

NAACP's Scorecard on Calif. Civil Rights Legislation

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has issued a summary scorecard on the civil rights voting record of the recently concluded session of the California state legislature, along with the individual records of legislators on civil rights issues.

The scorecard was released by Franklin H. Williams, NAACP regional secretary-counsel, and Everett P. Brandon, Association field secretary and legislative representative, with whom the California Labor Federation worked closely at the 1959 session through active joint participation in the California Committee for Fair Employment Practices along with other civil rights groups.

Civil rights legislation enacted this year, depicted by organized labor as the outstanding achievement of the session, included anti-discrimination provisions in housing, employment, urban renewal and redevelopment programs, public accommodation programs, and interracial marriages.

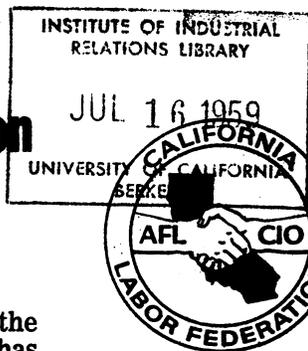
In its summary scoreboard, the NAACP noted that seven civil rights issues were voted on in the Assembly and five on the Senate floor.

Members of the Assembly, numbering 47 Democrats and 33 Republicans, all received at least one favorable vote on civil rights issues. The Democrats voted favorably 87%, and the Republicans voted favorably 43% on the seven issues that reached the floor of the Assembly.

There were 74 negative votes cast in the Assembly against civil rights issues. Of these 74 negative votes, the NAACP, a non-partisan organization, stated that 10% were cast by Democrats and 90% by Republicans.

In the Senate, the NAACP considered the key vote in the upper house to be the voting on the amendments offered by Senator Hugh Burns (D., Fresno County) which would have substantially weakened the FEP law passed by the legislature. 81% of the Democratic senators voted against the Burns weakening amendment,

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California Labor Mobilizing for Congress Passage of Fair 'Labor Reform' Bill

Mobilization of AFL-CIO unions throughout California moved into high gear this week behind nationwide efforts to secure Congressional enactment of a sound labor-management anti-racketeering law, and defeat of the Kennedy-Ervin bill in its present form.

Local unions in the state have undertaken a mass letter-writing campaign to their representatives in Congress urging that the Senate-passed reform measure be stripped of its provisions which would drastically weaken the rights of workers and block labor's battle against corruption.

As the letter-writing campaign was being developed, the House Labor Committee this week continued to plow through a point-by-point discussion of the Senate-passed labor-management bill, embodied in S. 1555.

Last week the House committee adopted amendments making the measure even less acceptable to organized labor by whittling down the amount of information required to be reported to the government by employers spending money to keep their workers from organizing and bargaining effectively.

A provision requiring that employers shall report all expenditures designed to "persuade" workers not to exercise their rights of self-organization was effectively changed to relieve employer reporting of any funds spent to discourage unions except where a direct unfair labor practice is committed.

House committee action was interpreted generally by political observers as reflecting an apparent attitude in Congress to further convert the original labor reform measure, supported by organized labor, into a vehicle for weakening the trade union movement.

In educational materials being distributed to union members concerning this threat to organized labor, it is clearly spelled out that

the AFL-CIO firmly supports a sound, constructive law to halt corruption in management and labor, as follows:

- Public financial reports by unions and employers, policed by the Secretary of Labor, to eliminate corruption.
- Safeguarding of union election processes by federal law.
- Elimination of improper trusteeships imposed for unethical purposes.
- Encouragement of voluntary codes of ethical practices by unions and employers, including their own enforcement provision, and establishment of a continuing study of labor-management relations through an advisory committee under the Secretary of Labor.
- Embezzlement of union funds to be made a federal crime.
- Overdue revision of the Taft-Hartley law in areas where labor, management, the Administration and Congress have long agreed that justice requires it. These provisions would sanction pre-hire contracts in the construction industry, reinstate pre-hearing elections, restore the voting rights of economic strikers, and eliminate the jurisdictional "no-man's land" created by the National Labor Relations Board under the Eisenhower Administration.

Most of the measures were contained in the original Kennedy-Ervin bill reported by the Senate Labor Committee. The AFL-CIO

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More -- Passage of Fair 'Labor Reform' Bill

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points out that they would protect the democratic rights of union members and safeguard their funds, and at the same time promote better relations between labor and management.

On the floor of the United States Senate, however, amendments were inserted under the title of a "Bill of Rights of Members of Labor Organizations." An analysis of these amendments by the AFL-CIO shows that instead of establishing "rights" for union members, they would destroy the most effective right a worker has — the right to a strong and effective union. The AFL-CIO analysis points out:

"The bill says a union must accept every person who applies for membership. This would make it impossible for unions to keep out communists, crooks or company spies who try to infiltrate labor ranks to destroy the effectiveness of unions.

"The bill pretends to guarantee equal rights for members. In practice, it would mean the government would decide who would run for office, for it outlaws union constitutions prohibiting communists and other destructive elements from being candidates.

"The bill limits the methods by which union members can determine how their dues will be set. International unions would be required to set dues at conventions, and would be forbidden to do so by referendum.

"The bill substitutes the federal courts for normal democratic trade union procedure, thus exposing unions to constant lawsuits by company agents, communists, or disgruntled candidates rejected by their fellow members.

"The bill threatens local union officers with two years in prison and \$10,000 fines for such reasonable rulings as denying a drunk a right to speak at a meeting. An entire local union could be jailed for disciplining a worker who led a wildcat strike.

"The bill pretends to require equal reporting by labor and management, but actually it allows employers to conceal anti-union expenditures. For example, an employer could maintain a regular full-time labor spy, and never have to report it.

"The bill employs the federal courts to decide for what purpose union funds may be spent. It exposes union officials to civil and criminal prosecution for carrying out a membership vote to extend strike aid to another union. A single company spy could use this provision to keep a union or its officers in court all year, every year.

"The bill imposes new bans on peaceful picketing which would not only block traditional union activities, but would invite unscrupulous employers to escape legitimate organization by signing backdoor sweetheart contracts with corrupt locals."

Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty of the California Labor Federation commended the efforts of local unions in the state to get out the facts on the Kennedy-Ervin bill. The state AFL-CIO leader said:

"California congressmen must be made to realize that the unions in this state want protective anti-corruption legislation as much as legislators, but not at the expense of satisfying the anti-labor prejudices of some employer groups who are trying desperately to twist a public climate against corruption into a drive to secure union-emasculating legislation which they have been proposing ever since labor has become recognized as a responsible social institution for the betterment and improvement of the life of the nation."

New State Safety Policy For Agriculture

Foreshadowing a possible end to dual standards for agriculture and industry in the enforcement of state law, John F. Henning, Director of the State Department of Industrial Relations announced this week that California farms will be inspected on a regularly scheduled basis by the Division of Industrial Safety.

The new safety policy for agriculture had been ordered July 1, 1959 by Thomas N. Saunders, chief of the state safety division, Henning said.

In his announcement of the new policy, Henning also declared that:

(1) agriculture was the third most hazardous industry in the state for workers, trailing only mining and logging operations;

(2) while the state safety division has long been active in educational work in agriculture, regular, scheduled inspections of farm employment have not been made in the same pattern as in manufacturing and other industries of the state;

(3) 1958 statistics showed that the injury rate in agriculture was 56 percent above the average of all other industries;

(4) the state safety division also plans to adopt new safety orders which would apply specifically to farms and farm equipment. Meetings on the adoption of new orders will be held later in the year.

NAACP ISSUES SCORECARD ON CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS LEGISLATION

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while 15% of the Republicans voted to defeat the Burns amendment.

A Yes vote on the Burns amendment was considered bad by civil rights groups. The NAACP report shows that of that vote, 15% was cast by Democrats and 77% by Republicans.

In the total score card of the Senate, Democrats cast 79% of their votes, and Republicans 48% of their votes, on the good side.

Out of a total of 24 negative votes cast on four civil rights issues on the Senate floor, Democrats cast 29% bad and Republicans 71% bad.

The NAACP summary of the combined Senate and Assembly record shows that Democrats cast

86% of their votes, and Republicans cast 85% of their votes, in favor of civil rights legislation. The combined negative vote for both houses was 14% by Democrats and 85% by Republicans.

The individual voting records of legislators is available from the regional office of the NAACP at 690 Market Street, San Francisco 4. As a non-partisan organization, the NAACP, like organized labor, does not support candidates on the basis of party affiliation.

Individual civil rights records of legislators will also be available in the 1959 Sacramento Story, to be issued by the California Labor Federation next month.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE IMPROVEMENTS OUTLINED

Better wages for 190,000 low-paid workers and an additional \$28 million a year in purchasing power would result in California from the enactment of the Kennedy-Morse-Roosevelt bill improving the federal wage-hour law, C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said this week.

Haggerty said the cost of these economic gains would be less than one-half of 1 per cent of the state's total wage and salary payrolls.

"Quite apart from the desirability of bringing desperately needed relief to underpaid workers, this measure would clearly stimulate the economy of the whole state," Haggerty said.

"Any contention that any undue burden would be imposed upon business or industry in California is surely dispelled by the estimated effect on payrolls."

The state AFL-CIO leader also

pointed out the importance of fair federal wage-hour standards to state industries.

"We in California are proud that our state has been among the leaders in seeking to provide a living wage for workers," he said. "We also know that many of our fair-minded employers have been threatened by the competition of companies in other parts of the country where wages are below the subsistence level.

"The Kennedy-Morse-Roosevelt bill would not completely prevent this unfair competition, but it would certainly be a step in the right direction. I sincerely hope that every member of Congress from California, regardless of party, will support a bill that serves the best interests of our state as a whole."

The state legislature this year rejected a proposal by Governor Brown to establish a \$1.25 per hour minimum wage in California.

U. S. Decision Favors \$62 Million Ship Construction Contracts For California

The U. S. General Accounting Office this Wednesday announced a decision that appeared to assure California yards of \$62 million in ship construction contracts.

The work involves three freighters for American Mail Lines of Seattle, which would be constructed in San Pedro at a cost of \$35 million, and two freighters for Pacific Far East Lines of San Francisco, which would be built in San Francisco, valued at \$26.7 million.

The favorable decision came when

The favorable decision came when Controller Joseph Campbell, after a week of study of bids and maritime law, upheld the 6 per cent bidding differential allowed West Coast shipyards as a higher cost area in order to maintain healthy shipping facilities in the West.

Application of the differential to ship construction, as distinguished from ship alternations, established a precedent which may presage a pick-up in West Coast shipbuilding.

Last week, C. J. Haggerty, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO,

urged united action by businessmen and labor leaders to secure the \$62 million construction contracts for California.

Haggerty pointed out that California's shipbuilding industry is vital to both the prosperity of the state and the defense of America against its enemies abroad. If this industry was not maintained at full operating capacity, the AFL-CIO leader pointed out, "the state stands to lose millions and millions of dollars necessary for economic growth, and the federal government and the nation as a whole will have dissipated the skilled work force of an industry essential to the defense of our nation."

The \$62 million in construction was vigorously pursued by the Governor's Committee on Ship Construction and Repair, of which Haggerty is a member. A representative committee of state interests was appointed to press for the awarding of the contracts to California shipyards.

It is estimated that the \$62 million in construction work will result in 12 million man-hours of work for the California shipbuilding industry.

California Factory Pay Up in May

Weekly and hourly earnings of manufacturing production workers in California rose to all-time highs in May, according to figures just released by the state Department of Industrial Relations.

Weekly earnings of all factory workers reached a record average of \$102.21 in May, exceeding the previous high established in December, 1958, by 46 cents and the year-ago level by \$6.62.

Average hourly earnings of factory production workers in the state increased to a record high of \$2.53 per hour in May. This was up by 11 cents, or 4½ per cent, from May, 1958.

Among the manufacturing industry groups, the largest year-over-year increase was recorded in primary metals—17 cents per hour. Ranking second was stone-clay-glass with a rise of 16 cents. The petroleum and printing groups each had advances of 15 cents per hour from May, 1958.

Among California's major metropolitan areas, four recorded new highs in average factory-worker hourly earnings in May—Los Angeles-Long Beach, \$2.49 per hour; San Francisco-Oakland, \$2.68 per hour; San Diego, \$2.62 per hour; and San Bernardino-Riverside, \$2.56 per hour.

Factory-worker hourly earnings in May were above a year ago in 8 major metropolitan areas in the state.

Sacramento—up 23 cents per hour, or 9.5 per cent, to \$2.66.
San Bernardino-Riverside—up 15 cents per hour, or 6.2 per cent, to \$2.56.
San Jose—up 15 cents per hour, or 6.2 per cent, to \$2.57.
San Francisco-Oakland—up 15 cents per hour, or 5.9 per cent, to \$2.68.
San Diego—up 13 cents per hour, or 5.2 per cent, to \$2.62.
Stockton—up 10 cents per hour, or 4.4 per cent, to \$2.35.
Los Angeles-Long Beach—up 9 cents per hour, or 3.8 per cent, to \$2.49.
Fresno—up 6 cents per hour, or 2.8 per cent, to \$2.22.

Note: Convention Reservations

Hotel reservations for the Federation's convention, August 10-14, should be made *only* through the San Diego Convention and Tourist Bureau, 924 Second Avenue, San Diego 1, California.

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Support for Anti-Monopoly Protections in San Luis Bill

Labor's battle in Congress and California to remove loopholes which would allow vast enrichment of monopoly landholders who receive state-delivered water from the proposed San Luis project, won additional congressional support this week.

Congressman John F. Shelley (Democrat, San Francisco) announced that he intends to join with other congressmen in efforts to strike from the House version of the San Luis bill a section which would exempt state deliveries from the project from the so-called 160-acre limitation.

Among others who have been actively fighting the battle for anti-monopoly protections are California Congressmen Jeffery Cohelan and George P. Miller, Jr. (Democrats, Alameda County).

The U. S. Senate early this year removed the monopoly loophole in its version of the San Luis bill, when Senators Paul Douglas, Wayne Morse and Richard Neuberger staged a five-day debate to uphold the principles of federal reclamation law.

The House version, H.R. 7155, however, specifically exempts, in Section 7, state water deliveries from the San Luis Project from reclamation law.

Under the San Luis bill, the federal government would be authorized to construct a federal dam for delivery of water to the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. In a cooperative arrangement, the bill also authorizes the state to give additional capacity to the dam for storage and delivery of water to the south, and to highly concentrated landholdings that adjoin the federal service area in the west side and lower end of the San Joaquin Valley.

Although these state deliveries would utilize federal facilities in the San Luis dam, supporters of the San Luis bill without full application of anti-monopoly protections insist on

Labor Department Issues Study on Buying Habits

The U. S. Department of Labor has announced the publication of a study tracing changes in American city workers' buying habits since 1875, which reflects the advancement of living standards won through organization of urban workers.

Urban workers and their families have "remarkably higher living standards" than in early days, the book points out. With increased real earnings, they buy more and have become "the most important group of consumers" in the nation.

The following are some of the facts disclosed in the new publication, available for one dollar a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C.:

- The purchasing power of wages and salaries of average city workers, in terms of constant-buying-power dollars, is roughly three times as great as it was at the beginning of this century. This comparison does not include the added non-monetary income from today's fringe benefits, such as sick leave, paid vacations, and hospitalization.

- Workers now have greater ability to buy goods and services beyond basic necessities. In 1901 the average city worker family spent 43 cents out of each dollar for food. Fifty years later this proportion had dropped to about 30. Similarly the percentage spent on shelter dropped from 24 to 15, and for

clothing from 13 to 12. However, it increased from 20 to more than 40 for such "sundries" as transportation, medical care, and recreation—"in itself a revolutionary rise in living levels," the study notes.

- With the shortening of the workweek by from 15 to 20 hours since 1900, the wage earner today has greater leisure for hobbies, sports, education, and travel, as well as a greater margin of funds with which to enjoy such pursuits. His car and the nation's improved roads offer increased mobility.

- Home ownership is more extensive than in the "good old days." Three-fifths of the nation's dwellings, excluding farms, were occupied by their owners in 1956, as compared with about a half in 1950 and three-eighths in 1901. City workers' homes are better furnished today and have a variety of household equipment which makes it easier to keep the dwellings clean and comfortable.

The new publication also discusses the growth of cities and the movement "from slums to suburbia"; the housewife's job, in 1900 and at present; the modern shift to a more varied and healthful diet; dramatic improvements in clothing, particularly for women and children; and the explosive growth of public and private motor transportation, with its effects on almost all aspects of living.

the fiction that the state portion of the project is entirely free of federal subsidies.

Congressman Shelley wired his support of labor's position to Governor Edmund G. Brown in answer to a wire from the Governor concerning the support of the San Luis Project. Shelley's wire read as follows:

"Your telegram concerning San Luis Project legislation received. I am and always have been firm believer in support of 160-acre limitation law. I approve of Senate action

in striking section 6A (the loophole that was removed in the Senate version) and will join with many other Western Congressmen who will support the amendment to strike amendment from House bill. It is my considered opinion that inclusion of Section 7 is tantamount to repeal of the 160-acre limitation law. Also, I feel that you as Governor should have California legislature adopt a limitation law on distribution of water from state projects."