

Sprint Fight Goes Global

NLRB Explains Charges

More than 50 violations of federal labor law committed by Sprint Corporation while it was struggling to keep employees of its La Conexion Familiar subsidiary from joining the Communications Workers were documented this week during a news conference in San Francisco.

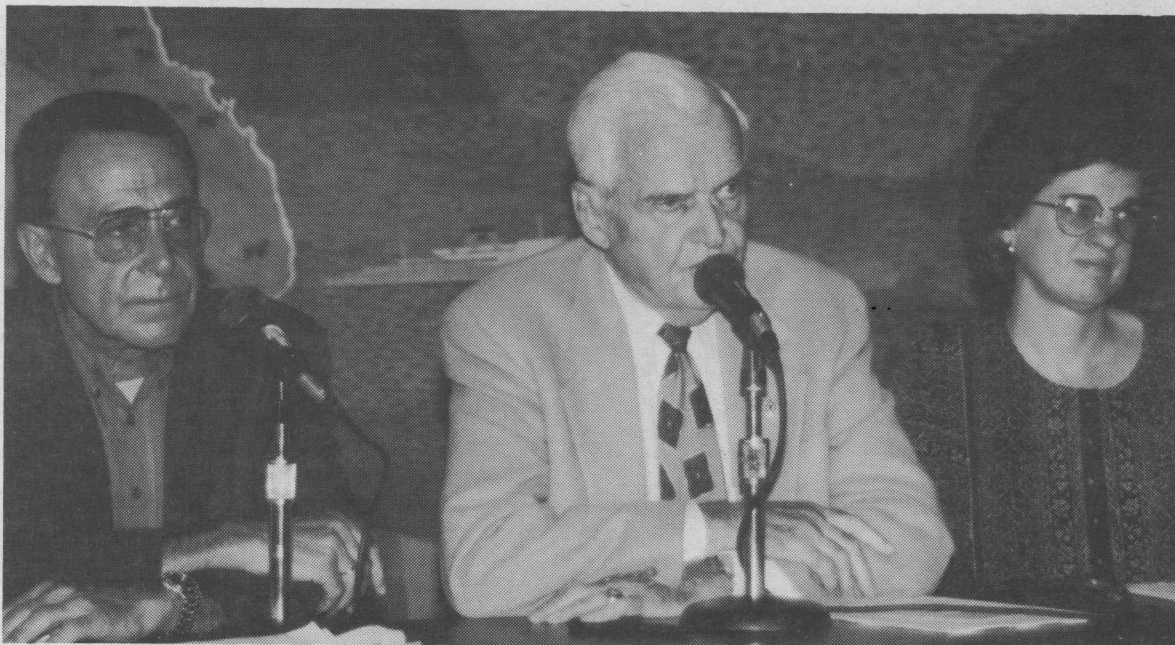
CWA Vice President Janice Wood told news reporters that National Labor Relations Board investigators have verified what her union already knew: that the Sprint Corporation is willing to violate the law to prevent workers from organizing.

"It is in accordance with their true labor relations policy, which they have distributed to their management personnel in writing telling them that their most important job at Sprint is to avoid unionization of the workforce," Wood declared.

Marie Malliett, President of CWA Local 9410, displayed the thick document listing the NLRB's charges against Sprint, which were announced a week ago but not detailed until Monday.

"What I hold in my hands describes in the very clearest way the unlawful and despicable behavior of Sprint," Malliett said. Her remarks, translated into Spanish for the benefit of fired Latino workers who crowded the Marine Firemen's Hall, were punctuated by applause.

The workers didn't wait for the translation to cheer when Malliett



Gebhard Gotterbarm, left, of Deutsches postgewerkschaft, the German telephone workers union, and Janice Wood, right, vice president of the Communications Workers of America, hear Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, respond to Gotterbarm's pledge of international support of workers fired by Sprint for trying to join a union.

'Sprint made a terrible mistake. They thought you were without a voice. They thought you were going to be silent...'

—Marie Malliett, President, CWA Local 9410

assured them the NLRB findings mean that they'll be rehired and their lost pay will be restored.

"Sprint made a terrible mistake," Malliett said. "They thought you were without a voice. They thought you were going to be silent."

"They thought you were going to be alone and isolated, but were not and you are not," Malliett added, citing local, state, national and European union leaders present at the news conference.

Gebhard Gotterbarm, a leader of

the German phone workers pledged European union support. Jack Henning, head of the California Labor Federation, told the fired workers that the two million members of the AFL-CIO unions in this state stand with them. (See accompanying story.)

Antonio Salazar Hobson, CWA legal counsel, detailed the NLRB findings and its order for Sprint to reopen La Conexion Familiar and rehire the fired workers with full back pay. A CWA petition for an

injunction ordering CWA to rehire the workers without waiting for completion of the appeal process is under consideration at Washington, D.C.

"The board has determined that Sprint's economic defense is a sham," Salazar declared. "The board complaint alleges over 50 independent violations of federal labor laws. The board further found that Sprint closed the (La Conexion Familiar) facilities in San Francisco solely to avoid unionization."

"Sprint wanted the American consumer, the Latino consumer and the international consumer to believe that its technology can let us hear a pin drop," Salazar said, referring to the company's TV advertis-

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Support By Unions In Europe

German and French telephone worker unions won't allow Sprint to export its American style union-busting ways to Europe, a German labor leader said Monday in San Francisco.

It's very much more than an idle threat.

Sprint is closing in on a deal with France Telecom and Deutsche Bundespost Telekom that will give the anti-union American company a \$4.2 billion cash infusion and a chance to challenge AT&T's dominance in the profitable international phone industry.

But the German and French unions, with close to half the seats on the boards of their respective national telecommunications companies, will be in a position to block Sprint's bid.

And that's exactly what they'll do if Sprint doesn't alter its worker-bashing ways, Gebhard Gotterbarm of Deutsch Postgewerkschaft declared during a news conference called to announce National Labor Relations Board charges based upon Sprint's illegal firing of workers who tried to form a union at its La Conexion Familiar subsidiary.

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, called Gotterbarm's remarks "a reminder that we can have worker solidarity—all workers of the world united."

Henning, whose July call for global unionism to combat global capitalism has attracted national attention, added:

"Without that we are at the mercy of international capitalism."

Gotterbarm, the DPG president for Freiburg, noted that the German union's national president and the secretary general of the French union, Federation Syndicaliste Force Ouvriere des Travailleurs et des Telecommunications, both have notified Sprint Chairman William T. Esrey that his labor policies jeop-

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Town Heeds Strikers, Calls Off Cops

Police officers who had been badgering and bullying Teamster Local 748 strikers for nearly three weeks vanished from the gates of the Gangi tomato cannery yesterday by order of the Riverbank City Council.

The council's unanimous action at a special meeting Wednesday night was a stinging rebuke of Police Chief Jerry McBride for instigating and City Manager Brian Cox for condoning heavy-handed, anti-union intervention

that created scenes straight out of "The Grapes of Wrath" and exacerbated relations between Riverbank's overwhelmingly Latino citizenry and its entirely Anglo police force.

Strikers, led by Secretary-Treasurer Ron Ashlock of Local 748, finally got the opportunity to confront the City Council during a regular meeting Monday night. Union members, their families and their supporters jammed the council chamber and spilled out

into corridors during four hours of plaintive and dramatic testimony.

Finally council members agreed to continue the discussion until Wednesday evening, when all of them voted along with Mayor Noel Price to terminate the massive police presence on the picket line.

They also voted to haul away from the cannery gate the police department's "command

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Patricia Garcia in COPE Post

Patricia Garcia has been named Committee on Political Education field director for the AFL-CIO region that includes California.

The appointment was announced by Richard J. Walsh, national COPE director, at Washington, D.C., where Garcia has been a senior program coordinator with the AFL-CIO Human Resources Development Institute.

Garcia said she expected to assume her new duties by Sept. 26, working out of the San Francisco offices of Region VI, which are located next door to the California Labor Federation at 417 Montgomery St.

The position had been vacant since August of last year when David Gregory was promoted to di-



Patricia Garcia

rector of AFL-CIO Region IX in the Pacific Northwest.

It will be a homecoming for Garcia, a native of San Rafael, graduate of University of California at Santa Cruz and former California union activist, business representative and organizer.

She joined Local 949 of the Service Employees in 1978 when she went to work as a counselor with the Marin County Office of Employment and Training. She is a past president of Local 949 and a former officer of the Marin County Central Labor Council.

Garcia subsequently was a business representative for Local 1119 — now Local 101 — of the United Food and Commercial Workers. She's also been an organizer for the

California State Council of Service Employees.

She served two terms as chair of the Marin County Chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus and director of the California Women's Political Caucus.

The Marin County Democratic Central Committee honored her in 1988 with its Democratic Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of her active role in state and local party affairs.

She currently serves on the Executive Council of the Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild, Local 35 of The Newspaper Guild, which named her its 1993 Member of the Year.

Garcia has been with HRDI since

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Maritime Plea to Feinstein, Boxer

The state AFL-CIO is urging U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to give their fullest support to HR 4003, the Maritime Security and Trade Act of 1994, the key legislation that will provide funding for revitalization of the American merchant marine.

The measure already has been approved overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives. It now is before the Senate Commerce Committee with time fast running out. Congress has less than four weeks to wrap up all its legislative business.

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, asked both of California's senators to declare their support immediately for HR 4003.

Hundreds of thousands of American jobs are at stake, both seagoing and ashore, Henning said.

He also asked AFL-CIO affiliates to lobby the two senators.

Gunnar Lundeberg, president of the S.F. Bay Area & Vicinity Port Maritime Council, president of Sailors' Union of the Pacific, and vice president of the state AFL-CIO federation, warned that time is crucial.

"The next month will be extremely critical to the American maritime industry," Lundeberg said.

"Last year two of the largest American shipping companies petitioned the Maritime Administration to place more than 20 U.S.-flag container ships under foreign regis-

try. Pressure also continues on domestic shipyards to secure commercial ship construction orders to stave off further closures as naval work continues to decline.

"Absent positive federal action by year's end to revitalize the maritime, thousands of jobs will be threatened, Lundeberg added. "It is imperative that Senators Boxer and Feinstein are supportive of this critical piece of legislation."

The House of Representatives passed HR 2151, the Maritime Security and Competitiveness Act, by an overwhelming vote of 347 to 65 last November.

It was the most sweeping maritime reform legislation in decades, but it did not contain a funding mechanism. That omission is corrected by HR 4003, which has

cleared the House on a 294-122 vote with support of the Clinton Administration.

The key element is a new schedule of tonnage fees to be paid by vessels entering and leaving U.S. ports, which the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department defends as "fair and equitable."

The pending legislation would:

- Establish a maritime security fleet to be made available to the U.S. military in event of national emergency.

- Create incentives to promote commercial construction in U.S. shipyards.

- Streamline burdensome regulations including trade route restrictions and adoption of commercial terms for cargo preference to en-

hance competitiveness of the U.S. maritime industry.

- Create a program to extend operating assistance to U.S.-flag commercial vessels for another 10 years.

Efficiencies in the new assistance program would reduce the cost of maintaining a viable merchant marine by more than half, Lundeberg said.

Besides ensuring a merchant marine to serve the country in time of war, the measure would protect hundreds of thousands of middle-class jobs as varied as carpentry and data processing in all parts of the country, he pointed out.

"There is no more time," Lundeberg said. A substantial portion of the U.S. fleet stands to be reflagged unless Congress acts."



The Message: 'No Re-Pete'

Kathleen Brown, speaking at the Fresno & Madera Counties Central Labor Council Picnic, reminds workers what they and their families stand to gain through her victory over Republican Gov. Pete

Wilson. Brown spoke the day before Labor Day at the Fresno & Madera picnic at Coombs Riverbend Ranch. She also addressed Labor Day events in Los Angeles and Alameda County.

Worker Abuse In Indonesia

Charging that the U.S. government is subsidizing the abuse of Indonesian workers, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland has called for the immediate termination of Indonesia's trade privileges under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), an aid program that allows developing nations to export goods to the U.S. market duty-free.

The latest in a long list of worker rights abuses by the Indonesian government occurred Aug. 13 with the arrest of Muchtar Pakpahan, national leader of the SBSI, the only labor organization in the country not controlled by the government. He is charged with involvement in violence that actually was provoked by the military at a peaceful labor demonstration in April. The government also has failed to investigate the recent brutal murders of several Indonesian trade union leaders.

"U.S. citizens agreed to this trade subsidy — not as welfare for multinational corporations or to

help bankroll dictators — but so that we might give a hand up to working men and women in some of the poorest countries on earth," Kirkland said. "To ensure this, Congress has mandated that every nation with GSP must adhere to internationally recognized worker rights standards. It is time for the U.S. government to stop pretending that Indonesia's rulers are meeting these conditions."

Despite the overwhelming evidence of worker rights violations, the Clinton administration announced in February that it was "suspending" a GSP review of Indonesia for six months, so that it could pursue reform through less public channels. Those six months are now ending, amidst reports of severely deteriorating labor conditions.

"Pakpahan's arrest is a transparent attempt to crush the SBSI, silence Indonesian workers' only independent voice, and protect the power and the profits of those who would abuse them," Kirkland said. "How much more evidence does the U.S. government need?"

Firefighters Local Seeks a Roommate

Firefighters Local 1319 in Palo Alto is looking for a roommate.

"We'd like to find a union or organization with compatible principles to share our office space in the Palo Alto-Mountain View-Los Altos area at a rent that's very advantageous," Barry Marchisio of Local 1319 said this week. "What we have available is a private office, reception area, conference room, kitchenette and restroom."

Palo Alto Firefighters can be reached at (415) 949-1983.

Minimum Wage Plea to IWC

A demand for a review of the adequacy of the state minimum wage will be submitted to the Industrial Welfare Commission by the California Labor Federation during an IWC meeting scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m. next Friday, Sept. 23, at 455 Golden Gate Ave. in San Francisco.

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, will remind the

commissioners that they are obligated under state law to review the adequacy of the wage once every two years and to make adjustments if the wage is inadequate to provide working people with "the proper standard of living."

Henning will demonstrate that working at the \$4.25 minimum means deepening poverty even for families with two full-time wage earners.

The IWC officially closed its last minimum wage review last August after the anti-worker majority blocked a 25-cent raise.

The commission has granted a wage adjustment only once since Jerry Brown was governor. That raise, from \$3.35 to \$4.25, was approved in December of 1987 when the then-public member of the commission, the late Muriel Morse of Los Angeles, sided with the two la-

bor representatives and outvoted the two employer representatives.

Gov. Pete Wilson subsequently refused to reappoint Morse to the commission. The public seat is vacant as the IWC prepares for next week's session.

Henning will present statistics showing that the minimum wage would have to be raised to at least \$5.30 immediately to match the effects of inflation since the last increase took effect in July, 1988.

Labor Firm on Health Care

The national AFL-CIO's position in support of comprehensive health care reform continues unchanged even though the goal "has become a long shot with this Congress," Bob McGlotten, the federation's legislative director, said this week.

Meanwhile, labor support of California's single-payer health care initiative, Proposition 186 on the Nov. 6 general election ballot, was being urged by John Sweeney, international president of the Service Employees and chair of the AFL-CIO Executive Council committee on health care.

Monterey Council Seeks Business Rep

The Monterey County Central Labor Council is seeking a business agent for part-time, flexible-schedule work under the direction of the secretary-treasurer.

Resumes and letters of interest

Sweeney spoke out for Proposition 186 on Labor Day, when he made appearances at the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor centennial celebration and at the Alameda County Central Labor Council's annual picnic in Pleasanton.

The Service Employees president drew a standing ovation last Saturday night in Berkeley when he called for passage of Proposition 186 during the banquet marking the 30th anniversary of SEIU Local 535.

McGlotten said the AFL-CIO

should be submitted to Julius de Vera, care of HERE Local 483, 702 Forest Ave., Suite C, Pacific Grove, 93950. Information about the job can be obtained by phoning de Vera at (408) 375-2246.

will continue to evaluate and provide input to all serious proposals put forth during the remainder of this Congress and to prevent passage of any proposals that would do harm to union members' existing health care coverage.

Labor's views communicated to members of Congress who were at home the past three weeks during summer recess have helped keep the issue alive. Debate is scheduled to reopen next week.

The congressional switchboard was so jammed with callers during the recess that only about a third of union members' calls apparently were completed.

Union members who made use of the AFL-CIO toll-free 800 hot line fared better, but many of them also found senators' office lines busy.

Coalition Cautions On Benefits Service

Bud Treece, chair of the L.A. Coalition of County Unions, is urging AFL-CIO affiliates to contact him at (213) 749-1020 before retaining Employee Benefit Services, Inc., of New Jersey.

EBS has provided the coalition with benefit communication and enrollment in "cafeteria" insurance programs and may offer these same services to other union organizations, Treece said.

"I do not expect that you will see the coalition, or its member unions, listed as a reference," he added. "I believe our experience will be of interest and should be considered in any decision."

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.





Dave Aroner, left, executive director of SEIU Local 535, and Willie Harris, member of the Executive Board of the union's Los Angeles chapter, welcome International President John Sweeney to the Local 535 anniversary banquet last Saturday night in Berkeley.

SEIU Local 535 Celebrates Its First 30 Years

The 30th anniversary of the meeting at which 11 Los Angeles County social workers formed a "workers action committee" was celebrated at Berkeley last Saturday night by Local 535 of the Service Employees, the militant, state-wide union into which that committee evolved.

A photo exhibit depicting the local's three decades was displayed in the History Hall of International House at University of California-Berkeley where more than 300 gathered for a pre-dinner reception.

SEIU President John J. Sweeney, who came from Washington to be the dinner speaker, called for all-out labor support of Proposition 186, the single-payer health care initiative on the Nov. 8 ballot in California. There was applause when he

declared, real health care reform is the will of the people."

Sweeney added, "Real health care reform will have a greater effect upon the lives of your members than any other issue."

He warned that worker participation is essential to prevent Republicans hostile to labor from taking congressional seats "that we cannot afford to lose." Sweeney urged his listeners to campaign also for election of Kathleen Brown as governor and rejection of Pete Wilson and his "politics of hate."

Local 535 President Frances Muncie and Executive Director David Aroner introduced pioneer members of the union.

Honored was artist Jacob Lawrence, who was introduced by U.C.-Berkeley art professor Mary O'Neal. Prints of posters included in Bread and Roses series produced by Lawrence for Local 1199 in New York City were distributed as souvenirs to banquet participants.

The evening ended with songs and stories by Utah Phillips.

Fed: Fight Prop 187

An appeal for contributions to help defeat Proposition 187, the so-called "Save Our State Initiative," was issued this week by Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation.

"We must defeat Proposition 187," Henning declared in letters to all AFL-CIO affiliates in California.

"This initiative, which hopes to deceive Californians concerned about jobs, is a political wedge driven by the forces of conservatism in our state to divide working people and defeat labor's candidates, like Kathleen Brown," Henning wrote.

"We must do everything we can to defeat it. Be as generous as you can to Taxpayers Against 187, the political action committee we are urging affiliates to support.

"It is important to labor's future that we remain united on this issue," Henning added. "I urge you to give as much as you can to Taxpayers Against 187."

Delegates to the state AFL-CIO convention held in July at Sacramento voted unanimously to work for defeat of Proposition 187.

The convention resolution points out that the measure would:

- Ban undocumented children from public schools.
- Require public school teachers to report "suspected" undocumented children to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- Deny prenatal care to undocumented mothers.
- Require health workers to report "suspected" undocumented patients to the INS, including children receiving immunizations.
- Require local police to report all suspected undocumented persons arrested to the INS, including those subjected to citizen arrests on picket lines.
- Adopt a host of additional regulations aimed at penalizing undocumented immi-

grant families, most of which either duplicate existing restrictions or violate state or federal constitutions or statutory law.

"The state needs real change to improve the economic welfare of working people and not the harsh, vindictive, unnecessary and counter-productive measures offered by the SOS initiative that falsely promise change while providing cover for failed politicians," the delegates declared.

Henning noted that unlike donations to political candidates, contributions to defeat Proposition 187 must come from union general treasury funds and not from COPE funds.

Contributions should be made payable to Taxpayers Against 187 and mailed to Lance H. Olson, treasurer, Taxpayers Against 187, at 300 Capitol Mall, Suite 350, Sacramento 95814. The phone is (916) 442-2952.

Contributions must include the Taxpayers Against 187 identification number, which is 941976, Henning said.

Hotel Vote Lights S.F. Fuse

Contract renewal talks continued last night between San Francisco hotel managements and negotiators for HERE Local 2 who are armed with an overwhelming strike authorization vote by workers at 17 of the city's largest and best-known hostels.

The vote was 2,696 to 107 — better than 96 percent — in favor of authorizing local leaders to call a strike if and when one becomes necessary.

"The fuse is lit," Local 2 spokesperson Lisa Jaicks declared after the votes were counted on Sept. 8.

The 17 targeted hotels are among more than 50 at which Local 2 contracts are open.

Twelve of them are negotiating together as the Multi-Employer Group: ANA, Clift, Fairmont, Grand Hyatt, Hyatt Regency, St. Francis, Sheraton Palace, Handlery, Holiday Inn Civic Center, Holiday Inn Financial District, Holiday Inn Union Square, and Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf. Also among the 17 are the Cathedral Hill, Hilton, Mark Hopkins, Sheraton Wharf and Stanford Court.

Real job security, including successor clauses ensuring that contracts will remain in force when hotels are sold, remains a major issue.

Ruben Gomez Heads California LCLAA

Ruben Gomez of Laborers Local 652 in Santa Ana was elected president of California Labor Council for Latin American Advancement during state LCLAA's annual membership meeting last Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel.

The campaign against Proposition 187 was a focus of the meeting. Participants heard Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, urge unified opposition to the immigrant-bashing ballot measure.

Teamsters Protest Job Loss

Teamsters from locals in Joint Council 7 protested in San Francisco yesterday against a Board of Education decision to dump the local company that has supplied schools with milk and other dairy products for years and hand the business over to a non-union firm operating out of Fresno.

The board voted 4-1 last month to abandon Berkeley Farms and award a \$818,611 contract to Producer's Dairy of Fresno.

Chuck Mack, president of Joint

Council 7, denounced the board's decision as union members demonstrated at noon yesterday outside the S.F. schools' offices a block from City Hall on busy Van Ness Avenue.

"Berkeley Farms is a local business that contributes to the city's economy," Mack declared. "Its workers live here and spend their money here. To award this contract to a firm that takes the money out of the city is a huge mistake."

Jobs of Teamsters from S.F. Local 226 are in jeopardy, warned Jerry

Hansen, local president and one of the affected Berkeley Farms drivers.

Hansen maintained that such factors as familiarity with the routes and the need to maintain local employment should have outweighed the very slight price cut offered by the non-union company.

He called the board's action "a shock" and "a slap in the face."

"We hope the Board of Education ponders the implications of its decision and reconsiders its vote," Hansen added.

Prop. 182 Gets Bumped Off the Ballot

Proposition 182, which would have authorized \$185 million in bonds to provide mortgage guaranty insurance for low- and moderate income first-time home-buyers, has been removed from the Nov. 8 general election ballot by action of the Legislature.

The measure had the endorsement of the state AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education (COPE) because of its promise of economic stimulation, job creation, tax base enhancement, family support and social gain at no cost to taxpayers.

However, legislators took cognizance of the rough treatment that bond issues have been receiving at

the hands of voters and agreed to remove Proposition 182 from the ballot.

They could do this because the measure originated with the Legislature in the first place. Last November voters rejected Proposition 173, an identical measure that was placed on the ballot by the Legisla-

ture with the proviso that if it failed it should be resubmitted at the next general election. Proposition 182 was that resubmission.

The removal was announced by Tony Miller, acting secretary of state and the labor-endorsed candidate for that office on the Nov. 8 ballot.

Comp Commission Seeks Administrator

The newly constituted state Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation is seeking an administrative officer, Tom Rankin, the commission chair, announced this week.

The administrative officer, work-

ing under the administrative direction of the chair, will have duties including planning, organizing and directing the work of the staff of the commission. The job also involves participating in development of policies and procedures

Nobody can remember the Legislature ever doing this before, although the state Supreme Court has thrown propositions originating through the initiative process off ballots twice in recent years. One of these was a 1983 initiative concerning reapportionment for which a special election already had been

called, and the other was a 1983 proposition calling for a constitutional amendment requiring balanced federal budgets.

Language knocking Proposition 182 off the ballot was amended into Assembly Bill 3257 by Julie Bornstein, D-Palm Desert, and the bill's original contents were eliminated. The measure passed quietly and was signed into law by the governor in the closing days of the 1994 session of the Legislature.

Still on the Nov. 8 ballot is Proposition 181, the COPE-endorsed Passenger Rail and Clean Air Bond Act of 1994, authorizing \$1 billion in general obligation bonds.

Sprint...

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ing gimmick.

"But it didn't believe that the NLRB could hear the voices of unlawfully fired workers. Sprint was wrong. The voices of those fired workers were heard in San Francisco. They are being heard in Washington, D.C." Salazar continued.

"And today, with the presence here of DPG, the German telecommunications union, with a pending \$4.2 billion deal with Sprint, the voices of these fired workers are being heard in France and Germany where Sprint wants to expand its global network."

Salazar said Sprint forgot that the information highway is a two-way street.

"When Sprint callously and illegally closed its facilities on July 14, it sent a message to its workers throughout the country. Sprint said

'we don't want you if you use your legal right to vote for a union.'

"But a return message came back to Sprint loud and clear: 'We will not let you take away the right to organize, to vote, to unionize.'

"That message came from the fired Sprint workers, and today from the NLRB. The information highway is global and it is a two-way street."

The complaint lists pages of incidents in which NLRB investigators determined that Sprint executives had illegally threatened and coerced its employees at La Conexion Familiar in an effort to dissuade them from pursuing their union organizing campaign. Investigators specify occasions when workers were told flatly that they would be fired and the workplace closed if they persisted.

Sprint's contention that La Con-

exion was a money-loser staffed with incompetent workers is disproved by evidence that the marketing operation aimed at Spanish-speaking communities was enormously successful and profitable, and that its work was distributed among other Sprint offices after La Conexion was closed and its

ardize the \$4.2 billion European deal.

"I bring you greetings from the headquarters of the German postal workers union, and by the way, we have some 600,000 members," Gotterbarm said through an interpreter.

The alliance among German

workers fired.

Telekom, French Telecom and Sprint is in danger unless Sprint changes its way, Gotterbarm added.

Henning responded on behalf of the two million members of AFL-CIO unions in California.

"We are proud that the brother from Germany says his union stands with (fired Sprint workers) always," Henning declared. "It is a reminder of the need for workers of the world to unite."

Speaking directly to the fired Sprint workers, Henning said the state AFL-CIO federation was "with you in this struggle. Ahora y

siempre, now and always, we will be with you."

The words drew an ovation.

"We are proud of the fact that the United States government has condemned Sprint for discharging you unfairly, for taking your wages and your conditions, and that the government will insist upon the restoration of your wages," Henning said.

"You must not forget this has come about because of Local 9410 of the Communications Workers of America. If you were not in the union you would get nothing."

As part of the remedy for the illegal acts alleged, the NLRB general counsel is seeking an order requiring Sprint to immediately reopen the San Francisco operation and reinstate employees to their former positions and make them whole for any loss of earnings and other benefits, Salazar pointed out.

Cops Quit Picket Line...

(Continued from Page 1)

unit," a mobile home stocked with weapons, riot gear and radios for summoning as many as 100 officers at a time from other jurisdictions under mutual assistance agreements to help the 18-member Riverbank force cope with what Chief McBride but few others perceived as emergencies.

The long session on Monday night was a learning experience for some council members, Ashlock said.

"It was revealing to watch their facial expressions change as these council members listened to striker after striker stand up and say, sometimes through an interpreter, that they were voters, homeowners, and long-time residents of Riverbank," Ashlock said. "You could see it slowly becoming clear that the strikers are the people of this community and that if any illegals are involved they must be the scabs inside the plant with police protection."

Eloquent voices spoke out for the strikers at the special meeting on Wednesday.

Council Member Sandra Benitez argued passionately for the right of workers to withhold their labor in a collective bargaining dispute without fear of permanent replacement, which makes a mockery of the legal right to strike. She denounced the police intervention.

Former Mayor Charles Neal, once a Local 748 cannery worker and currently a member of Operat-

ing Engineers Local 3, told the council he had ascertained that sewerage blockages are being caused by whole tomatoes dumped into waste lines by the unskilled scabs employed at Gangi.

Others called for immediate investigations by state and federal environmental agencies of waste water ponding at low spots in the vicinity of the struck cannery.

Ashlock said Gangi is working its scabs two 12-hour shifts daily instead of the three eight-hour shifts provided in the union contract but is getting only about a third of the normal production.

More than 520 Teamster members struck Gangi after the company stonewalled on demands for deep pay cuts and other rollbacks including health care changes that would make a majority of the workers ineligible for coverage. The company, which had signed onto the area-wide Teamster cannery master contract for decades, came up with the impossible demands after announcing that it would negotiate this year on its own.

Labor leaders agree it is a transparent ploy for busting the union. Gangi began hiring scabs as permanent replacements the day the workers struck.

Monday night's council confrontation came a day after hundreds of trade unionists gathered at Riverbank for a rally and march to demonstrate solidarity with the strikers. More than a score of unions and central labor councils were represented, Ashlock said.

Participants included a contingent of Diamond Walnut strikers from Teamsters Local 601 at Stockton who were forced onto the picket line and then permanently replaced in a union-busting strategy that Gangi apparently has copied. Also prominent in the march were members of the United Farm Workers.

There were pledges of food and other support for strikers' families from AFL-CIO Community Services in Los Angeles and Contra Costa counties.

Sunday's march was the occasion of one of the few instances in which police actually have been defied at the Gangi plant.

Marchers spontaneously halted as they passed the cannery gate and blocked trucks delivering tomatoes and cannery supplies, including empty cans.

Half a dozen Riverbank police officers guarding the gate quickly put out a call for mutual assistance. About 20 officers from other jurisdictions responded, formed an assault line and closed in on the demonstrators with riot sticks at high port. As in every previous Gangi picket line emergency, police got no chance to use their clubs. Strikers and their supporters simply moved away. The extra cops remained at the scene piling up overtime until the demonstration ended and the marchers dispersed.

Sunday's response was pale in comparison with earlier appeals for mutual assistance, possibly because of a perception that Riverbank police had cried "wolf" too often.

As many as 100 officers had turned out on earlier occasions from 16 San Joaquin Valley municipalities, the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, and even the California Highway Patrol.

The sheriff sent his mounted patrol of deputies on horses equipped with plastic face shields just like those worn by their riders. The horsemen confronted pickets menacingly but never actually moved against them.

In contrast, a sheriff's deputy allowed an attack dog to bite and claw a picket last week in an incident that seems certain to figure in the news some more because it was captured on video tape.

The deputy with the dog was seen bantering with police guarding the plant gate just before the attack, and some observers are convinced he was trying to prove to his colleagues that the animal would frighten the strikers so much that they would scatter when it approached.

When the pickets stood their ground, the deputy allowed it to lunge with enough slack to sink its teeth into one man's body.

Riverbank police got involved even before the strike began. The chief provided Gangi with a detailed plan for securing the cannery against any invasion by pickets, and officers told union members at captive audience meetings that anybody who crossed a picket line would be guaranteed police protection.

Utility Execs' Pay Hikes Under Fire

Most California utility corporations continue to give huge pay raises to top executives and add high-paid personnel even as they complain publicly of the need to cut costs because of mounting competition, according to a report by Toward Utility Rate Normalization (TURN), the consumer watchdog organization.

"The utilities are talking out of both sides of their mouths," said Audrie Krause, executive director of TURN. "They give lip service to the need to cut costs to meet competitive challenges and then lavish their executives with huge pay increases."

What it points to is further reductions in rank-and-file work forces that are certain to create customer service nightmares, Krause said.

"Reducing customer service is not an acceptable cost-cutting solution," she declared.

"Actions speak louder than words. If the utilities were truly

concerned about high costs, they would set an example by cutting from the top."

TURN's survey of proxy statements and other reports showed that most top executives of California's largest utilities received substantial pay increases last year. TURN also showed sharp increase in the number of utility corporation personnel being paid salaries in excess of \$75,000 a year.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. is the only California utility to cut costs both at the top and at the bottom in response to new competitive chal-

lenges and increasing pressure by consumers for lower rates, TURN said. PG&E reduced top executive salaries between 21 and 24 percent, mostly by eliminating long-term incentive plan payouts. It also cut the number of employees earning more than \$75,000 a year by 22 percent, from 2,552 to 1,983. The company has reduced its over-all work force by about 3,000 persons over the past year, TURN noted.

Sam Ginn, CEO of Pacific Telesis, got the biggest 1993 payoff. His \$2,339,507 included a raise of more than \$125,000, or six percent

initiative.

Performers will include Alex Bagwell, Francisco Herrera, Mahal, Jose-Luis Orozco, Enrique Ramirez, Nancy Schimmel and the Freedom Song Chorus. Tickets are \$5 to \$10 on a sliding scale. Details can be obtained from Freedom Song Network at (415) 753-0245.

Concert Aids Fight Against Prop 187

Freedom Song Network will celebrate its 12th anniversary with a concert in support of immigrants' rights at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, at La Peña on Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley.

Proceeds will benefit the campaign to defeat Proposition 187, the immigrant-bashing "save our state"

European Support...

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Garcia...

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1990, helping AFL-CIO affiliates develop programs to serve dislocated workers and provide training and upgrading opportunities for those who are employed.

Recently she has been technical advisor to a workplace literacy program at Local 32 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees in Washington, D.C., and has conducted training sessions for labor representatives on state and local job training councils aimed at maximizing labor participation in Job Training Partnership (JTPA) programs.

Garcia represents HRDI on the boards of two prominent national non-profit organizations: Literacy Volunteers of America, which promotes increased literacy in the U.S. and Canada, and Wider Opportunities for Women, which provides skills training and job placement programs for women.

Oberlin College Lists Labor Songs

A new collection of labor songs published by Oberlin College lists 277 recordings with contents, performers, dates of issue, and in some cases, commentaries.

"Every Monday Morning: A Discography of American Labor Songs in the Conservatory Library at Oberlin College," can be ordered by sending \$10 to Labor Song Discography, Conservatory Library, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH 44074.

Southern California Edison's chair and CEO John E. Bryson was raised \$19,000 to \$1,422,518.

The PG&E executive pay cuts included a hefty \$443,493 for chair and CEO Richard A. Clarke — a reduction of 23 percent. Even so, Clarke's 1993 pay still was reckoned in seven digits — \$1,517,496 to be exact.

Stanley T. Skinner, PG&E's president and CEO, took a \$269,077 cut to just short of \$1 million, and Jerry R. McLeod, executive vice president, was reduced \$117,000 to \$647,509.

Other major California utilities, meanwhile, were adding more people at wages in excess of \$75,000.

PacTel added 175 of the higher salaries and raised its total to 1,642, SDG&E went up 46 jobs to 279, SoCal Gas added 58, making its total 356, and SoCal Edison added 153 to its high-paid ranks, giving it a total of 959.

September 16, 1994