

Young Demos Urge Water Session

The Young Democrats of California gave effective backing to the position of organized labor last weekend when they called upon Governor Edmund G. Brown to convene the legislature in special session next year to establish policies which will govern the proposed \$1.75 billion state water development bond issue program before it goes to a vote at the 1960 general election.

Meeting in Santa Monica on the occasion of their third biennial conference on issues, young Democrats from all over the state discussed the water issue in great detail after hearing a panel of water experts representing various viewpoints.

In their final statement adopted by the issues conference, the young Demos said:

"Testimony of various experts who appeared at the water and power panel confirmed the feelings of young Democrats that the proposed \$1.75 billion Water Resources Bond Act, as presently drawn, contains no financial standards, no regulations on repayment of cost, and no regulations on water and power distribution."

On the subject of enrichment, the report added:

"The vague plans presented by the Department of Water Resources and the pattern of holdings in the San Joaquin Valley indicate that the bond act as now written will provide huge windfalls of subsidy and

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INVITATIONS OUT FOR STATE AFL-CIO EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCES

Invitations to attend two educational conferences sponsored by the state AFL-CIO and the University of California, to be held in Santa Barbara the third week of November, were mailed to all affiliates this Wednesday from the California Labor Federation headquarters in San Francisco.

C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, urged organizations throughout the state to send delegates to "these important conferences":

1. A four-day conference, November 16-19, on the new labor law, which will include a two-day inten-



C. J. HAGGERTY
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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I.W.C. VOTES WAGE BOARD FOR WOMEN AND MINORS IN AGRICULTURE

The Industrial Welfare Commission of California broke with the past last Friday in a history-making decision which has set the stage for the extension of first class citizenship in legal rights and dignity to the state's agricultural workers.

By a vote of three to two, the Commission approved a motion to establish a wage board for women and children in agriculture. Voting for the motion were Chairman John W. Quimby, and Commissioners Mae Stoneman and Frances Larsen. Commissioners Daniel E. Koshland and Virginia Allee opposed the creation of a wage board.

Under the statutory authority of the Commission, the wage board will be required to make recommendations to the Commission on:

(a) A minimum wage "adequate to supply the necessary cost of proper living to, and maintain the health and welfare of women and minors" in agriculture.

(b) The number of hours of work per day "consistent with the health

and welfare" of women and minors employed as farm workers.

(c) The standard conditions of labor "demanded by the health and welfare" of women and minors.

The break-through decision represents the first action taken by the Industrial Welfare Commission to assume its jurisdiction over women and minors in agriculture.

By law, the Commission is charged with the responsibility for establishing minimum wages and other working conditions for women and children in California. Although this authority includes women and minors in agriculture, it had never been invoked prior to Friday's action.

EMOTION-PACKED HEARING

The historic decision followed an emotion-packed session in San Francisco which saw women field workers plead with the Commission to take the first step necessary to correct the scandalous conditions which exist in agricultural labor.

Maria Moreno, a field worker from Stockton and mother of twelve, told the Commission of the starvation conditions under which her family has been seeking to make a living in agriculture. In graphic detail, she spoke of sending her children to school without food, of her nineteen-year-old boy who starved himself to the point of blindness in order to save food for younger children, and of vainly moving from agricultural area to agricultural area to gain employ-

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ment only to find themselves displaced by imported agricultural workers from Mexico.

Other women representing the Packinghouse Workers described in detail the unsanitary health conditions which prevail in the field for women and minors which, in many instances, prohibit the acceptance of employment with males.

Additional testimony was submitted by Henry Anderson, research director of the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee; Ann Draper, representing the California Citizens Committee for Agricultural Labor; Father Donald McDonnell, Director of Region 11, National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

CLIMAX HEARING

The San Francisco meeting was the climax of better than a year and a half of field investigations by the Industrial Welfare Commission during which hearings were held in seven agricultural communities

Invitations Out for State AFL-CIO Conferences

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Santa Barbara where both conferences will take place.

Registration fees have been set at \$10 for the conference on the new labor law, and \$5 for the Labor Press Conference, payable at the opening of the conferences in Santa Barbara.

Registration in each case is separate.

The room reservation form, Haggerty said, should be mailed directly to the Mar Monte Hotel, 1050 Orilla Del Mar, Santa Barbara. Rates are as follows:

Single occupancy accommodation, \$8.00 per night.

Double occupancy accommodation, \$10.00 per night.

Twin occupancy accommodation, \$10.00 per night.

All room reservations are requested to be mailed to the Mar Monte by November 9, 1959.

from El Centro in the south to Marysville in the north.

In a detailed statement submitted by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty reviewed the record of the field hearings "as to whether the wages paid to women and minors in agriculture are adequate to supply the cost of proper living, or whether the hours or conditions of labor are prejudicial to the health, morals and welfare of such workers."

This record firmly establishes, Haggerty said, "that California agriculture is dominated by vastly inadequate wages and conditions which demand the immediate creation of an agricultural wage board."

In previous testimony, the state AFL-CIO leader said, the Federation had pressed its views on the legal and moral obligation of the Commission to the women and minors employed in agriculture. Haggerty's reference was to a Federation statement submitted better than two years ago, when labor insisted that the Commission had jurisdiction over women and children employed on farms.

The question at that time was settled when the Attorney General's office, then under Edmund G. Brown, issued a decision confirming the Commission's jurisdiction.

In subsequent testimony, the Federation had urged the Commission to convene a wage board under its statutory authority for the establishment of minimum wages and working conditions. Instead of establishing such a board, however, the Commission decided to conduct the field investigations which led to Friday's historic decision.

WAGE BOARD COMPOSITION

Under law, the wage board voted by the Commission must be composed of an equal number of representatives of employees and employers in agriculture, and a representative from the general public as chairman. All wage board members are selected by the Industrial Welfare Commission.

It is anticipated that the Commission will meet on November 20 for this purpose.

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unjust enrichment for a few at the expense of every taxpayer in the state—mostly the consumers who now pay the bulk of the state's bills in the form of various sales taxes."

It is inconceivable, the young Demos declared, "that a program of this magnitude and importance in our state should be offered to the people with only vague reports on whether or not the costs will ever be recovered, and whether or not the General Fund will be protected and promoted."

Noting that it was "painfully obvious in the last legislature that the interests which hold huge tracts of land in the San Joaquin Valley have the power to thwart passage of liberal legislation in Sacramento," the young Demos warned:

"It is very doubtful that any effective anti-monopoly protections and sound financial standards on water-power development can be passed through the legislature unless such regulations are tied to the approval of the water-power plan itself."

Once a plan is approved, the young Demos warned, "those favoring regulation will have lost their best and only lever for regulation, and most likely also their only legally sound opportunity to enact anything effective."

In view of this situation, the Demos said there are two alternatives:

"(1) A special session of the state legislature to run concurrently with the 1960 budget session to consider, write and attach to the bond act, regulations on financial feasibility, distribution and repayment. . . .

"(2) If effective anti-monopoly and sound financial regulations are not attached to the bond act before 1960, the California Federation of Young Democrats believes the bond act will go down to a resounding defeat at the polls. . . ."

To be effective, the Demos urged that regulations "must make explicit any direct or indirect subsidies, establish policies on pricing of water and power, provide for public preference in the distribution of electricity, and place restrictions on both the subsidy and the enrichment any one landowner may obtain from state supplied waters."

ECONOMIC GROWTH MORE IMPORTANT THAN PRICE STABILITY

"If a choice must be made, economic growth and full employment should take precedence over strict price stability."

This implied rejection of the Eisenhower Administration's "tight money" policies and preoccupation with "inflation" rather than the nation's sagging economic growth rate was one of the major conclusions arrived at by 60 leaders in business, labor, press, education and government from throughout the west in a four-day conference on "Wages, Prices, Profits and Productivity," held at the Ahwahnee Lodge in Yosemite National Park, October 1-4, 1959.

The California-Western Assembly, as the conference was called, was sponsored by the University of California Institute of Industrial Relations at Berkeley and Los Angeles, and the American Assembly of Columbia University.

(The American Assembly was founded by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1950 when he was President of Columbia University.)

Removed from their day-to-day problems in beautiful Yosemite, the 60 conference participants settled down to three full days of dispassionate round-table discussions on all aspects of wage, price, profit and productivity relationships. On the last morning of the conference, separate round-table discussion reports were synthesized in plenary session into a final report representing the consensus of the assembly.

Highlighting the final report were 15 significant and far-reaching national policy recommendations, as follows:

1. **National economic policy should stress the realization of our growth potential, with price stability remaining an important goal. Price inflation equivalent to that experienced in the last seven years would be acceptable if necessary to achieve a satisfactory level of employment and stable economic growth.** If a slow but steady inflation proves necessary, management, labor and government should cooperate in a search for methods designed to facilitate adjustments for those who depend primarily upon fixed sources of income.

2. Monetary and fiscal measures are important instruments of economic policy. They may prove to be inadequate, however, if cost-push inflation becomes a persistent problem in the future. In this event, **sole reliance upon restraint of demand through general monetary and fiscal measures would jeopardize full employment.**

3. Pockets of unemployment in distressed localities or industries cannot be dealt with effectively by over-all economic policies. They require specific private and public measures oriented to such areas or industries.

4. Direct wage and price controls by government must be rejected as a means of dealing with inflationary tendencies in peacetime.

5. Higher productivity would facilitate the maintenance of price stability under traditional economic policies. The task of raising productivity must be shared by management, labor, and government.

6. We recognize that there must be a steady flow of funds into business investment to insure that capacity expands at a satisfactory rate and that technological changes are incorporated in improved methods of production and in new and improved products. **We also recognize that part of this flow of capital should come from retained net earnings, and that some industries traditionally rely on this source of funds more than others. However, in a lively and sharply divided argument the concept that profits must be high enough to finance corporate expansion primarily from internal funds was questioned. Instead, the majority felt that in our kind of economic system the consumer should not be forced to supply most of the funds for corporate expansion.**

7. Consistent with national security, the United States should continue to maintain a liberal foreign trade policy and to work for the reduction of barriers to international trade. We recognize that further tariff reductions will create difficult problems of adjustment for some firms, industries and communities. Management, labor, and government should cooperate to facilitate these adjustments par-

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"Farm Labor Fact Book" Issued

The growing plight of farm workers as they fall further and further behind most other Americans in the advance of better living and working conditions was underscored this week with the issuance of a new U. S. Department of Labor publication entitled "Farm Labor Fact Book."

The publication is the third of a series on workers in the United States. Others were, "The American Worker Fact Book," a general study, and "How American Buying Habits Change," an analysis of the purchasing habits of American workers in the first half of this century.

The new book describes the many different groups that make up the farm labor force, including operators, unpaid family workers, and hired labor. It gives employment trends, geographic distribution, and earnings and incomes of these groups, with special attention to migrant and foreign hired workers.

In releasing the report, Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell cited figures showing the widening gap in wages and real earnings between hired farm and non-agricultural wage and salary workers.

Hired farm workers averaged 125 days of farm labor in 1957, receiving cash earnings of \$738 a year. Many of them supplemented their income with non-farm jobs. Including time spent in off-farm employment, they averaged 144 days of work in 1957. Their total cash earnings for the year averaged \$892—lower than in any year since 1951.

Migratory workers earned an average of \$859 in 1957 for 131 days of farm and non-farm work. These workers occupy the lowest level of any major group in the American economy, Secretary Mitchell pointed out.

"It is unbelievable," he said, "that the richest nation on earth can tolerate conditions met each day by these migrant workers — low wages, uncertain employment, inadequate housing, and hazardous transportation."

Other significant facts brought out in the new report are as follows:

—The most outstanding users of hired labor are the large-scale

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More Economic Growth

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ticularly through measures that will improve the mobility of both labor and capital.

8. Fair and effective enforcement of the anti-trust laws can contribute to the maintenance of a freely competitive economy. We do not believe that anti-trust policy can cope with short-period increases in the price level, however. We see no merit in the use of anti-trust laws to break up national unions.

9. Procedures should be devised to bring together labor and management representatives to discuss with the appropriate government representatives questions related to prices, wages, productivity, profits and labor mobility and the bearing of these matters on national goals. For such discussions to be effective, they should be accompanied by similar discussions at the regional and local level.

10. The United States should not seek to adopt the system of economy-wide bargaining used in some other countries. Bargaining at the level of the firm, local area, or industry is most compatible with American economic and political institutions.

11. We are somewhat divided as to whether the recent trend toward multi-unit bargaining affects the rate of wage changes. The practice does, however, reflect a logical growth of collective bargaining relationships, and no governmental attempts should be made to interfere with it.

12. Changes in labor productivity are of interest in wage negotiations but cannot be the sole or decisive factor. One limitation is that productivity increases are likely to be attributable in part to the increasing use or quality of other resources for which compensation must be allowed, such as engineers and other salaried personnel, capital goods and raw materials.

13. Wage and price decisions of unions and employers should not be made contingent on prior public in-

Labor Political Action Before U.S. Supreme Court

The United States Supreme Court opened its new term in Washington, D. C., this Monday by agreeing to hand down a ruling of vital importance to labor political action and union security agreements.

The court decided to review a Georgia decision which would drastically curtail political action by labor unions where the use of union dues are involved under a union shop.

Equally at stake is the vitality of union shop agreements. It is contended that the use of members' dues in part for political education activities and support of political candidates violates individual rights where the individual is required to be a union member in a union shop and he does not support the political activities of the union.

The issues are being brought to test under the Railway Labor Act. The case was started in 1953 in Macon, Georgia, by six Southern Railway employees who objected to a union shop agreement signed by the railroad.

An anti-labor Georgia court ruled investigations and reports. Such a procedure would violate the principles of free collective bargaining, and inject political considerations into the relationship between labor and management.

14. Except for periods of rapidly rising demand, long-term contracts embodying deferred or automatic wage adjustments would appear to exert a slight upward pressure on the rate of wage increases. These contracts have, however, made a significant contribution to stable labor relations. In our view, the question of whether or not such contracts are to be adopted should be left to the parties.

15. Labor and management have, on balance, achieved a remarkably good record in resolving their economic differences. Attempts further to reduce the scope of free collective bargaining should be resisted.

that "one who is compelled to contribute the fruits of his labor to support or promote political or economic programs or support candidates for public office is just as much deprived of his freedom of speech as if he were compelled to give his vocal support to doctrines he opposes."

In agreeing to review this Georgia court decision, the U. S. Supreme Court will be considering a "free speech" interpretation which could affect the validity of the union shop and political activities of unions in all industries, and not alone the railroads.

Three years ago, when the U. S. Supreme Court declared union shop pacts legal, the political issue was left in the air.

In that decision, Justice William O. Douglas wrote for a unanimous court: "If the exaction of dues, initiation fees or assessments is used as a cover for forcing ideological conformity or other action in contravention of the First Amendment, this judgment will not prejudice the decision in that case."

The Georgia case will apparently bring the issue to a head.

More Farm Labor Fact Book

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farms. Comprising only 12% of all farms, they accounted for 72% of all hired labor expenditures in 1954. They employed 54% of all hired farm workers when the last census was taken in 1954.

—Imported agricultural workers outnumber domestic migratory workers. Approximately 400,000 domestic workers are engaged in migratory farm work at some time during the year, while imported agricultural workers number some 450,000.

—Children make up a sizeable group of farm workers. In July, 1957, more than one and a half million children 10-15 years of age, worked on farms.