

Assembly Seat Goes To Republican

A Republican, Chet Wolfram, was elected to the State Assembly this Tuesday in a special election in the 56th Assembly District, Los Angeles.

Returns from all 138 precincts gave Wolfram 13,713 votes, against 11,907 for Dr. Philip J. Schlessinger, the COPE-endorsed Democratic candidate.

The special election was called by Governor Brown to fill a vacancy created by the death of Seth J. Johnson (R.) last July.

Schlessinger was the endorsed Democratic candidate and Wolfram the endorsed Republican.

The 56th Assembly District is considered "marginal" with a 31 per cent Democratic registration and a 44 per cent Republican registration. It has traditionally been a Republican district since the last reapportionment.

State Employment Hits 6 Million Mark

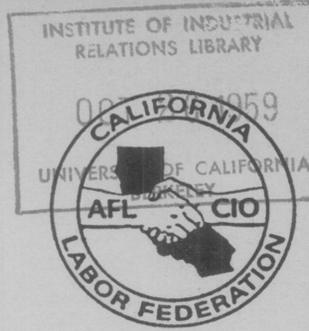
Civilian employment in California last month passed the six million mark for the first time in the state's history, as unemployment declined seasonally in September, it was announced this week by the state Departments of Employment and Industrial Relations.

According to Director of Industrial Relations John F. Henning, employment rose to a new record of 6,028,000 in September, an increase of 76,000 over August. Although somewhat less than the usual seasonal amount, the August to September increase resulted from employment expansion in government with the start of the new school year, and in agriculture. Employment in September 1958 was 5,819,000.

Irving H. Purless, Director of Employment, announced that estimated unemployment in the state declined to 190,000 in September from 212,000 in August, marking the first time in 23 months that the number of jobless dropped below 200,000. In September a year ago, 303,000 persons were seeking work.

September unemployment com-

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C. J. HAGGERTY
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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TAFT-HARTLEY INJUSTICE REVEALED IN STEEL IMPASSE

Organized labor's long-standing complaints against the injunction provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act were driven home this week as President Dwight D. Eisenhower moved to invoke the Act's so-called "emergency injunction" against the Steelworkers.

The move was accompanied by admissions echoed across the nation that the Taft-Hartley Act offers no solution whatsoever to the deadlocked negotiations between the corporate steel giants and the Steelworkers Union.

Announcing the determination of his union to fight the issuance of the injunction, Steelworkers President David J. MacDonald said:

"Such action will resolve nothing . . . it will only prolong and intensify the issues which caused the dispute and forced the shutdown."

After the 80 days, if there is no settlement, MacDonald said that "there can be no doubt that the Steelworkers will fight on for the right to bargain out their conditions of employment, and the wage for which they will sell their labor."

"They will fight on with more determination than ever before . . . we shall keep up the fight until we win," the union leader warned.

The determined stand of the Steelworkers was greeted with enthusiasm by workers across the nation who have been rallying the support of their unions behind the nearly 100-day old strike of the Steelworkers.

In Los Angeles, President Thomas L. Pitts of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, labeled the Eisenhower injunction move as a "deliberate action to break the strike."

"I agree wholeheartedly with AFL-CIO President George Meany," Pitts said, "that the national emergency which exists in the United States is not one measured in tons of stockpiled steel, but rather one of simple justice."

The state labor leader added:

"This national emergency that is suddenly supposed to exist is just so much nonsense. Where were Mr. Eisenhower and his advisors earlier this year when the steel giants were busy building up their stockpiles and planning their phony inflation crusade to force a strike?"

"Now that the steel industry has taken its strike and worked down its stockpiles, the President is apparently ready to jump in under the guise of a 'national emergency' to bail out the industry."

"I am sure the public is not deceived by the President's apparent willingness to compound injustice with injustice against the Steelworkers in order to maintain the profit position of the steel industry."

"There is nothing so pressing in this so-called national emergency," Pitts concluded, "that cannot be resolved by a little bit of honest negotiations on the part of the steel industry, and a determination on the part of the Eisenhower Administration to support the interest of the workers and the public rather than the high-handed policies of the industry."

Now that the Taft-Hartley law has been invoked by the President, the next steps in the T-H emergency procedure are as follows:

—A federal judge will likely issue a temporary back-to-work order immediately, as no judge has ever refused such a request from the government.

—As soon as the order is issued,

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AGRICULTURAL WORKERS CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The National Agricultural Workers Union, AFL-CIO, opened its 25th anniversary celebration last weekend with a public meeting in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Memphis meeting was the first in a series being held throughout the country during October, November and December, commemorating the union, which was founded on a cotton plantation in eastern Arkansas in 1934 by 18 sharecroppers, under the name of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

A national committee of sponsors has been formed to insure nationwide participation in the 25th anniversary celebration.

In California, a special meeting will be held sometime in November in Fresno as part of the celebration. The date is to be announced later.

Heading the national committee of sponsors are Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Dr. Frank P. Graham, former U. S. Senator from North Carolina and long time president of his state's university.

C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, is also among national labor leaders on the sponsoring committee.

The committee of sponsors is publishing a pictorial history of the agricultural workers' movement, and is asking individuals and organizations to contribute by having their greetings and best wishes inserted in the journal. All funds raised in excess of the mailing and printing costs will be turned over to the National Agricultural Workers Union to be used for the welfare of its members.

Speakers at the opening celebration in Memphis last weekend included Norman Thomas, writer, lecturer and long-time socialist leader; Albert Whitehouse, director of the Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO; A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; and John W. Livingstone, director of the AFL-CIO's Department of Organization.

The AFL-CIO convention which met in San Francisco last month ratified a complete program for farm labor which specifically stressed organized labor's determination to

build a National Agricultural Workers' Union.

The AFL-CIO has already begun intensified organization work among employees of the large factory-type farms in California and is reporting significant success under the directorship of Norman Smith in Stockton.

The 25th anniversary celebration of the Agricultural Workers Union is in the nature of a rededication by organized labor to its historic mission of organizing the unorganized, a task which will not be complete until the exploited farm worker is brought under the banner of the AFL-CIO.

T-H Injustice Revealed In Steel Impasse

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the strike must end or the Steelworkers Union would be liable to contempt of court proceedings.

—The court will then hold hearings on issuing a preliminary injunction which would extend the back-to-work period to the full 80 days allowed in the law. Again, no judge has failed to issue this preliminary injunction.

—Immediately upon issuance of the back-to-work order, the Presidential Board of Inquiry reconvenes to resume its study of the strike issues. Both sides of the dispute are supposed to continue bargaining.

—If no agreement is reached within 60 days, the Board reports to the President again, outlining the positions of the parties, and stating the last offer made by the companies.

—Within 15 more days, the NLRB conducts a secret ballot election among Steelworkers to determine if they want to accept the offer.

—Within 5 more days, the NLRB reports the results of the election to the Attorney General, who must then move to dissolve the injunction.

—The union is then free to strike again, and the President is required to report to Congress on the strike, including any recommendations he may deem proper for ending the crisis.

Buying Tips For Consumers

Helping union members get the most out of their hard-earned dollars has been given Number One priority in the development of consumer education programs by organized labor.

Although it is recognized that there can be no short-cut for consumer counseling, there are a number of basic rules which consumers can follow to get the most out of their wage dollars and avoid the more glaring consumer pitfalls, according to Dr. Mildred E. Brady, economist and director of the Consumers Union.

Speaking before the recent Consumer Conference sponsored by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, Mrs. Brady offered these tips to trade union consumers:

Take your time while buying. Don't let any salesman rush you into signing anything. A few hours of shopping can save you many dollars.

Know your goods before buying. Check the ads and read what you can about the product. There are magazines and buying guides, such as Consumer Reports, which give reliable information about products.

Never buy from a door-to-door salesman.

Stay away from credit jewelers. The product is usually inferior, prices much too high and interest charges outrageous.

Never use the interest charging credit plan of the store where you make the purchase.

Take it back if the goods are not satisfactory. Demand your money back or an exchange.

In buying foods, check the private store brands. These are often 20 per cent below national brands in price for the same quality.

Demand fair treatment from utility companies if service or charges are not satisfactory.

Know your meat grades.

Write to your congressman and legislators when laws are proposed or passed which directly affect you as a consumer. Ask him to work for the repeal of such laws as the Fair Trades Act, which removes competition from the market place.

Go yourself or have your union send a representative to hearings on

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State Employment Hits 6 Million Mark

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prised 3.1 per cent of the civilian labor force in the state, compared with 3.4 per cent in August, and 4.9 per cent in September of last year.

Less optimistic developments have characterized reports issued from Washington, D. C.

According to the U. S. Department of Labor's monthly report on the labor force, national unemployment in mid-September has again fallen "less than expected," to 3.2 million jobless workers.

The rate of unemployment, adjusted for seasonal variations, edged upward for the third straight month. It was 5.6 per cent for mid-September, compared to 5.5 per cent in August, 5.1 per cent for July, and 4.9 per cent for June and May.

Employment nationally followed a seasonal change in dropping by 900,000 to 66.3 million, as large numbers of students left the labor force to return to school, according to the report.

The actual decline in unemployment in September totaled 196,000 jobless workers, compared to the expected drop of about 250,000.

Nationally, the unemployment rate in 1959 never has been reduced to pre-recession levels. The adjusted rate rose from a 1957 low of 3.9 per cent in March to 4.5 per cent in September of that year, as the nation moved into recession. Another upward climb from the 1959 low of 4.9 per cent for May and June began in July to 5.1 per cent before the steel strike had a measurable effect on unemployment.

The total U. S. unemployment of 3.2 million workers in September this year compared to 2.5 million for September 1957, and 2.3 million in September 1956. The nation now has 900,000 more unemployed than it had three years ago.

Striking steel workers are not counted as jobless, since technically they are employed.

Peach Growers Fool Public To Hire Mexican Workers

The story of a deliberate hoax perpetrated against the people of California in order to keep migrant labor wages at a bare minimum has been revealed by Ernesto Galarza, National Agricultural Workers Union secretary.

Galarza has documented what he calls the "Great Peach Picker Shortage of 1959" to prove that the state's agricultural interests deliberately misled the public into believing that Mexican labor was essential—at low wages—if the year's peach crop was to be saved.

According to the NAWU official, the hoax started during August when the Associated Farmers of California, Inc., began predicting economic disaster if Mexican workers were not brought into the state to pick the peach crop before it rotted in the orchards.

Galarza claimed that the propaganda campaign had two major purposes: to block unionization of American farm workers by the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee and to provide a surplus labor pool that would permit the growers to establish their own wage rates.

He said that the decision to hold the line on harvesting wages came after the growers and the canners battled over the amount of crop to can and the price to be paid the growers per ton of peaches.

According to Galarza, the fight between the canners and the growers ended with an agreement to destroy a sizable portion of the crop—to stabilize the market—and the canners setting a tonnage price far below recent levels. It was at this point that the growers—faced with the lowest profits in 10 years—decided to benefit at the expense of the workers.

The growers set a wage of 15 cents per box of picked peaches, despite a wage freeze that had persisted for several seasons, and informed domestic workers that they could "take it or leave it." When the workers rejected the wage rate and began to sign union cards, the industry opened its "peach picker shortage" campaign.

Galarza declared that high pres-

sure public relations experts were quick to spread a story of impending economic disaster while the AFCI supplemented this campaign with political pressure at the state capital.

Governor Brown has called the lobbying of the agricultural interests the "toughest" he ever saw.

The campaign ended when the Farm Replacement Service certified the necessity for Mexican National pickers at the growers' prevailing wage of 15 cents per box.

Galarza added that not only were the growers able to recoup their profits at the expense of domestic workers, but the imported Mexican Nationals will now be utilized to keep wages at a minimum in the tomato, almond, prune and grape industries.

Community Services Report Available

AFL-CIO Community Service Activities has just released a 32-page summary of the proceedings of the fourth annual AFL-CIO National Conference on Community Services, held earlier this year in Chicago, Illinois.

The conference report highlights current social welfare issues of special interest to labor organizations. Among these are medical and hospital care, consumer problems, retirement planning, fund-raising for health and welfare, and unemployment assistance.

Ideas set forth by top social agency, governmental and labor leaders speaking at the conference are also presented in the report. A special section of the report is devoted to recommendations on how national and international unions, state and local central labor bodies can strengthen their community services programs.

Single copies of the conference report can be obtained by writing AFL-CIO Community Service Activities, 9 East 40th Street, New York 16, New York.

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Olympics Committee Fighting Discrimination

The organizing committee for the Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley this week announced its determination to fight the possibility of discrimination in housing at the 1960 international event.

Prentice Hale, president of the organizing committee, issued the following statement:

"The organizing committee joins with the California Labor Federation and the Nevada State AFL-CIO in deploring discrimination. No discrimination exists within the area controlled by the organizing committee, VIII Olympic Winter Games at Squaw Valley. Additionally, the organizing committee will do all possible to fight the discrimination wherever the opportunity arises."

The major problem is recognized to exist in the discriminatory practices of motels and hotels located in areas surrounding the Squaw Valley site itself. Especially bad practices are known to exist on the Nevada site, where many visitors will be staying.

President Hale's clear and unyielding statement against discrimination was well received by organized labor.

California Federation of Labor President Thomas L. Pitts, who has been working on the matter to avoid an international incident, said that "the purpose of organized labor in pressing the issue at this time is to encourage preventive action."

"With the cooperation of the organizing committee, as well as the Attorney General and the Governors of both states," Pitts added, "I am confident that steps in the proper direction are being taken by all those involved."

Keen Interest Shown In Coming Conferences

The two recently announced educational conferences sponsored by the state AFL-CIO and the University of California, to be held next month in Santa Barbara, are attracting wide interest.

A four-day conference, November 16-19, on the new labor law will be followed on November 20-21 by the Federation's Tenth Annual Labor Press Conference.

Early response from affiliated organizations indicates that attendance will be large. This places special emphasis on the need to mail room reservation forms by **November 9**.

Send room reservation forms directly to the Mar Monte Hotel, 1050 Orilla Del Mar, Santa Barbara, and advance registration forms to the office of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

TIPS ON CONSUMER BUYING

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milk and utility prices so that the consumers' side can be heard.

Join consumer co-ops. The cooperative way is a fine way to do your buying and makes for real savings.

Ask the doctor who is writing your prescriptions not to use brand names. These are usually much more costly than the compounds used.

Don't pay extra for so-called "premium quality." "Premium" grade products are usually no better, and are often inferior to other grades of the product.

Big Grower Loses Use of Braceros

D'Arrigo Brothers of California, one of California's largest vegetable growers, lost its right to use imported Mexican farm workers on their extensive Santa Clara holdings, it was revealed this Thursday.

Charged with having illegally used Mexican farm workers as construction laborers on D'Arrigo buildings, some 137 Nationals will be removed from the grower's Santa Clara Valley vegetable fields.

In addition, the firm faces a federal investigation with possible extension of the penalty to their huge Imperial farms.

The complaint against D'Arrigo Brothers for violation of Public Law 78, under which Nationals are brought into this country, was filed by the National Agricultural Workers Union.

Under federal law, Mexican farm workers can be brought into this country for specified agricultural work only when domestic workers are unavailable, and at wage rates which will not be adverse to domestics.

In application, however, the law generally has been used to supply large growers with an unlimited quantity of cheap labor. Wage rates are unilaterally established by the growers at levels which render ineffective the prior right to employment supposedly guaranteed domestic farm workers.

Organized labor has long maintained that Mexicans, brought into the country in far greater numbers than needed, are frequently used, when no field work is available, in non-farm jobs such as construction work.