

## CTA TAKES WALTER COMMITTEE OFF HOOK

The action of the California Teachers Association in relation to the Un-American Activities Committee's recently cancelled witch hunt in the state school system was branded as "irresponsible" by Donald Henry, executive secretary of the California Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.

CTA's executive secretary, Arthur F. Corey, is generally credited with having taken committee chairman Francis E. Walter (D., Pa.) off the hook by suggesting he submit teachers' names and information to local school boards for their investigation. The solon heartily welcomed the opportunity to create such local Walter Committees.

Henry observed that in cooperating with the "forces in our society that would make of us all the managed personnel of a bureaucratic garrison state," the CTA's voice was the only one raised to encourage the committee.

Many of the state's most prominent conservative newspapers and groups were among CTA's sharpest critics.

Speaking editorially of CTA's proposal, the San Jose News declared, "We consider that Corey is as wrong as is the committee, and we say this without hesitancy and on good and proper grounds."

The newspaper stated, "For the usual reasons of gaining headlines, persons of scholarly stature have been rendered odious with absolutely no chance of defending themselves . . . or without the opportunity of confronting their accusers."

The News stated cancellation of hearings made it apparent the committee "does not have the slightest breath of taint to send along to any board of education at all." Belittling the accomplishments of such committees, it asserted "what the Walter Committee has succeeded in doing is an even greater disservice to the rights of the individual."

The editorial concluded, "Now the boards, if they receive the information, scanty as it surely is, will hold sessions and the defendants will have almost no chance to speak publicly and declare themselves untainted. The whole thing is shocking."

A San Francisco Chronicle editorial ended by stating: "Walter, in an attempt to save face, proposed to

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C. J. HAGGERTY  
Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer

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## LABOR DAY MESSAGE-- 1959

C. J. Haggerty, Secretary-Treasurer

The true significance of Labor Day—marking the long history of unpaid work, imprisonment and even bloodshed voluntarily sacrificed by men, women and children to attain a measure of human dignity for all Americans—is too frequently unknown and unappreciated even by members of the labor movement itself.

Yet it is this background, participated in by hundreds of thousands of unsung grass-roots leaders over many decades, which established the underlying foundation from which have flowered California labor's present high levels of wages and working conditions.

Unfortunately it is not necessary to resurrect time-faded memories in presenting a new generation with a picture of the sweat shops and miserable living conditions, the long hours and job tenure dependent completely upon the employer's whim, together with the utter lack of protections against illness or unemployment, which prevailed in industry generally prior to the broad extension of unionism during the late 1930's.

There is no need for speculation as to labor's contribution to the nation's well-being for the simple reason that part of the nineteenth century has survived completely intact and untouched by the collective bargaining and legislative effects of unionism.

The vast army of workers in industrialized agriculture gives the nation an objective basis for evaluating the most likely state of conditions generally had organized labor remained too weak to win some measure of equality in bargaining with industry.

Despite the most backward employment standards to be found anywhere in the economy, the Montgomery Street farmers are chorusing the same warnings of imminent calamity resulting from labor organization as were heard not

so long ago from the representatives of commerce and industry.

A moment's reflection upon the monolithic determination of these non-unionized agricultural corporations to maintain the abject poverty and degradation of the farm worker should give pause to those who have been misled into support of a vindictive measure such as Landrum-Griffin, which President Eisenhower speaks of as a "good beginning" toward effective "labor reform" legislation.

Labor Day last year occurred while the trade union movement was fighting off attempts in California and other states to tighten Taft-Hartley's shackles by implementing that infamous law's standing invitation to the reintroduction of open shop conditions under the misleading title of "Right to Work."

This year the scene has shifted largely to the national level and our holiday will be with us less than a month after the Neanderthal thinkers of the NAM and the Chamber of Commerce have parlayed improper activities of a small minority of union leaders into House approval of the extremely punitive bill co-authored by a Michigan Republican and a Georgia Democrat.

It clearly does not occur to the primitive forces behind Landrum-Griffin that the end product of such legislation will be the touching off of more turbulent labor relations by backing labor into a desperate corner where its very survival is threatened.

The shortsightedness of too much

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of the business community is evident from the eagerness it has recently displayed for harsh and dis-

## Postal and Federal Workers Health Bill Pushed

House approval of health and medical care coverage for the families of postal and other federal employees, similar to existing plans won in much of industry, has been called for in a letter to the state congressional delegation by Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

The Senate has already passed a bill (S. 2162) along these lines. A similar bill (H.R. 8222) is now awaiting House action. It would defray 50% of hospitalization plan costs for postal and federal employees as well as major medical catastrophe insurance coverage.

Acting upon the mandate of the recent Federation convention, Haggerty pointed out the hardships created by illness for such fixed-income employees "whose earnings have again fallen considerably behind the cost of living" despite a substantial rise in their productivity.

He cited other substandard employment practices of the federal government in buttressing the union's position. These include payment of straight-time rates for overtime work by substitute postal employees and failure to extend compensatory time off when holidays fall on a Saturday.

Haggerty declared, "It is improper, in our view, that federal government standards should be permitted to lag behind those firmly established in the rest of our economy."

The postal service's turnover of personnel is again increasing rapidly, with 90% of those who leave giving inadequate salaries and poor working conditions as the cause. The Federation official charged that such "economies" are false and unsound as a heavy turnover is regarded as uneconomic in any business.

criminary anti-labor legislation. Only the necessities imposed by the organization of their labor force have held in check the bitter opposition of these groups to any fair sharing of the fruits of labor productivity.

The genuinely enlightened self-interest of some managements is itself due in no small measure to the gradual reorientation achieved through the collective bargaining process which was once as universally resisted in industry as it is today in agriculture.

Labor Day in 1959 must be the occasion for a firm rededication by those millions who recognize organized labor as the only large-scale social institution seriously involving the active participation of millions of average citizens and, consequently, the leading force for democracy and the common good in our nation.

It must be the occasion for a sober reckoning with the dangers lying ahead and for a serious beginning toward reexamining our own functioning in terms of how well we serve the general citizenry, including the aged, the handicapped, the unorganized and the consumer as well as our own membership. We must start closing the gaps which impair our effectiveness in reaching the public with labor's impressive contributions to the health and security of our economy.

Confronted with a double-pronged industry offensive, both on the legislative front and in its hardening attitude toward collective bargaining concessions, organized labor today faces its greatest challenge in many years. To meet it, labor must and will increasingly discharge its public service obligations, including its responsibility for exposing the actual causes of economic maladjustment such as administrative pricing.

To cope with the formidable problems confronting us on this Labor Day, it will not be enough to simply delegate more responsibility to the leadership. The required job can only be performed by the realization of greater rank-and-file involvement. In harnessing such additional participation, labor can bring about the most effective possible method of insuring against dishonest administration of its affairs.

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transmit to the school boards concerned the names of teachers subpoenaed 'so that they may be interrogated by such a board, which would then transmit to the committee the copy of the transcript of the proceedings.' We would heartily protest such action. The Un-American Activities Committee would have no business with such transcripts; the state is fully capable of running the public schools."

Commenting on the cancellation, an American Civil Liberties Union spokesman stated irreparable injury had already been done to teachers and to public education in California. ACLU is currently seeking an injunction to prevent transmittal of names and allegations to local boards.

California Federation of Teachers' President Lew Eilerman charged that CTA had dignified Walter's "hodge podge of unrelated facts and stale charges." In challenging CTA to help bring the real problems of the schools before the public, the Federation stated further proceedings before school boards "can only intimidate and agitate our teaching staffs, weaken the morale in our schools and cause general confusion and unrest in school districts."

## We Don't Patronize

Striking department store employees of the J. M. McDonald Company in Sacramento won new support in their fight to gain a standard union contract when the firm was placed on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Announcing the step, Federation Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty noted that the strike action is now eleven months old as a result of the company's stubborn insistence in negotiations upon open shop conditions and its refusal to grant numerous standard conditions.

AFL-CIO Retail Clerks' Local Union 588, the only labor organization involved, won an NLRB representation election in April, 1958, by a vote of 15 to 6.

J. M. McDonald Company has been on the "Unfair" list of the Sacramento-Yolo Counties Central Labor Council for about seven months.



# Federation Meet Plots Course on Economic and Social Issues

Basic economic and social welfare issues commanded major attention from the 2,000 delegates to the recent San Diego convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Singled out as the primary causes of inflation and economic imbalance were the Administration's tight money policies and excessive profiteering resulting from administrative pricing. Illustrative of the general failure to share the benefits of higher productivity with workers and consumers was the 1000 per cent rise in U. S. Steel common stock values since 1949.

The convention cautioned that heavy pre-strike stockpiling of steel may have exaggerated the degree of our recovery from recession. It was deeply concerned over persistent high unemployment despite record production and profit levels. The reduced purchasing power of higher dollar incomes in 1958 was noted.

Tight money and "price stability" boosters were depicted as those who regard "steelworkers' \$3.00 an hour as inflationary," while lamenting stockholders' higher dividends as inadequate. Charging that high interest rates are clearly inflationary, delegates called for monetary policies to encourage faster economic growth. It was observed that the Administration's bank-oriented fiscal policies have reduced the economy's rate of growth and brought a record peacetime federal budget deficit of about \$13 billion last year. The cost of the lower growth rate in the past five years was placed at \$212 billion, or \$4200 per family.

This permanent loss could have built a half-million \$12,000 homes and fully equipped hospitals with 900,000 beds, as well as 300,000 new school rooms.

In addition, it could have given teachers a \$1000 a year raise, while doubling highway construction and the benefits of Social Security, unemployment compensation, veterans, widows and orphans programs. At that, \$5 billion would have been left over.

Even though economists attribute the 1957-58 decline to high interest rates, the Administration boosted discount rates back to the same levels recently.

The Federation concluded: "When the liberal leadership decides to challenge the President directly on the 'inflation' and 'spending' issues,

the drift and indecision can be replaced with a dynamic program."

## AFL-CIO Program's Cost

If the major items of the AFL-CIO's comprehensive economic program were adopted, the convention emphasized, the cost would be no more than 3 or 4 per cent of the present budget. Such costs would be easily recaptured by the added income produced by an expanding economy.

Part of the AFL-CIO's program calls for aid to vitally needed public works construction and to economically depressed communities. It demands various protections against windfall profits from federal contracts and representation of consumers, labor and small business on the Federal Reserve Board. The need for developing programs to deal with future recessions is also cited.

California labor warned that automation could prove a curse unless handled wisely through fair sharing of its benefits, establishment of a 35-hour week and provision of adequate retraining programs.

The convention resolved: "There is no excuse and no need for poverty in America today. We have the manpower, the tools and the industrial know-how to wipe out every last vestige of poverty and economic hardship."

## Tax Relief

The Federation condemned the accelerated erosion of the principle of progressive taxation in our federal tax structure under the Eisenhower Administration and the resulting heavier load on lower income groups. In calling for elimination of the numerous loopholes that now exist for the wealthy, it pointed out that the \$8 billion thus saved annually would make possible long overdue tax relief for low and middle incomes.

Notice was taken of the Administration's lack of interest in plugging tax loopholes while calling for balancing the budget through further

# Meany Urges More C.O.P.E. Work

The passage of punitive labor legislation by the House means "we have to do more work" to get more unions involved in the activities of the Committee on Political Education. AFL-CIO President George Meany told a press conference last week.

Meany, after leaving a meeting of the COPE Administrative Committee, said methods of improving political activity had been discussed. The Committee will come up with a further report in January.

The emphasis of organized labor's political activities will remain that of "educating our people" on the issues and the candidates. "We have done this to some extent," Meany declared, "but we must do more of it."

The AFL-CIO President said labor had done better in the 1958 elections than in the past, but "by no means did we win a victory."

As to the relationship between organized labor and the Democratic Party, Meany commented that a victory for the Democrats was not necessarily a victory for labor. "We do not consider ourselves part of the Democratic Party and never will," he said.

consumer levies such as a 1.5-cent hike in gasoline taxes.

Even more bitter criticism was expressed regarding the regressive state tax structure, which extracts almost two-thirds of its revenues from various consumer taxes. Upper income groups pay no sales tax on their savings, but lower income groups pay it on virtually all their income. As a result, California's low and middle income groups pay about a 150 per cent higher effective tax rate than that of wealthy residents.

The Federation pledged itself to a broad program aimed at the earliest possible revision of this uneconomic and inequitable tax structure.

## Civil Rights

In a year marking the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, the AFL-CIO body regretfully noted the continuing gap between our professions and our practices in guaranteeing the most elementary civil rights for all.

Court decisions by themselves, it observed, are not enough to fulfill the promise of America. The Fed-

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## Federation Meet Plots Course on Economic and Social Issues

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eration severely castigated both the Administration and Congress for having failed to provide strong legislation in this area. At the same time, it recognized that progress in human relations was ultimately dependent upon the determined effort of the American people themselves.

It found itself completely in accord with AFL-CIO President George Meany's characterization of racial discrimination as morally reprehensible, politically unjustifiable, economically idiotic, and nationally suicidal. It warned that there is a close link between hate groups such as the White Citizens Councils and the drive to destroy unions.

Attention was focused on the various ways in which racial discrimination works economic injury upon all. The impact of a cheap labor market in the South, perpetuated by manipulation of racial discrimination, upon the livelihoods of textile workers in New England is a classic example. Delegates agreed there can be no real and enduring progress toward raising living standards so long as part of our population is not permitted to share in a better life.

Noting the counterparts in the North of the South's wholesale denial of civil rights, the Federation dedicated itself to "balancing our moral budget" by the complete eradication of discrimination in all phases of our national life.

Endorsing legislative and administrative actions aimed at dealing with all civil rights problems, the convention threw its support behind the Douglas-Celler bill as the most desirable civil rights measure now before Congress. It demanded an end to the thwarting of true majority rule in Congress through various undemocratic procedures such as the filibuster and seniority rule over committee chairmanships which give almost dictatorial power to representatives of "safe" conservative districts.

The widespread pattern of discrimination in housing was denounced as having led California to a near-equivalent of the school segregation practices below the Mason-Dixon Line. This practice constitutes the greatest single barrier to renewing our cities and replacing slums with decent homes. Forty-five per cent of a typical city's tax money is spent in combatting fire, crime, delinquency and disease in slum areas which contribute only 6 per cent of its tax revenues.

### Housing

The Federation saw the recent veto of the extremely modest housing bill as a deliberate flaunting of the will of the people as clearly expressed last November. It termed our housing slums "the nation's foremost unmet material need."

A long-range program involving two million housing starts annually for five years, and even more thereafter, was found to be necessary if we are to make any appreciable dent in the 17 million dwellings which have fallen beyond the hope of rehabilitation.

Despite the obvious need to root out these expanding rural and urban breeding places of crime, disease and ignorance, we built less than one million units in 1957 and only slightly more last year. The continuation of this rate of construction would not even permit us to stand still in view of population growth and the regular annual increment of housing which slides below the level of decency and safety.

Slum removal is bitterly fought by landlords to whom the blighted areas represent a gold mine due to lax enforcement of building codes and the lack of alternative housing accommodations, particularly for minority groups.

Present governmental housing programs are serving only the higher income groups as is evident from the fact that the average home being constructed today is saddled

with a \$15,000 price tag. An income in excess of \$8,000 a year, enjoyed by less than 10 percent of the nation's families is generally regarded as necessary to undertake such a purchase.

In the words of housing expert Charles Abrams, our official housing approach smacks of the philosophy of "socialism for the rich and private enterprise for the poor."

In championing a housing program adequate to the nation's needs, the convention called for the inclusion of at least 200,000 units under the low-rent public housing program. It declared that unless we develop a program of low and middle income housing, urban redevelopment and slum clearance will be slowed because of the obvious injustice of forcefully ejecting families from slums into a housing market which is beyond their means.

Delegates agreed that until private enterprise can make credit and mortgage arrangements available on a reasonable basis, it is the government's responsibility to fill the breach for those who are denied the right to decent housing of their own.

They expressed the conviction that a good housing bill will touch the American economy at more places and more quickly than any other action.

The crux of any comprehensive program which aspires to meeting our housing needs must be the middle income families. In California these are the families with annual incomes ranging from \$4,000 to \$6,000 a year. They constitute almost 40 per cent of the nation's families.

Federal aid to cooperative housing was also encouraged. This approach has proved particularly effective for achieving good homes at moderate prices for middle income groups.