of the Clinton Administration.

Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority, is scheduled to speak at 1:30 p.m.

At 7:30 delegates will assemble in the Saroyan Theater for a special program in memory of Chavez and others who have helped the farm worker movement. Luis Valdez will be master of ceremonies. The program, produced by Teatro Campesino, includes a UFW-produced video on Chavez as well as music and entertainment.

Sunday's convention session will open with a mass at 8 a.m. for the late Rev. Victor Salandini, famed as

the "tortilla priest," and long-time UFW supporter.

Richard Trumka, president of the United Mine Workers, will address the convention at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Election of officers is scheduled for 12:30 p.m.

UFW actions that the delegates will review include victories in six straight state-supervised elections since last May covering 1,300 farm worker jobs. The union has negotiated two union contracts affecting 510 workers and has renegotiated 10 existing contracts covering nearly 1,200 members.

The union currently is negotiating with 27 growers who employ 9,000 farm workers.



# Stamp Honors Meany's Life of Service

A postage stamp honoring George Meany's lifetime of service to workers and the country and marking the 100th anniversary of the labor leader's birth was issued last week during ceremonies at AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The 29-cent stamp, which is on sale at post offices across the country, was unveiled by Joe Mahon, vice president of the U.S. Postal Service for labor relations.

Lane Kirkland, Meany's successor as president of the AFL-CIO, declared, "in honoring the life's work of one man, our nation pays tribute to the movement that he served and inspired for so many years."

Meany was president of the American Federation of Labor from 1952 to 1955 when, under his leadership, the AFL and Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the AFL-CIO. He was the first president of the AFL-CIO, serving until his retirement in 1977.

Meany, born in New York City, became a plumber apprentice at age 16 and a journeyman at 22. He began his career as a union leader as a business agent for Plumbers Local 463 in 1922. A year later he was elected sec-



retary-treasurer of the New York State Building Trades Council. He was chosen secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor in 1939 and served in that position until he succeeded William Green as federation president in 1952.

"He was a man who knew which side he was on, and as such his decisions were devoid of agony and second-guessing," Kirkland declared during the first-day ceremonies.

Meany was his "mentor, leader and comrade," the current AFL-CIO president said. "Those of us who were close to George Meany took unending delight in his boundless curiosity, his interest in all things, his sentimentality and his unfailing kindness to others."

Meany also deserves to be remembered for his many accomplishments, including the cementing of the merger of the AFL and CIO, Kirkland observed.

"Meany himself described the merger as a joint achievement and, contrary to contemporary reports and speculation by some, he actually said it couldn't have been accom-

plished if Walter Reuther hadn't wanted it.

"But equal to the challenge of merging to two organizations was that of holding together a fragile association of strong-willed and frequently combative people who had deep-seated suspicions of one another," Kirkland continued. "That's where George Meany deserves the lion's share of the credit."

"Today, the AFL-CIO is the largest and most cohesive labor federation in the world, and for that we owe thanks to the common sense, the forbearance and the dedication of George Meany."

Kirkland also cited Meany's "efforts to extend trade union rights to all corners of the world" which, he said, were based on his "unswerving belief that the aspirations of workers are best expressed by workers themselves."

"His death came only eight months prior to the day when an electrician went over the wall of a shipyard in Gdansk and began a revolution that shook the world," Kirkland continued.

"I only wish George Meany had lived to see that event and the events that followed."

## Teamsters Say CHP Truck Waiver Imperils Public

The Teamsters charged this week that the head of the California Highway Patrol has jeopardized highway safety and risked loss to the state of millions of dollars in federal funds by ordering his officers to ignore limits on the number of hours truck drivers can work without rest while hauling non-perishable supplies and equipment for the agri-business industry.

CHP Commissioner Maurice J. Hannigan exceeded his authority under the California Vehicle Code when he granted the hours-of-service exemption, according to Chuck Mack, president of Teamsters Joint Council No. 7.

Hannigan's exemption allows drivers who have hauled non-perishables for the agri-business industry for as many as 15 hours a day for eight consecutive days to climb back behind the wheel and take their rigs back out onto the high-

ways with only 24 hours off duty.

Hours worked by drivers hauling perishable crops from fields and orchards are not at issue. Such drivers are covered by separate regulations exempting them from hours-of-service safety limitations in the interest of preserving the state's harvests.

What the Teamsters are protesting is the extension of hours-of-service exemptions to drivers hauling such non-perishable supplies as material for can and glass factories, labels, foam containers, pallets and shrink-wrap plastic that can be transported at any time.

"We have no argument with actions that provide for the timely processing of our state's produce," Mack said. "We do protest when hours-of-service waivers are exploited simply to by-pass long-recognized and valuable safety regulations."

Hannigan issued the waiver at

## 'Worker-Friendly' Noah's Calls in Union Busters

Noah's Bagels, Inc., a trendy new Emeryville outfit that likes to say its "mission statement" calls for creating "a fun, creative and fair work environment," has hired union-busters to prevent its 75 employees from joining a union.

A majority of the company's 15 drivers signed cards last month asking representation by Teamsters Local 853. Shortly after that 60 production workers said they also wanted to be represented by the union, according to Rome Aloise, secretary-treasurer of the local.

The company responded by bringing in the notorious Littler, Mendelson, Fastiff, Tichy &

Mathiason.

"They hired the most anti-worker law firm they could find and immediately began a campaign of fear, harassment and intimidation," Aloise said.

A book recently published by the company brags about "opportunities for personal growth for members of the Noah's Bagels Team."

This is by a firm that pays lawyers hundreds of dollars an hour to whip into submission production workers who are getting only \$6.

"I hope this publicly liberal company will sit down and talk with us about the concerns of its employees," Aloise said.

## Picnics and More for Labor Day...

(Continued from Page 2)

scheduled to be the keynote speaker during a program that will be emceed by Charles Weis, Ventura County superintendent of schools.

Bob Guillen, barbecue chef and union activist, will be assisted by family members in preparing food that will be served from 1 to 3 p.m. Service Employees Local 998 will staff the beer booth, soft drinks will be handled by Democrats United, and the Ventura County Chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement will be in charge of drawings.

Sponsors are the Ventura County Building and Construction Trades Council, Tri Counties Central Labor Council, Ventura County LCLAA and Democrats United, including clubs from Ventura, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks and Ojai.

A number of events are being held earlier in the Labor Day weekend this year. These include:

• **The Diamond Walnut Solidarity Rally** is scheduled for noon to 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 2, at the main gate of the boycotted plant at 1050 Diamond St. in Stockton.

It is described as a major event by Lucio Reyes, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 601, which represents some 500 Diamond workers

who struck on Sept. 4, 1991, and quickly became living examples of the need for legislation to prevent permanent replacement of workers who withhold labor in collective bargaining disputes.

Diamond workers had accepted deep cuts in wages and benefits in two rounds of bargaining because management insisted the grower-owned cooperative was in danger of bankruptcy. Then, with Diamond newly placed on the Fortune 500 list of most profitable corporations, the workers asked restoration of part of what they had given up earlier. Diamond responded with demands for further rollbacks and scabbed the plant with "permanent replacements" when the workers voted to strike.

• **The Humboldt and Del Norte Counties Central Labor Council picnic** has been moved from Labor Day to the preceeding Saturday, Sept. 3.

The site still is Rohner Park in Fortuna, and the traditional beef and turkey pit barbecue will be served as in years past along with hot dogs and soft drinks.

Rep. Dan Hamburg, Assembly Member Dan Hauser and State Senator Mike Thompson are on the

program. There also will be labor songs, roller skating, softball, horseshoes and volleyball along with a collection of canned food for the food bank.

• **The Fresno-Madera Central Labor Council and Building Trades Council barbecue** is scheduled for noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 4, at Coombs Riverbend Ranch.

The program includes games, music, a raffle and the traditional tri-tip barbecue dinner at \$7.50 with children under 12 free.

• **The San Francisco Conference of Newspaper Unions annual Unity Picnic** is set for noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, at Glenn Park in S.F.

There will be music, softball, children's games, beverages, pot luck, barbecue and renowned world-class chili by Bill

Boldenweck.

The event takes on special significance this year because all 10 unions in the conference are girding for a possible strike against the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner and the newspapers' jointly owned Newspaper Agency, which have imported the infamous King and Ballow lawyer firm of union-busters from Tennessee.

New this year is a series of raffles for the benefit of the conference strike welfare fund. Prizes include dinners and an array of merchandise.

• **The Santa Barbara-San Luis Obispo Building and Construction Trades Council** has scheduled its Labor Day softball tournament for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 3 and 4, at Hagerman Field in Santa Maria.

Guests will include State Senator Gary K. Hart and Assembly Mem-

### Justice for Janitors Book Is Available

"La Gran Limpieza/The Big Sweep," the photonovella in Spanish and English about the Justice for Janitors campaign that was published in cooperation with Service Employees Local 399, is available

in paperback.

It can be ordered for \$9.95, shipping included, from Classics Books, P.O. Box 29756, Los Angeles, CA 90029. The FAX number is (213) 953-1930.

ber Jack O'Connell.

• **The Sacramento Central Labor Council** has made a major innovation in its 1994 Labor Day schedule.

The Building Trades will sponsor the 10th Annual Tom Kenny Golf Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 3, at Davis Golf Course, and the council's Labor Day Weekend Softball Tournament will be held on Sunday, Sept. 4, at William Land Park.

But instead of holding their annual Tom Kenny picnic on Labor Day, Sacramento trade unionists will be feeding the homeless at Loaves and Fishes.

Labor volunteers will take over supply, preparation and serving of food. The scope of the operation is reflected in the amounts of food union volunteers are planning to serve. Included are 1,200 quarter-pound hamburgers with buns, 600 pounds of macaroni salad, 1,200 ice cream bars, 13 gallons of lemonade, and a truckload of watermelons.

Volunteers will arrive at Loaves and Fishes, 1321 North C St., at 7 a.m. to start preparing the food. Others will come on during the morning to cook and serve, and still others will start the massive cleanup in the afternoon.



# Legislation...

(Continued from Page 1)

can use these same agents to check on whether everyone has a time card and whether workers are punching out and continuing to work without overtime pay," he said.

"It can be done. In fact, several manufacturers have instituted voluntary compliance programs to address many labor law violations by their contractors," Roberti concluded. "I ask for your 'aye' vote."

Maurice Johannessen, R-Redding, argued that independent contractors should in no way be subject to supervision by the garment manufacturers who hire them.

Newton R. Russell, R-Glendale, argued that enforcement of labor laws was a "police problem." He denounced the bill as interference with the free enterprise system.

Roberti argued again that the same agents who check on quality and delivery for manufacturers could easily check on labor law compliance as well. Roberti contended also that the "independent contractor" status of many of the shops is purely fiction contrived to enable the manufacturers to shield themselves from the consequences of labor law violations.

Lucy Killea, independent of San Diego, called for passage of the bill, citing widely publicized abuses in the garment industry.

While Killea voted with the Democratic majority in favor of the bill, Quentin Kopp of San Francisco, the Senate's other independent, voted against it, adding his voice to those of 13 Republicans.

Not voting were Democrats Gary Hart, Santa Barbara, and Robert Presley, Riverside, and Republicans William A. Craven, Oceanside, and Robert Beverly, Long Beach.

The bill sponsored by the labor federation to match benefits paid by state disability insurance with those paid to injured wage-earners under workers' compensation won passage in the Assembly.

Senate Bill 2031, carried by Roberti, cleared the Assembly on a vote of 42 to 29. It goes back to the Senate next for concurrence in Assembly amendments.

It would raise the maximum SDI benefit from \$336 to \$406 to match the newly increased workers' comp benefit.

Republicans lined up solidly against the measure even though SDI benefits are paid entirely by workers themselves through a payroll tax that is not expected to increase, and despite the fact that the measure is expected to eliminate any incentive for injured workers to claim comp benefits when they are eligible for SDI.

One Democrat—Tom Connolly of Lemon Grove—voted with the Republicans in opposition to the bill. Democrats Areias, Burton, Speier and Umberg were recorded as not voting, as were Republicans Allen, Frazee, Horcher, Jones and Quackenbush.

Meanwhile, the Assembly Ways and Means Committee sent to the Assembly floor the agri-business industry bill legalizing "multi-employer welfare arrangements" (MEWAs) that look like health plans but evade the safeguards against rip-offs of workers that state law requires of real insurance companies.

The California Labor Federation continues to oppose Senate Bill 1430 by Patrick Johnston, D-Stockton. The measure cleared the committee last week with votes from eight Democrats but was retained there until yesterday on a motion to reconsider by John Burton, D-San Francisco.

## No Honors for Employee Leasing Firms

A proposal by a Republican legislator to honor employee leasing firms with a special week in October has been defeated in the Assembly.

Outrage was mixed with incredulity when it became clear that Assembly Concurrent Resolution 147 by Richard L. Mountjoy, R-Monrovia, proposed to honor the very sort of firms the state has gone into court to shut down because of illegal schemes to substitute underfunded medical coverage schemes

Freed from the Ways and Means Committee suspense file after consideration of its impact on the budget was SB 1464 by Milton Marks, D-SF, the measure sponsored by the state AFL-CIO federation to prevent employers from continuing to expose workers and communities to hazardous machines or processes during the lengthy Cal-OSHA appeal process.

The state AFL-CIO's key unemployment insurance benefit increase was freed from the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. AB 2867 by Juanita McDonald,

D-Carson, which would raise the maximum weekly UI benefit from \$230 to \$245, goes now to the Senate floor.

Also freed from the Appropriations Committee suspense file was AB 1605 by Barbara Friedman, D-L.A., the AFL-CIO measure mandating surveillance equipment in some supermarkets, drug stores and convenience marts to protect workers and customers against increasingly frequent violent armed robberies. The measure also calls for a Cal-OSHA safety standard covering such workplace violence. Still stuck in Appropriations sus-

for workers' compensation.

Mountjoy proposed to have the governor proclaim Oct. 9 through 16 "Professional Employer Organization Week" in honor of the "innovative approach" by employee leasing firms "to the problems faced by companies in providing adequate benefits for their employees..."

Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jack Henning of the California Labor Federation pointed out in the Assembly Rules Committee that certain of such innovative approaches have been determined by

the courts to be illegal attempts to evade the state's workers' compensation law.

One such employee leasing firm, Stafcor, fought through appeals courts before the state shut it down, Henning noted.

Mountjoy's own commitment to employee benefits has been questioned by opponents who pointed out that his Mountjoy Construction Co. of Monrovia was found guilty of violating federal law by withholding overtime pay from five employees.

"Third, the plan includes a new, massive cost-shift from the federal government to private purchasers.

"Fourth, the limit on employer deductibility and the taxation of cost-sharing supplemental plans amount to a huge new tax on middle-income Americans," Kirkland argued.

"Recent studies have shown that such taxes will mean that individuals either pay more out-of-pocket to maintain their existing coverage or to see their coverage reduced in order to avoid taxation. Either way, workers bear the burden of new taxes."

There are a host of additional problems with the proposal, Kirkland said, including failure to provide relief for senior citizens from high prescription drug costs, and a "draconian" fail safe mechanism to guarantee subsidy reductions and increases in health benefit taxes when cost targets are exceeded.

He cited also the "startling fact

that all of the new taxes raised would appear to be dedicated to deficit reduction rather than health care reform."

The AFL-CIO has said all along that the single-most deficit-inflating thing Congress could do would be to do nothing to provide universal health coverage in this country.

And the new proposal does precisely that—nothing—Kirkland said. No universal coverage, no cost containment, no employer mandate. It is a situation, he said, that is neither fiscally responsible nor health care reform.

"Just about every poll on this issue indicates that the vast majority of Americans think that everyone should have health coverage and that all employers should share in the responsibility of paying for it," Kirkland concluded.

"That is where the mainstream is. And these are the basic goals that Congress should pursue in this critical debate."

## Forum Eyes Living Wage Jobs

A "Forum for Jobs at a Living Wage" is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Gardena headquarters of Local 250 of the United Association under sponsorship of the union and community and Democratic Party organizations.

"We plan to devise a framework for working together in the future to

ensure that our economy provides jobs at a living wage for all our citizens," said Larry A. Jones, Local 250 business manager.

The event is open to all at 11 a.m. at the Local 250 facilities at 18355 South Figueroa St. in Gardena. State, local and congressional candidates are to participate.

There will be a family-style barbeque with refreshments.

Details can be obtained from Jim Jones, Local 250 business representative, (213) 321-1330; Dan H. Foley, Concerned Citizens for Local Jobs, (213) 321-0202; and Frankie Haller, Midway Democratic Club, (310) 866-4088.

## Henning Tells Roberti: 'We Will Never Forget'

*Here is the letter that Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jack Henning of the California Labor Federation wrote to State Senator David Roberti two weeks ago on the occasion of a testimonial dinner for Roberti:*

Dear Dave:

I regret that my obligations in Washington this week in the AFL-CIO drive for national health insurance will prevent my attending the dinner honoring you in Sacramento.

Your departure from public life should not become a lasting thing. California needs you in a yet higher capacity.

Your intelligence, integrity and sense of order enlarged our faith in the often maligned processes of democracy.

In your campaigns for Assembly, Senate and

statewide office, you were unstained. Low and revolting forms of advocacy never found harbor in your mind or heart. You leave with a soul at ease.

We will never forget your enduring commitment to the working people of California. We will never forget your devotion to the poor, the disenfranchised, the scorned and abandoned of our social order.

Please remember the loyalty that labor was honored to offer you.

In the name of our workers' movement, I wish you years of continued satisfaction in the doing of good.

Sincerely yours,  
John F. Henning

pense file are two additional bills sponsored by the state federation: AB 3109 by Burt Margolis, D-L.A., mandating interest payments on unemployment benefits wrongfully withheld and later ordered paid on appeal, and AB 3230 by Barbara Friedman, requiring employers to add violence prevention to their workplace illness and injury prevention programs.

Another labor-sponsored measure survived a Republican technical challenge on the floor of the Senate.

AB 990 by Curtis Tucker, Jr., D-Inglewood, would require employers to pay the same penalties for overtime violations that are assessed for minimum wage violations. As matters stand, an employer can shortchange workers on overtime pay confident that he or she will never have to pay more than the worker was originally owed.

Several GOP senators tried to kill the bill by arguing that Tucker had improperly amended its contents into a measure that was substantially different.

Tucker appealed to the Senate Rules Committee, which supported him on a 5-0, bi-partisan vote and sent the measure back to the Senate floor.

## Nurses Say Prop 186 Backers Lie

Opponents of Proposition 186, the single-payer initiative on the Nov. 8 general election ballot, were denounced this week for attempting to deceive voters with ads falsely implying that nurses are on their side.

The California Nurses Association which, although unaffiliated, stands with the state AFL-CIO in full support of single-payer health care, leveled charges against the "No on 186" campaign, the hospital and insurance industries that bankroll the campaign, and the Organization of Nurse Executives.

"In fact, real working nurses who provide direct patient care 24 hours a day in hospitals, clinics and nursing homes, and all the organizations that represent them, enthusiastically endorse Proposition 186," said Kurt Lauman, RN, president of CNA.

"The hospital and insurance industries have chosen a tiny, unrepresentative group of nurse executives as their mouthpiece. They hope to delude the public into believing nurses oppose reform," Laumann declared.

"The nurse executives group is part of the hospital association," Laumann continued. "Its members are directors and managers of hospitals."

August 26, 1994

## Dismay Over Health Plan...

(Continued from Page 1)

provide little, if any expansion of health care coverage in this country. Nor does it contain any effective cost containment mechanism.

"Rather, this plan seeks to address the health care crisis by replacing a substantial portion of the current employer-based system with an entirely new approach that would likely leave most Americans securing coverage on their own. This radical, untested idea will most certainly create disorder and confusion while providing precious little opportunity to solve the problems that now plague the health care system."

This is not what trade union members and their families have in mind when they envision health care reform, Kirkland said.

"They have struggled for too long to build a high standard of comprehensive, employer-provided health benefits to now see that standard undermined by some kind of strange market experiment," he added.

The so-called mainstream coalition proposal endangers the existing system of employer-based health insurance in several ways, the AFL-CIO leader said.

"First, new tax deductions and community-rate purchasing pools open to individuals who purchase their own health insurance and a tax cap on employer deductibility would create an even stronger disincentive for any employer to provide

health insurance to his or her workers," Kirkland pointed out.

"Under this plan, employers and employees would be better off if they dropped group health benefits and employees purchased health coverage on their own—in an entirely new and unorganized health care insurance market.

"While this may be an attractive idea to insurance providers, it would create enormous confusion for consumers and would likely reduce overall coverage.

"Second," Kirkland said, because the proposal would leave so many millions of Americans without health insurance coverage, those who do purchase coverage—whether they are employers or individuals—would continue to be saddled with substantial cost-shifting as they foot the bill for the uninsured."

The problem of rising costs cannot be solved without mandating that everyone have some kind of coverage, Kirkland pointed out.