

Labor Press Conference Prog'm Set

The program for the 9th Annual Labor Press Conference sponsored jointly by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and the University of California was announced this week by C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the Federation.

The day-and-a-half conference will take place at the Mar Monte Hotel in Santa Barbara, November 20 and 21, and will follow a four-day conference on the new federal labor law earlier in the week.

Helen Nelson, Governor Brown's recently appointed State Consumer Counsel, will be the featured speaker at a banquet session on Friday night, November 20, on the subject of the labor press and the consumer.

Sessions commence at 9 a.m. Friday, with a discussion on "The Labor Press Today: Which Way to Go?" Sam Eubanks, executive secretary of the San Francisco-Oakland Newspaper Guild, will lead the discussion.

Following a break for coffee, the discussion will be picked up by a panel consisting of Dave Selvin, editor of *San Francisco Labor*; Harry Bernstein, labor editor of the *Los Angeles Examiner*; and Currin V. Shields, associate professor of the Department of Political Science at U. C. L. A.

The afternoon session on Friday will be devoted to "Principles of Communication," with Dr. John L. Clark, San Francisco State College associate professor of Language Arts, as the speaker and discussion leader.

On Saturday morning, November 21, the conference resumes with a session on "Competence of the Labor Editor." Charles Hulten, chairman of the University of California Department of Journalism, will open the discussion session, and will be followed by a panel consisting of George Ballis, editor of the *Valley Labor Citizen*; Louis Burgess, editor of *East Bay Labor Journal*, and Jack Howard, labor editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Adjournment is scheduled for 12 noon.

Advance registration forms have been sent out to all affiliates in the state.



C. J. HAGGERTY
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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RECORD CROWD EXPECTED AT STATE AFL-CIO LABOR LAW CONFERENCE

Better than 200 delegates are expected to attend the four-day conference on the new labor law to be held November 16-19 at the Mar Monte Hotel in Santa Barbara, it was estimated this week by Federation Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty on the basis of advance registration.

The conference opens on Monday morning, November 16th, with a full day of background on the role of labor legislation in the development of the labor movement, followed by two days of intensive analysis of the new labor law, and a day of looking ahead at labor legislation problems.

An impressive array of talent has been assembled as major speakers and discussion leaders to ensure success of the conference.

Included is a battery of eight attorneys: Sam Kagel, Lecturer at U.C. Law School, who will handle the first day's session on the history and development of labor law up to 1959; Federation General Counsel

Charles P. Scully, who will lead the conference in the analysis of the provisions of the new law, plus the following six attorneys who will serve as resource persons in discussion sessions on the new law—Ralph H. Nutter, Roland C. Davis, Jay Darwin, Albert Brundage, Robert Morgan and Lionel Richman.

Three professors—Drs. Benjamin Aaron and Irving Bernstein of the U.C.L.A. Institute of Industrial Relations and Dr. Frederick Myers, of the U.C.L.A. Graduate School of Business Administration, have been

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FEDERATION URGES STATE FAIR TRADE LAW REPEAL

Extravagantly high prices on certain consumer goods were blasted this Thursday by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, in a statement urging repeal of the state's fair trade act.

The demand for repeal, issued by Federation Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty, was presented to the Assembly Interim Committee on Governmental Efficiency and Economy by President Thomas L. Pitts at a hearing in Los Angeles.

The Assembly group is headed by S. C. Masterson, sponsor of unsuccessful repeal legislation in the 1959 session.

The Federation statement pointed to a 1956 Department of Justice study of prices in eight non-fair trade cities as the best indicator of the cost of this price-fixing statute to California consumers.

For those 77 nationally advertised brand items being sold in each of these cities below the price specified

by the manufacturer, consumers had to pay \$1481.73. On the other hand, "fair trade" area consumers paid \$2033.20, an additional average markup of more than 37 per cent.

Since the price situation varied amongst the cities, it is possible that the "fair trade" markup in California is even greater. For example, 121 of the 132 items surveyed sold below "fair trade" prices in Washington, D. C. Capitol consumers paid \$2322.50 for these items. "Fair

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FEDERATION URGES STATE FAIR TRADE LAW REPEAL

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trade" areas marked up this same merchandise an additional 47 per cent to a consumer price of \$3417.79.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council sees "fair trade" markups as being geared to comfortable profits on low-volume sales and certain traditional methods of doing business. The Council has stated:

"The advance in merchandising techniques since the war, the development of self-service facilities, the diversification of lines carried by single retail operators and the development of merchandising policy emphasizing high volume sales at low unit profit makes this type of economic protectionism obsolete."

The Federation saw the spirit of "fair trade" captured in a remark attributed to a business executive several years ago by *Fortune*:

"What every manufacturer wants is monopoly control over a product that costs a dime, sells for a dollar and is habit forming."

The secret ingredient of that formula is monopoly control, the Federation pointed out. The California Fair Trade Act helps make that formula come true for large manufacturers and distributors by enabling them to fix minimum prices for their products upon all retailers simply by signing one of them to such an agreement.

This variety of administered pricing contributes to an imbalance in our economy. Its net effect is inflationary price-wise and depressive to our production and consumption levels.

"Fair trade" pricing of drugs and medicines was termed "particularly obnoxious" to organized labor. Citing a recent study revealing "fair trade" markups of as much as 900 per cent on drug prices, Haggerty's statement noted that such practices fall most severely upon such defenseless low income groups as our retired elderly citizens.

This type of price-fixing legislation was enacted during the depression on the pretext of helping small retailers. The Federation statement termed its results as being of doubtful value. It said:

"Denied the possibility of competing in prices on trade-marked merchandise, the small retailer is left to cope with the superior resources of larger businesses in terms of service, credit, advertising, store ameni-

ties and the sale of 'house brands'...

"Specific remedies against extreme unfair trade practices are or can be made legislatively available, but to enact the principle that any price cut, for any reason, even when due simply to superior operating efficiency, is 'unfair' is to establish that competing in itself is unethical."

Small business under "fair trade" has had to contend with the competition of discount houses created by the price-fixing legislation. It has not been permitted to adjust prices to attract customers or to liquidate slow-moving inventories.

The Federation cited the admission of an executive for a mass retailer that "fair trade" has provided a protective umbrella under which private brands of such retailers can prosper:

"While our values are no greater than would be true if competition

determined prices on manufacturers' brands, the differential in price between the two is much greater and so we have a constantly expanding business at fair profits under our own trade-mark system."

Genuinely constructive aid to small business was urged by the Federation through modification of our tax and credit structure. It also urged encouragement to the formation of small businessmen's associations aimed at more economic mass purchasing practices.

The Assembly Committee was also pressed by the Federation to initiate action by the legislature to memorialize Congress for repeal of present laws sanctioning state "fair trade" statutes. Similar action was urged regarding federal bills which would clamp "fair trade" upon the entire nation at a cost to consumers of as much as ten billion dollars annually.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ISSUES PAMPHLETS ON LABOR LAW

The first 5 in a series of 11 pamphlets designed to explain in non-technical language the provisions of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 have been announced by U. S. Department of Labor.

The first pamphlet deals with the rights assured union members by the reporting requirements and other provisions of the new law.

Areas discussed in this pamphlet include: Equal voting and membership rights; freedom of speech and assembly; rights regarding dues, initiation fees, and assessments; the right to sue; safeguards against arbitrary discipline; the right to receive copies of collective bargaining agreements; the right to be informed by union leaders about the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act; and enforcement of members' rights.

Also described in the pamphlet are other provisions guaranteeing freedom from discipline for exercising rights, freedom from force or violence in exercising rights, the right of democratic union elections, the right to information contained in union reports under the act, the right to verify union reports, the rights of members of unions under trusteeships, and the rights of em-

ployees who are not union members.

The other four pamphlets which were released describe: (1) how union elections are to be conducted under this law, (2) how union funds are to be safeguarded, (3) what reports are required on trusted union organizations and the legal standards for such trusteeships, and (4) what reports are required by the law to be made by labor relations consultants.

The remaining six pamphlets in the series cover such areas as what is generally required of labor unions and management under the law; what reports are required from labor organizations; what reports are required from employers; what reports are required from union officials and employees; a timetable for filing required reports, and the standards established under the law for office-holding in labor-management relations.

The first five pamphlets are available now, and the remaining six will be available by November 15.

Copies of these pamphlets may be obtained from the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor-Management Reports, Washington 25, D. C., or from any one of 24 field offices of the Bureau. Local announcements of availability will be made.

STUDY COMMITTEE URGES PUBLIC LAW 78 IMPROVEMENTS

Substantial improvements in Public Law 78 have been set down as conditions for temporary renewal of the imported farm labor program in 1961, it was disclosed this week in a report by a special committee to Secretary of Labor Mitchell.

Members of the committee are former U. S. Senator from Minnesota Edward J. Thye; Msgr. George G. Higgins of the National Catholic Welfare Conference; Glenn E. Garrett, head of the Good Neighbor Commission and the Texas Council on Migrant Labor, and U.S.C. Chancellor Rufus V. von Kleinsmid.

The committee reported that in some cases U. S. farm workers had their working season shortened, and been deprived of job opportunities, wages and earnings held down by the annual importation of 500,000 Mexican workers.

The report indicated that Mexican Nationals are being used increasingly in year-round and skilled occupations contrary to the original intent of the law.

"Public Law 78 does not limit employment of Mexicans in terms of skills, and in recent years there has been an increasing tendency to use Mexicans in semi-skilled and skilled occupations," it noted.

"In addition to those employed as tractor operators and ranch hands, thousands are engaged in skilled and semi-skilled jobs," the report added.

Wages in activities employing Mexicans were found to have lagged behind those for farm work generally. The study confirmed a tendency by farmers hiring imported workers to pay even less to domestics than is paid by those using American workers only.

In some areas the committee found domestic workers paid 35c and 40c an hour for chopping cotton on the same farms where Mexican workers receive their contract minimum of 50c an hour.

Under the law, imported workers may be used for any commodity deemed "essential." Mitchell's com-

mittee noted: "Since the inception of the law, however, the Secretary of Agriculture has not exercised his discretion to declare any commodities non-essential, even those which are in surplus supply and heavily subsidized. More than 60 per cent of all Mexicans employed at peak season work in crops which are in surplus supply."

The study group found that in cotton, which employs about one-half of the Mexicans, 75 per cent of the cases showed wage rates unchanged or reduced over the period 1953-58.

It was pointed out that one of the reasons domestic workers often do not make themselves available for farm labor is that their "conditions of employment are less satisfactory than those offered foreign workers." Imported workers are given guaranteed employment and free transportation, housing and occupational insurance.

A recommendation was made that the law should clearly confine the use of braceros to necessary crops in temporary labor shortage situations and to unskilled non-machine jobs.

It was urged that the Secretary of Labor be authorized to establish Mexican Nationals' wages at levels high enough to avoid an adverse effect on domestic workers. The Secretary should also be granted the power to set forth such regulations as seem necessary to implement the law's requirements, the report recommended.

Since local pressures can distort the administration of those parts of the program entrusted to state agencies, Mitchell was advised to develop sufficient controls and checks against such possibilities.

Recommendations to give the Secretary authority to insure active competition amongst employers for available domestic workers included

Union Report Forms Announced

John F. Ryan, the U. S. Labor Department's local representative on the recently passed Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act, said in San Francisco this Wednesday his agency had prepared forms on which unions are required to report a description of their organizational structure.

"We expect these Labor Organization Information report-forms to be ready for issuance here in about a week," Ryan said. "At that time we will have set up distribution centers here and elsewhere in the West to ensure the forms are readily available."

Ryan said the reports must be accompanied by a copy of the union constitution and by-laws, together with other information to be specified in a later announcement.

The reports must be submitted to the Labor Department at Washington no later than December 14, 90 days after the signing of the law in mid-September.

safeguarding against wage cuts and extension of guarantees now given braceros to domestics.

The report also advocated empowering the Secretary to set up standards for judging adverse effects upon domestic workers. It proposed establishment of a tripartite advisory group to help guide the program.

The committee concluded, "There is reason to believe that the real or presumed shortage of domestic agricultural labor could in large measure eventually be eliminated if more satisfactory wages and conditions were offered to domestic farm workers and if the farm labor market operated on a more rational basis."

The citizens' committee termed its recommendations "minimal in nature" in that, of themselves, they will not bring about substantial improvements in wages and working conditions nor solve the problems of agricultural manpower.

New Labor Law Conference

Mail your advance registration forms
to the Federation office NOW!

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Demand for Squaw Valley Action Grows

An international incident, growing out of racial discrimination in public accommodations in the area surrounding the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, is a "very real danger" requiring early action, the California Committee for Fair Practices declared today.

"The prevailing unsportsmanlike discriminatory practices in the hotels and motels in the California-Nevada area of the Winter Olympic games are in conflict with the spirit of fair play of that great event," said C. L. Dellums, chairman of the committee.

Court action under the Unruh Civil Rights Act of California and enactment of additional legislation "if necessary," were urged by William Becker and Max Mont, State executive and Southern California coordinator, respectively, of the committee. The Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in the accommodations and facilities provided by "business establishments of every kind whatsoever."

Franklin H. Williams, Chief of the Division of Constitutional Rights in the office of Attorney General Stanley Mosk, is now investigating the situation.

Prentice Hale, President of the Olympics Organizing Committee, was quoted as opposing discrimination. His statement was in response to earlier demands by the California Labor Federation and the Nevada State AFL-CIO for action against discrimination. Mr. Hale stated:

"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 discrimination whenever the opportunity arises."

Record Crowd Expected at Conference

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scheduled to serve as discussion leaders in the Sections on the new labor law.

Andrew J. Biemiller, legislative representative of the national AFL-CIO will be on hand with C. J. Haggerty to lead sessions on the politics of the new law and the road ahead in labor legislation.

State Attorney General Stanley Mosk is scheduled as featured speaker at a luncheon session on Tuesday, November 17, on the related subject of "Labor Law Enforcement in California."

Requests for advanced registrations have been sent out to all affiliated organizations in the state. Those not registering in advance, however, will be able to sign up at the Mar Monte Hotel in Santa Barbara. Registration will begin Sunday evening, the 15th, and continue at 8 a.m. Monday morning, November 16th.

The following is the program outline for the conference:

Monday, November 16, commencing at 9 a.m. and continuing through the day—The History and Development of Labor Law Up to 1959 (an historical review of the development of labor law in the United States, with particular reference to the role of the federal government in labor law legislation, and with specific summaries of the law of federal-state preemption, picketing—including organizational and recognition picketing—secondary boycotts and other subjects)—Sam Kagel, lecturer of the School of Law, University of California, Berkeley.

Tuesday, November 17, morning session—Review of Provisions of The New Law—Charles P. Scully, general counsel of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Tuesday, November 17, luncheon session—State Attorney General Stanley Mosk—Labor Law Enforcement in California.

Tuesday, November 17, afternoon

session—Provisions of The New Labor Law: Section on Bill of Rights, Trusteeship, and Election Provisions.

Discussion leader—Dr. Benjamin Aaron, Associate Director of the Institute of Industrial Relations, U.C.L.A.

Resource Attorneys—Ralph H. Nutter, Los Angeles and Roland C. Davis, San Francisco.

Wednesday, November 18, morning session—The Provisions of The New Labor Law: Section on Reporting and Other Provisions Relating to Safeguards for Labor Organizations.

Discussion leader—Dr. Frederick Myers, Professor, Graduate School of Business Administration, U.C. L.A.

Resource Attorneys—Jay Darwin, San Francisco and Albert Brundage, Los Angeles.

Wednesday, November 18, afternoon session—The Provisions of The New Labor Law: Section on Taft-Hartley Amendments.

Discussion leader—Dr. Irving Bernstein, Research Associate, Institute of Industrial Relations, U.C. L.A.

Resource Attorneys—Robert Morgan, San Jose and Lionel Richman, Los Angeles.

Wednesday, November 18, evening session—The Politics of the New Labor Law—Andrew J. Biemiller, legislative representative of the national AFL-CIO, followed by a panel discussion, C. J. Haggerty and two California Congressmen.

Thursday, November 19, morning session—"The Road Ahead in Federal Legislation," Andrew J. Biemiller. "The Road Ahead in State Legislation," C. J. Haggerty.

Thursday, November 19, afternoon session—"Gaps in Social Legislation. Major speaker (still undetermined).

Conference summary—C. J. Haggerty.

Adjournment—5 p.m.