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California AFL-CIO News

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November 13, 1996

We Win

- Assembly Majority
- More Senate Seats
- Key Congress Races
- Minimum Wage Hike

Labor's Campaign Pays Off

Labor is a big winner in the election. Four goals were set when the Coordinated Campaign was launched by the California Labor Federation last July at the state AFL-CIO convention.

All four have been achieved:

- Control of the State Assembly has been wrested away from the anti-union, right-wing extremists who took control two years ago.

- We've widened the one-vote, labor friendly State Senate majority that saved us from an avalanche of worker-bashing Assembly bills.

- Ousted from the House of Representatives in close races are three right-wing, anti union extremist allies of Newt Gingrich.

- Proposition 210, the labor-sponsored minimum wage initiative, has swept to victory by a landslide.

"Our campaign paid off," declared Art Pulaski, state federation executive secretary-treasurer. "It has been tremendously successful."

"Union members and their families voted for their common pocketbook issues and provided the winning margin for pro-labor Candidates," Pulaski said.

"Our legions of union volun-



At left, Art Pulaski, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, and Miguel Contreras, head of the Los Angeles County Federation of labor, react to election results at L.A. Biltmore Hotel. At right, campaign volunteers whose efforts made victories possible show they have plenty of spirit left at Burbank campaign headquarters after ringing union members' doorbells on election eve.

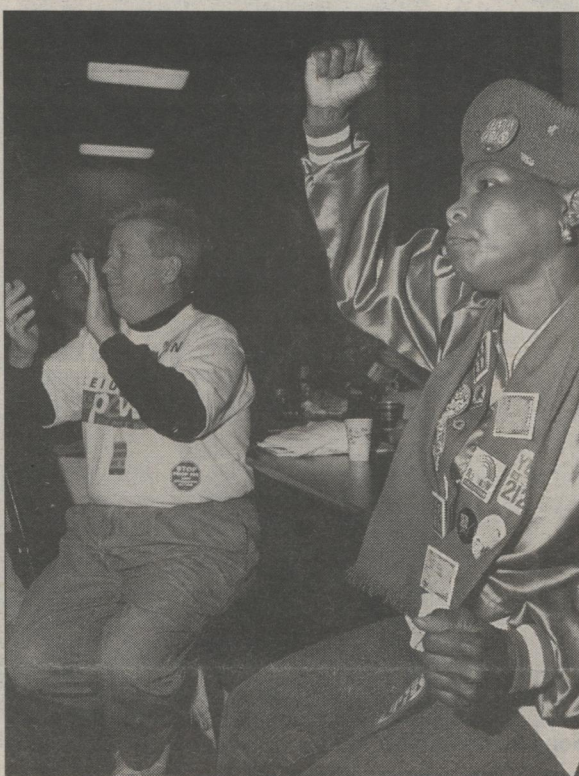
teers made it possible."

Numbers reflect the scope and intensity of the effort, which was coordinated on the statewide level, directed by central labor councils through local campaign headquarters, and carried out by more than 10,000 union volunteers—activists who walked precincts, rang doorbells, phoned voters, stuffed envelopes and got out the vote.

Volunteers talked person-to-person with more than a quarter of a million union members, urging them to consider issues vital to labor and to vote accordingly.

More than one and a half million pieces of campaign mail explained those issues and told how candidates stood on them.

"There can be no doubt that our efforts were decisive," Pulaski



Photos by Slobodan Dimitrov

Power of Working People

The Coordinated Labor Campaign, with the help of more than 12,000 volunteers, confounded the pundits by breaking the stranglehold of extremists on the Assembly. In San Diego and Los Angeles, the labor campaign provided the votes for razor-thin victory margins.

In San Diego, hundreds of union activists, led by Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Butkiewicz and COPE Director Donald Cohen of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Central Labor Council, walked precincts and staffed phonebanks in the weeks leading up to November 5. Eighteen months of intense labor-to-neighbor work had set the stage.

The payoff: Howard Wayne won the formerly Republican 77th Assembly District seat, Susan Davis kept her 76th District seat, and Dede Alpert moved up to the State Senate. In each of these races, labor provided the margin of victory. Labor-endorsed Denise Moreno Ducheny was reelected by a wide margin in the 79th Assembly District.

Wayne had been 19 points behind with only four weeks to go before union volunteers, mail and radio turned the contest around. The

Continued on Page 4

Continued on Page 3

Labor Keeps Promise With Prop 210

2 Million to Get a Raise

Proposition 210, the minimum wage initiative launched by the California Labor Federation, passed Nov. 5 in a landslide vote

for economic justice.

Besides providing overdue help for low-wage workers, 210 gave a powerful boost to labor's cause by helping draw voters to the polls to elect union-friendly candidates.

Sixty-two percent of the voters said "yes" to restoring a large part of the buying power that minimum wage workers have lost since their last raise in 1988.

Two million Californians get a raise, according to the state legislative analyst. This state's minimum goes to \$5 next March 1 and to

\$5.75 March 1 of 1998. It was \$4.25 until an increase in the federal minimum raised it to \$4.75 Oct. 1.

Big winners are the working poor, sliding deeper into poverty despite full-time jobs. But it helps middle-class households as well.

Most union families have or will have at least one minimum-wage worker—a retiree eking out Social Security or a student working to stay in college.

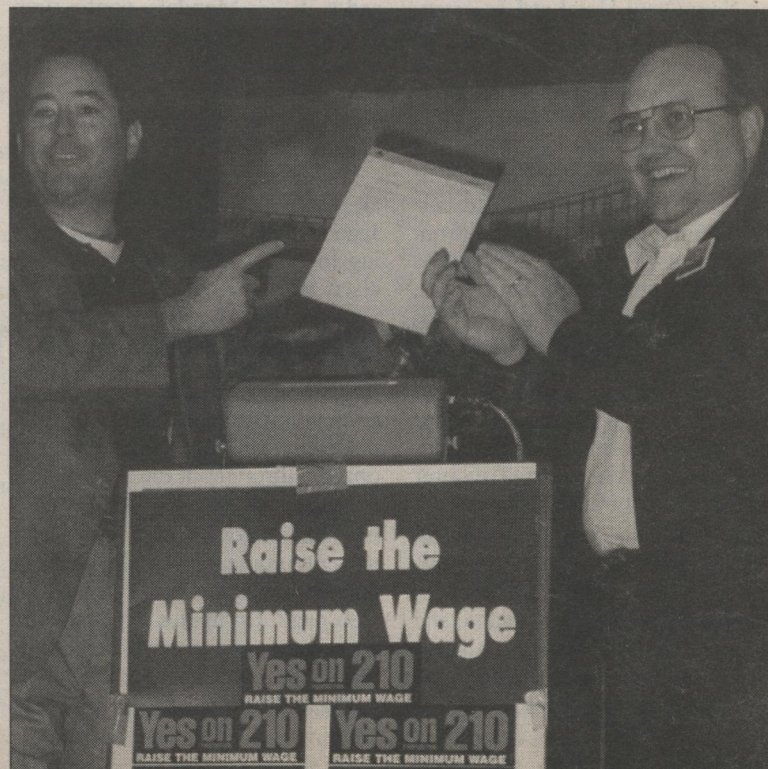
Art Pulaski, executive secretary-

Continued on Page 4

A whole new ballgame at Sacramento
Page 3

Campaign debriefings Nov. 25 and 26
Page 4

Fed sets seminars on Prop 208 impact
Page 4



Reporting good news about Prop 210 vote totals during election night rally at S.F. Plumbers' Hall are Richard Holober, left, Yes on 210 campaign manager, and Bob Johnson, field director.

U.C.'s Global Labor Conference Set

The conference on global labor and economy set for Nov. 20 through 22 at Berkeley is drawing union leaders, economists, scholars, legislators and human rights activists from throughout the western hemisphere.

The conference is entitled "Labor in the Global Economy, Working in the Americas." It is being presented at Hs Lordships on the Berkeley Marina by the Center for Labor Research and Education of the University of California-Berkeley Institute of Industrial Relations.

Co-sponsors and endorsers include California Labor Federation, the national AFL-CIO, central labor councils of the S.F. Bay Area, and a dozen national and interna-

tional unions.

It will provide union leaders and academics with a much-needed opportunity to compare notes on the rapid evolution of the workplace, according to Bob Redlo, chair of the Labor Center.

"The university is striving to re-establish the labor-academic partnership that was a powerful force from the progressive era until the early 1960s," Redlo said. "It is time to renew that alliance."

Topics will include organizing, collective bargaining, international trade, labor migration and gender issues.

Richard Trumka, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, will be keynote speaker. Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer emeritus of the California Labor Feder-

ation, is honorary conference chair.

Speakers include Dick Martin, secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Labour Council; Bertha Lujan, Mexican Frente Autentico del Trabajo (FAT); Adolfo Aguilar Zinser, member of the Mexican Congress; Rafael Marino, Mexican telephone workers union; Altemir Tortelli, Brazil, vice president of Central Unica dos Trabalhadores (CUT), and Miguel Vega, Chile, president of CONTEVECH, the textile union, and executive member of CUT.

Also addressing workshops and other sessions will be Art Pulaski, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation; Morton Bahr, president of the Communications Workers of America; Louis Moora, CWA director of

international affairs; Dolores Huerta, secretary-treasurer of the United Farm Workers; Bob King, United Auto Workers Region 1-A director; Andy Banks, Teamsters coordinator of international affairs, and Stan Gacek, associate director of international affairs for the United Food and Commercial Workers.

Representing the AFL-CIO in addition to Trumka will be Karen Nussbaum, director of the Working Women's Department.

Prof. Harley Shaiken of U.C. Berkeley, a NAFTA expert, will speak. So will Teresa Ghilarducci, associate professor at Notre Dame and assistant director of the AFL-CIO Department of Employee Benefits.

Charles Kernaghan, who has exposed abuse of workers making

designer-label clothing in Central American sweatshops, will discuss the Kathie Lee Gifford and Walt Disney campaigns along with Honduran union leader Israel Salinas.

Pre-conference roundtable discussions on organizing, immigration and economic crises will be held from 1 until 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 20, followed by a reception at Westminster House.

The conference will convene at 8:45 a.m. Thursday at Hs Lordships. There will be cocktails at 5 and dinner at 6:30.

Friday's session is scheduled to end at 3 p.m.

Registrations can be made and information obtained at the Labor Center, (510) 642-0323. The address is 2521 Channing Way, Berkeley 94720-5555.

How They Shut Oakland Down

The 50th anniversary of the Oakland General Strike is to be celebrated with an exhibit that will run Nov. 23 through Feb. 23 at the Oakland Museum of California.

It will be launched with a gala reception at the museum from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday evening, Nov. 22, the eve of the opening.

"We Called It a Work Holiday" is the title of the exhibit. It is said to be the first such commemoration of a general strike ever mounted by a major museum in this country.

Many of the photos, union proclamations, anti-union propaganda pieces and other memorabilia to be shown have been collected during research conducted by the California Federation of Teachers for its "Golden Lands, Working Hands" labor history curriculum project.

The general strike began on Sunday morning, Dec. 1, 1946, after club-wielding Oakland police swept retail clerks striking for union recognition away from picket lines at two downtown department stores so that a fleet of scab-driven trucks could deliver Christmas merchandise.

A streetcar motorman was ordered to proceed through the line of police protecting the scab truckers. Instead, the motorman disconnected his control handle and walked away with it, saying, "I've never crossed a picket line in my life and I'm not going to start now."

The exhibit chronicles walkouts by more than 100,000 workers who



Song brings smiles to faces of some of the 100,000 who walked the line during Oakland General Strike.

soon followed the motorman, shutting down commerce, production and services throughout the East Bay.

It depicts the resulting rearrangement of a power structure long dominated by business and political allies of Joseph R. Knowland, publisher of the Oakland Tribune, patron of then-Gov. Earl Warren, and father of U.S. Senator William F. Knowland.

The following spring four Oakland City Council seats were cap-

tured by the Oakland Voters League, formed by the local AFL and CIO central bodies and community activist organizations allied in the strike. And, Retail Clerks Local 1265 won recognition as bargaining agent for employees of the two struck department stores.

A free, day-long symposium on Jan. 19 will feature General Strike participants and labor historians. Special tours on Dec. 8, Dec. 29 and Feb. 9 will be conducted by docents including strike partici-

pants, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Owen Marron of the Alameda County Central Labor Council and Fred Glass, communications director of the California Federation of Teachers and director of the Golden Lands, Working Hands project.

Oakland Museum of California is located at 1000 Oak St., a block from the Lake Merritt BART station. It is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and seniors.

More information can be obtained from the History Department of the museum, (510) 238-3842.

Tokyo Gets Word on New Otani

A delegation of workers from the New Otani Hotel at Los Angeles has flown to Tokyo to publicize the abuse that the Japanese-owned hotel is inflicting upon its employees.

The group, led by President Maria Elena Durazo of Local 11 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees, plans to confront officials of New Otani Ltd. and its parent Kajima Corporation, Ltd.

The group will see U.S. Ambassador Walter Mondale, confer with Japanese trade unionists and citizen groups, and spread the word about New Otani's behavior in L.A. to Japanese tourists and business travelers during the 10-day visit.

Included in addition to Durazo are Kathy Masaoka, a leader of the Japanese-American group supporting the New Otani workers; Francisca Hinojosa, a housekeeper for

18 years; Dwight Kelly, a cook with 18 years service, and Ana Alvarado, a housekeeper for 16 years who is one of those fired for speaking out in favor of the union.

The National Labor Relations Board has charged the New Otani with violating federal labor law in connection with Alvarado's firing and other reprisals since the 300 mostly immigrant workers began trying to organize.

CLF Seeks Communications Director

The California Labor Federation is seeking applications for the position of communications director, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski announced this week.

The director will be handle all aspects of a one-person communications department directly responsible for the federation's public and media communications and some internal membership communications and publications.

The position requires design and implementation of an aggressive and innovative media outreach program to effectively communicate the federation's policies and activi-

ties to news organization statewide, responding quickly with federation positions to news and editorial opinion throughout the state.

Also required is design and implementation of innovative internal communications with member organizations, including an internet web page. Computer experience is a necessity, and internet communications experience is preferred.

The director will do advance media work for the federation's chief spokesperson and sometimes serve as spokesperson. Successful experience in obtaining positive media and press coverage is

required.

The communications director will be one of a small team of department heads responsible directly to the federation's chief executive officer, participating in development of media strategies for political, legislative and corporate campaigns and boycotts.

Applicants are asked to send resumes to Pulaski by Nov. 22 at the federation's main office, 417 Montgomery St., Suite 300, San Francisco.

Women and people of color are especially encouraged to apply.

Working Women Meet at UTLA

"Working Women: the Struggle Continues" is the title of a conference 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, at United Teachers of Los Angeles.

Sponsors include UCLA Labor Center, UCLA Center for the Study of Women, Los Angeles County Federation, Women at Work and Young Organizers Alliance.

Karen Nussbaum, director of the AFL-CIO Working Women Department, and Maria Elena Durazo, president of HERE Local 11, will speak. UTLA is at 2511 West Third St.

Datebook

Labor in the Global Economy Conference: Nov. 20-22, Sponsored by U.C.-Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education at Hs Lordships.

Southern California COPE campaign evaluation session: 1-5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, Wyndham Hotel at Los Angeles Airport.

Northern California COPE campaign evaluation session: 1-5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, Oakland Airport Hilton Hotel.

Los Angeles seminar on impact of Prop. 208: 9 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Dec. 3, L.A. County Federation of Labor.

Northern California seminar on impact of Prop. 208: 1-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, Oakland Airport Hilton Hotel.

Standing Committee on Legislation of the Executive Council with its Advisory Committee: 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Manhattan Beach.

Committee on Affiliations: 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Manhattan Beach.

Executive Council: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Manhattan Beach.

Legislative Conference: March 17-18, Sacramento Radisson Hotel.

San Diego Seminar on impact of Prop. 208: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, San Diego-Imperial Counties Central Labor Council.

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New Ball Game at Sacramento

It's a whole new ball game in Sacramento, with labor-endorsed Democrats back in control of the Assembly.

Democrats had nailed down 41 Assembly seats by last Thursday. This assured them a majority, and they celebrated at a caucus by agreeing unanimously to elect Cruz Bustamante speaker when the Legislature convenes on Dec. 2.

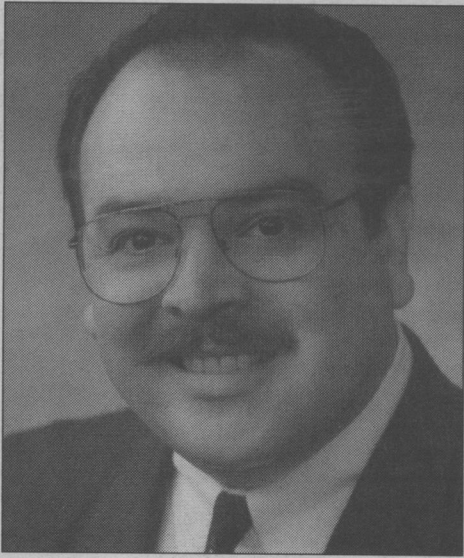
In the State Senate, President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer is assured that his one-vote Democratic majority will grow by at least one. By the time the last absentee ballots are certified, there could be as many as three new Democrats in seats formerly held by Republicans.

It was this one-vote majority that enabled Senate Democrats to bottle up scores of anti-worker bills churned out by Assembly right-wing extremists.

Bustamante told reporters at his first news conference that as speaker he would not seek revenge for any humiliations inflicted by Republicans during their one year in control.

But the San Joaquin Valley native, the first Latino ever to hold the speakership, did indicate he won't be naming any Republicans to chair committees.

This is to say that the chair of the Committee on Labor and Improve-



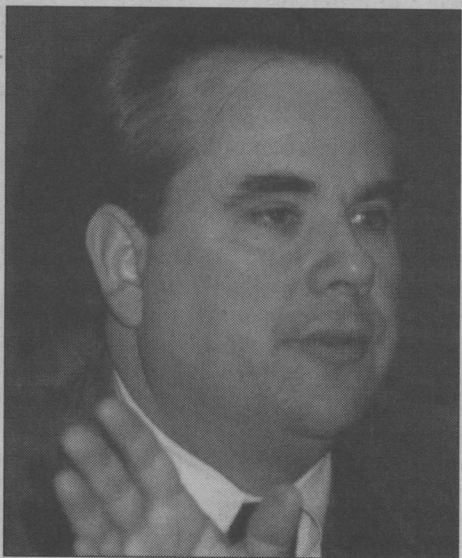
Cruz Bustamante

ment, no longer will be the aggressively anti-union George House.

House didn't allow a single labor-sponsored bill to get past the committee during the year he held the gavel and commanded the allegiance of an anti-labor committee majority.

"This means we can come off the defensive—at least in the Legislature," said President Tom Rankin of the California Labor Federation.

"Organized labor will have to continue fighting rear-guard actions with



Bill Lockyer

Pete Wilson until his time runs out in 1998," Rankin continued. "Wilson holds the power to veto worker-friendly bills. He's ready to start gutting prevailing wage with administrative changes. And his appointees on boards and commissions are set to kill the eight-hour day and block any meaningful curbs on repetitive motion or stress injuries.

"But labor representatives at the Capitol won't have to spend all their energies fighting a flood of repressive

Assembly bills," Rankin pointed out.

"It means we can start turning to progressive solutions to some of the many problems facing California workers and their families."

Replacing the current committee chairpersons would mean replacing aides and consultants who helped them turn committee hearing chambers into hostile territory for labor.

For example, departure of Bakersfield Republican Trice Harvey as chair of the Agriculture Committee presumably would mean departure also of Robyn Black, the chief consultant. Black happens to chair the state Industrial Welfare Commission, to which she was appointed by Gov. Wilson. She has been arguing publicly that the IWC should abolish the 8-hour day.

Also of interest will be large raises, alleged in some cases to be illegal, that GOP legislators gave their staffs after getting control of the purse strings.

Loss of the \$60,000 a year she gets as Agriculture Committee consultant isn't likely to inflict hardship on Black. She is owner or part-owner of no fewer than 13 agribusiness corporations including farms, ranches, property management firms, a fertilizer company, and a trucking company.

Taking Back the Assembly...

Continued From Page 1

same kind of effort enabled Davis to hold a seat the GOP wanted desperately.

In Los Angeles, where 2,170 union volunteers turned out in the final four days, six targeted Assembly seats were won in very close races. Altogether, more than 5,000 activists responded when Executive Secretary-Treasurer Miguel Contreras and COPE Director Damon Moore of the L.A. County Federation of Labor called for volunteers.

The Machinists provided headquarters for the Santa Monica-based "beach cluster" of races and a San Fernando Valley-based "Burbank cluster." The Carpenters, United Auto Workers and Los

Angeles County Federation of Labor provided phone bank facilities.

Burbank volunteers pulled off a clean sweep in targeted Assembly and Senate races, powering Jack Scott to take away the 44th Assembly District seat from GOP incumbent Bill Hoge, and pushing Adam Schiff to victory in the 21st Senate District.

Labor volunteers boosted Scott

Clinton, Speaking in Oakland, Honors a Boycott

President Bill Clinton was all set to deliver his Halloween speech in Oakland while standing in front of the only restaurant in Jack London Square that's on the California Labor Federation boycott list.

All set, that is, until Executive Secretary-Treasurer Owen Marron

Wildman in a dramatic come-from-behind victory in the formerly Republican 43rd District. With Wildman losing in the polls two weeks out from election day, half a dozen unions and councils came through with emergency contributions that revitalized his campaign and lifted him to a razor thin victory—a victory so close that the outcome remained in doubt until the last ballot was counted.

of the Alameda Central Labor Council heard about it and persuaded Clinton's campaign staff to switch to a more appropriate site nearby.

Originally, Clinton was to have stood smack in front of Scott's, a waterfront eatery where employ-

In the beach cluster, labor volunteers boosted Sally Havice in a narrow victory and helped Betty Karnette surge past her Republican opponent. Debra Bowen was reelected with labor help in the 53rd Assembly District.

Coordination by building trades councils and central labor councils in three counties boosted Dennis Cardoza to victory in the 26th Assembly District.

ees were fired by a new owner who closed down and then reopened non-union.

"We couldn't have Bill Clinton appearing on national television in front of Scott's marquee showing the boycotted restaurant's name in huge letters" Marron said.

Tom Aja, assigned by Local 3 of the Operating Engineers, directed the campaign from IBEW Local 984 Hall in Modesto. The district includes Merced County and parts of San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties.

Virginia Strom-Martin got a coordinated boost from labor in the 1st Assembly District and defeated Marge Handley, a Republican notoriously hostile to unions.

Help funneled in by Mark Kyle, Northern California field director, supplemented volunteers from the Humboldt-Del Norte Counties Central Labor Council, led by Richard Khamsi, and from the Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake Counties Central Labor Council, headed by John Hadzess.

Federation Joins Suit to Block 209

California Labor Federation is one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit to block implementation of Proposition 209 that was filed the moment doors opened at federal court in San Francisco the morning after last week's general election.

The suit alleges that Prop 209—the so-called California Civil Rights Initiative that passed Nov. 5—violates the equal protection clause of the Constitution because it would prevent women and minorities from seeking protective race- or gender-conscious legislation while permitting all other groups to seek preferential treatment.

Further, the suit alleges, the initiative violates the principle of federal preemption because it would prevent state and local governments from meeting obligations mandated by the Constitution to remedy discrimination against women and minorities.

"The anti-affirmative action law would prevent governments from eliminating on-going, identified discrimination," the suit states. "While other groups may continue to pursue their interests in attaining preferential legislation and policies at every level of state and local

'Pete Wilson and the Assembly extremists supporting 209 are the same people who are trying to eliminate overtime after 8 hours of work, who attack fair wages, job safety, pension protections and the minimum wage.'

—Art Pulaski

government. . . racial minorities and women, under Proposition 209, may now do so only by securing a popular majority and amending the state Constitution."

The action is entitled Coalition for Economic Equality vs Wilson. Grounds were outlined by officials and attorneys from the participating labor, business, civil rights, education and women's advocacy groups during news conferences held in San Francisco and Los Angeles shortly after the filing.

In L.A., Executive Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski told reporters that 209 creates unequal opportunity because it sets up differing constitutional standards for women and minorities on one hand and veterans, seniors and other groups on the other.

"Labor represents 2 million

working people here in California, and every one of them has a right to equal opportunity," Pulaski declared.

"Pete Wilson and the Assembly extremists supporting 209 are the same people who are trying to eliminate overtime after 8 hours of work, who attack fair wages, job safety, pension protections and the minimum wage. They want to divide working people. We want to unify working people.

The labor movement has always stood proudly for equal opportunity and fought for that ideal with every means at our disposal. Labor marched with Martin Luther King. We stand for equal rights for women and every other working person. That's why we are proud to join this legal action today," Pulaski continued.

He thanked ACLU and the other civil rights groups taking part in the suit.

"Civil rights wasn't won in this country in one election or one year and it won't be lost in one election either."

At the S.F. news conference, attorney Glenn Rothner of L.A., speaking for the federation, said, "By fighting against the economic injustice that Proposition 209 inflicts, we stand with those who have been locked out, overlooked and under-represented."

Mark Rosenbaum, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, said the measure treats rooting out discrimination as though it were none of the government's business.

"This suit is about the right of all people to have equal access to the levers of government," Rosenbaum added.

He said the initiative clearly runs afoul of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions including the one that struck down a 1992 Colorado constitutional amendment banning local laws protecting rights of gays and lesbians.

Judith Kurtz of Equal Rights Advocates declared, "With just

over 35 words, Proposition 209 would negate 35 years of progress." Kathy Rogers, executive director of the National Organization for Women Legal Defense and Education Fund, said the initiative turns back the clock on women's advancement.

Bill McNeil of the Employment Law Center called 209 "mean spirited" and warned that it "artificially limits the ability of public agencies to address the continuing issues of racism and sexism that abound in this country."

The Coalition for Economic Equity asks for an injunction to bar enforcement of 209 until the suit is settled.

The coalition asks also that two pending suits and any future actions involving 209 be consolidated with the coalition suit.

Pacific Legal Foundation, a Sacramento-based right-wing operation identified with Gov. Wilson, is suing for immediate enforcement of 209. A white contractor is suing to invalidate San Francisco laws aimed at redressing past discrimination against minorities and women.

Campaign...

Continued From Page 1
ation, and Pulaski, every weekend as the campaign wound down.

Assembly Democrats have been elected in 41 districts, providing the majority that will end the right-wing's anti-worker reign of terror. The GOP held 36 seats, and three were still too close to call as of yesterday.

In the Senate, labor-endorsed Democrats won 23 seats, increasing their majority to two with two races undecided. There's one independent in the Senate.

Labor efforts paid off spectacularly in the three close congressional races.

Union activists walking precincts for Ellen Tauscher intensified their efforts in the final days. Incumbent Bill Baker's lead melted away.

Jay Street, assigned by Jim Green of the Bay Counties District Council of Carpenters, staffed the effort.

Owen Marron, head of the Alameda County Central Labor Council, and Barry Luboviski, head of the Alameda County Building and Construction Trades Council, sent in volunteers from Oakland and other areas where labor-endorsed candidates were winning easily. They joined activists from Contra Costa Central Labor Council.

Another shocker for the GOP came when Walter Capps unseated Andrea Seastrand, another anti-labor extremist, in the 22nd Congressional District in San Luis Obispo County and part of Santa Barbara County.

Tri-Counties Central Labor Council, headed by Marilyn Wollard, coordinated union volunteers campaigning for first

time candidate Capps, a U.C.-Santa Barbara religion professor.

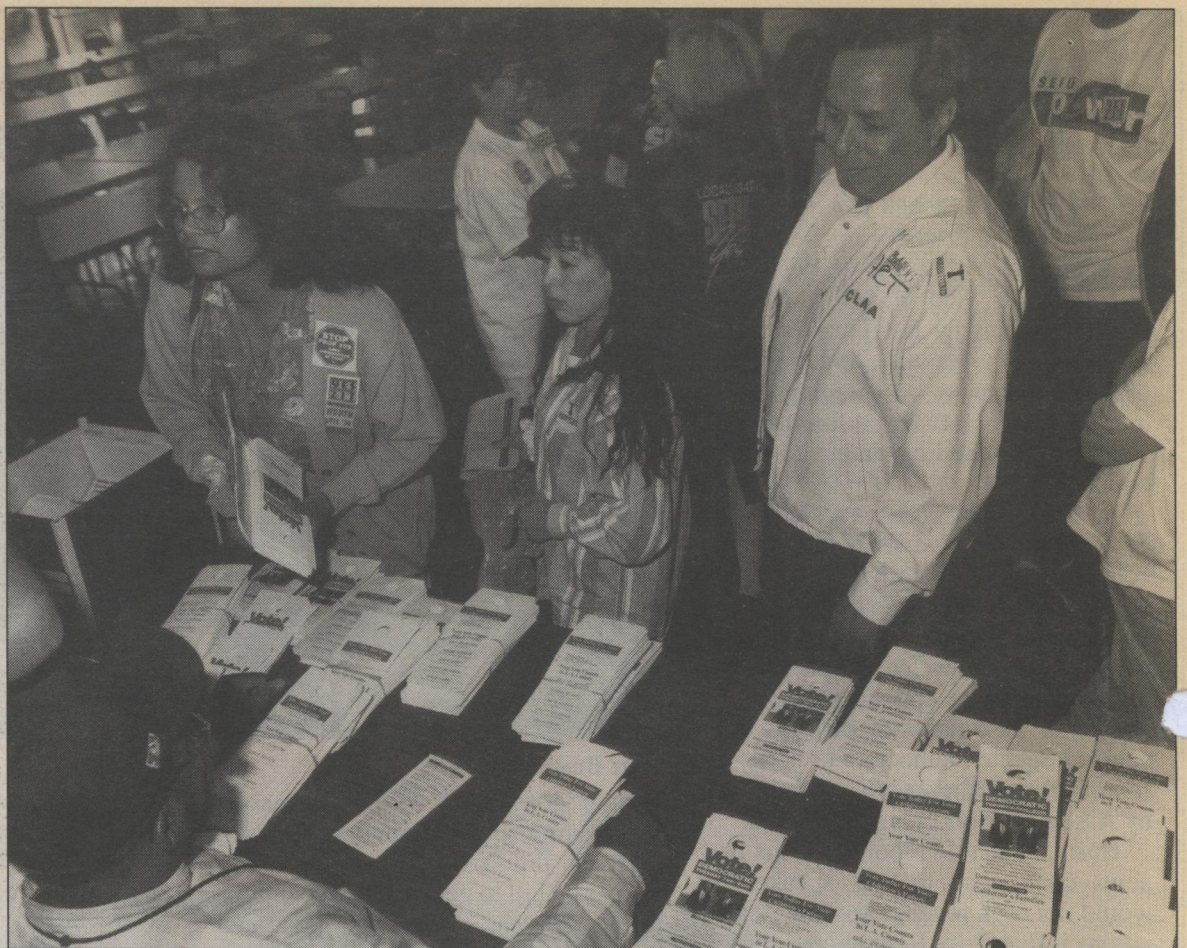
Robert K. Dornan, the anti-labor arch-conservative, was dumped by Loretta Sanchez thanks to labor's closing burst.

Election day member-to-member campaigning by 600 union activists turned out the vote that pulled Sanchez ahead of the incumbent. This climaxed weeks of effort by Orange County Central Labor Council volunteers under Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Fogarty.

Rep. George Brown showed up at a union meeting to shake hands and thank people personally for boosting him to reelection in the 42nd District.

With Brown slipping in the final days, Secretary-Treasurer Laurie Stalnaker of the Riverside-San Bernardino Counties Central Labor Council rallied members to put Brown over the top.

Labor activists provided the margin for Vic Fazio, under attack as being too liberal in the eight-county 3rd Congressional District.



Volunteers line up at COPE Coordinated Campaign headquarters in Burbank to receive voter information materials they'll distribute to union members while walking precincts on the final weekend before the general election.

Photo by Slobodan Dimitrov

Crucial Sessions on Prop 208

The impact of Proposition 208 upon union political contributions and COPE campaigns will be explained during three crucial seminars to be held in December by the California Labor Federation.

The Seminars will be held:

- Tuesday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Los Ange-

les County Federation of Labor.

- Thursday, Dec. 5, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Oakland Airport Hilton Hotel.

- Thursday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the San Diego and Imperial Counties Central Labor Council.

The seminars are for affili-

ates only.

"It is essential that all of our affiliates understand the full impact of 208," said Executive Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski.

Lance Olsen, the top political campaign finance expert in the state, will conduct the seminars.

Co-sponsors along with the California Labor Federation are the State Building and Construction Trades Council, central labor councils, and state councils of the Communications Workers, United Food and Commercial Workers, and Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees.

Leadership Team Guides Campaign

A team of skilled political organizers assembled by Art Pulaski led the Coordinated Labor Campaign to Election Day Success.

For statewide campaign director, Pulaski picked Paul Milne, a former United Farm Workers Organizer and a seasoned strategist.

Matt McKinnon executive Secretary-Treasurer of the California Conference of Machinists, was named field director for Southern California. The IAM freed up McKinnon for the assignment.

Mark Kyle of Operating Engineers Local 3 was named Northern California Field Director. Don

Dozier of Local 3 assigned Kyle to the campaign full-time.

Jim Earp, also of Local 3, headed the Mail and Message Team. He was joined by Sharon Cornu and

Allen Davenport of SEIU and support staffers from Local 3. Together they produced 1.5 million pieces of mail to union members.

Ray Trujillo and Kelly Can-

dale, assigned by President Bob Balgenorth of the State Building and Construction Trades Council, coordinated campaign work by construction trades volunteers.

Sweeney: We're Back

"Our issues--pensions, education, Medicare--were the defining issues of 1996, propelled by an unparalleled campaign of grassroots activism and issues education," AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said following the election.

"Despite the fact that working men and women and their unions were outspent by business 7 to 1, this election amounts to a sea change in Congress for working families. The 105th Congress will legislate under the spotlight of a working families agenda."

Big Donors Get Special Thanks From the Federation

Eight unions that made "extraordinary" donations to the Coordinated Labor Campaign have received special recognition from Executive Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski of the California Labor Federation.

Pulaski also thanked the nation-

al AFL-CIO for supporting the successful California campaign.

Receiving recognition were Operating Engineers Local 3, the International SEIU and the SEIU State Council, the Machinists, AFSCME, United Auto Workers, United Food and Commercial

Workers, Communications Workers and California Federation of Teachers.

"These unions provided major financial contributions that enabled us to succeed on Nov. 5," Pulaski said. "They have the gratitude of the federation."

Proposition 210 Wins by a Landslide...

Continued From Page 1
treasurer of the California Labor Federation, said the case for the minimum wage increase was one of the key issues that thousands of labor volunteers presented to fellow union members as they walked precincts and rang doorbells

throughout California.

Pulaski credited his predecessor, Jack Henning, with having the vision to lead California into a ballot initiative on minimum wage more than a year ago.

Henning exalted in the success of 210.

"The Minimum Wage victory was a massive repudiation of the poverty wage imposed on the working poor by the Republican-controlled Industrial Welfare Commission," declared the CLF executive secretary-treasurer emeritus. Henning also is president of the

Liveable Wage Coalition, the 210 sponsor organization that he established before his retirement last July.

"The election of a Democratic governor in 1998 will rid the state of this anti-worker, anti-social commission that serves without fail the orders of the employer class. The present commission must go," Henning added.

There was praise from State Sen. Hilda Solis, chair of the Yes on 210 Advisory Committee and author of legislation killed by Assembly Republicans that would have provided the same minimum wage increases achieved through the initiative.

"It is a victory for California's working poor," declared Solis. "For the California Labor Federation, it is a triumph as great as passage of Proposition 97 was in 1988."

Her reference was to the initiative sponsored by the CLF that restored Cal-OSHA after it was abolished by then-Gov. George

Deukmejian.

"This increase is a beginning—not an end—to our campaign for economic justice for California's hardworking families," said Richard Holober, Yes on 210 campaign manager.

"It does not restore the purchasing power the minimum had the last time it was increased in 1988. The coalition will remain organized and active. If the Legislature and the governor fail to stand up for the working poor, we will go again directly to the people."

The coalition that placed 210 on the ballot and campaigned for its passage was formed after Gov. Wilson's appointees on the Industrial Welfare Commission repeatedly ignored state law saying they must set a minimum sufficient to "supply the proper standard of living."

"Holober was donated from the state federation to manage the campaign.

Scores of supporting organizations joined the coalition.

Campaign Review Set

The California Labor Federation is sponsoring a review and evaluation of the 1996 Coordinated Labor Campaign.

It is the first step toward retooling the campaign for the 1998 gubernatorial election.

Sessions are for affiliates. They are scheduled in Northern and Southern California:

- Monday, Nov. 25, 1-5 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel, Los Angeles International Airport.
- Tuesday, Nov. 26, 1-5 p.m. at the Oakland Airport Hilton Hotel.

Executive Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski urged all affiliates to participate in one or the other of the two sessions. It will be a campaign debriefing, he said. Criticism and comments will be welcome.

Results of a post-election poll on effectiveness of the Coordinated Labor Campaign and voter reaction to it will be available.

The sessions signal the start of preparations to elect a labor-friendly governor in 1998 after the years of hostility under Pete Wilson and George Deukmejian, Pulaski said.