

Sacramento To Hold '60 Fed. Convention

The 1960 convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO will be held in Sacramento, commencing on the third Monday in August.

The Sacramento site was selected on invitation by the Executive Council of the Federation at its recent meeting in Santa Barbara, in accordance with the authority granted the Council by the 1959 convention in San Diego.

Under the Federation's constitution, the regular date for commencement of the convention is the third Monday in August, which in 1960 will be August 15.

The 1960 convention will be the last annual meeting of the Federation. Unless changed in Sacramento, the constitution provides that, following the 1960 meeting, conventions thereafter shall be biennial.

This means that after the Sacramento convention, the Federation will convene in biennial session every even-numbered year, i.e. 1962, 1964, 1966, etc.

Provision, however, is made for the calling of special conventions by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Executive Council.

More Stringent Anti-Labor Laws To Be Offered

Speaking to "right to work" advocates in Los Angeles recently, California Congressman Edgar Hiestand (R. Pasadena) declared that the Landrum-Griffin Act is "not tough enough", and promised that more stringent anti-labor laws will be introduced when Congress convenes in January.

(Hiestand has an almost 100% anti-labor record. More recently he has been trying to make political mileage by attacking Governor Brown for accepting a contribution from the Teamsters during the last election.)

Hiestand said that bills will be offered to place unions under the anti-trust law, to enact a federal "right to work" law, to outlaw industrywide collective bargaining, to make strike violence a federal of-

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New Labor Law Blocking Welfare Contributions by Unions

The new labor law enacted by Congress this year is having a serious and adverse effect on the operation of many community welfare organizations, it was disclosed this week by C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Particularly hard hit are those groups which draw a large part of their support through voluntary donations by labor organizations, and are dependent, therefore, on the continued generosity of labor for their existence.

The problem, according to Haggerty, lies in section 501(a) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, relating to the so-called fiduciary responsibilities of union officers, agents, shop stewards and other representatives of organized labor.

This section says that it is "the duty of each person, taking into account the special problems and functions of a labor organization, to hold its money and property solely for the benefit of the organization and its members."

Many union officers, anxious to comply with the letter of the law, are interpreting the section as a prohibition against making contributions to community welfare organizations which labor organizations traditionally support.

Appeals for support of welfare organizations are frequently sent out to unions through the national office of the AFL-CIO, the California Labor Federation and central labor councils. As an example of such appeals, the California Labor Federation recently sent out an appeal to all affiliated organizations urging contributions to the City of Hope, a non-sectarian private medical center which provides free care for cancer, leukemia and certain heart, blood and chest diseases.

Another appeal was recently sent out for support of the Boys' Clubs of America in their efforts to estab-

lish a new national headquarters in New York.

Section 501(a), Haggerty said, is just one example of the many confusing provisions in this "poorly drafted law."

Haggerty noted that there are many differing opinions among labor attorneys on the interpretation of section 501(a). After consulting the Federation's general counsel, Haggerty said, "I am convinced that the welfare of the many worthwhile organizations supported by labor demands the most liberal interpretation possible of this section."

While pointing out that it is up to each organization to make its own interpretation of the law on advice of counsel, Haggerty said that, in his opinion, "the statute does not prevent welfare contributions by

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COPE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

James L. McDevitt, director of the national AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education, is urging that all 1959 collections be turned in before the end of the year.

The 1959 COPE voluntary contribution drive will end as of December 31, 1959, he said.

COPE is now planning its 1960 campaign and needs to know what amount of voluntary funds will be available.

Governor Names "Health Needs" Study Group

Governor Edmund G. Brown this Monday announced appointment of a new 17-member Governor's Committee on the Study of Medical Aid and Health in California to undertake a "comprehensive study" of the health needs of all California citizens.

The new advisory group consists largely of medical leaders, state health and welfare officials, and others concerned with health problems.

The Governor asked that the committee "investigate the present provision of health services and their costs, outline a long-range health program and recommend any immediate specific action, including legislation, which would help bring about higher standards of medical and health care for all Californians."

He said the committee should concern itself both with care provided by government and that which is provided under private auspices.

Among the specific problems the Governor said he wants studied are how to expand California's medical and nursing schools; how to improve the quality and quantity of hospital care; the working out of better and wider health insurance

coverage to cope with the rising costs of medical and dental care; and the provision of better health protection for the aged, with special attention to methods of financing.

"Recent decades have brought reassuring and sometimes dramatic achievements in solving the health problems of our people," the Governor said. "But we find that in the midst of achievement, many major problems remain, some of them intensified by the very fact of progress."

He cited the aged who have chronic diseases and migratory workers as examples of segments of the population that do not "now share in the amazing new benefits which medical science can offer."

The Governor also noted that medical authorities report that about 1000 women die in California each year simply because they have failed to obtain early diagnosis and treatment for cancer of the uterus. The treatment is successful in 90 per cent of cases in which there is early diagnosis, he said.

He also commented that new achievements frequently involve very costly medical tools and procedures, and thus make more difficult the problem of meeting the costs of the best modern medical treatment.

The Governor named Dr. Roger O. Egeberg, medical director of the Los Angeles County Department of Charities, as chairman of the group.

Other members named are: Dr. T. Eric Reynolds, of Piedmont, president of the California Medical Association; Dr. Paul Donald Foster, of San Marino, president-elect of the California Medical Association; Dr. Nicholas V. Oddo, of Long Beach, president of the California Osteopath Association; John E. Smits, of Glendale, administrator of Children's Hospital, Los Angeles; Harry Pollard, of Berkeley, labor economist; J. Paul St. Sure, of Piedmont, president of the Pacific Maritime Association in San Francisco; H. Charles Abbott, of Northridge, chairman of the Blue Cross Com-

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"We Don't Patronize"

The Packard Bell Electronics Corporation has been placed on the official "We Don't Patronize" list of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

The action placing the firm on the unfair list, however, is confined to the installation, servicing and repair of radios, television receivers and hi-fi's in San Francisco, Oakland, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

Action was taken by C. J. Haggerty, at the direction of the Federation's Executive Council, after a thorough review of the facts involving a long-standing dispute with the Radio-Television-Appliance Service Engineers, Local 202 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

Welfare Contributions Blocked by New Law

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organized labor under certain circumstances."

According to Haggerty, the statute specifically sets forth the concept that a labor organization has a multiplicity of functions, including its participation in community affairs.

"The fact that labor organizations have so participated in the past is factual evidence that my interpretation of this portion of the statute is correct," Haggerty said.

The AFL-CIO leader concluded as follows:

"Section 501(a) provides that moneys and properties may be expended 'in accordance with its constitution and by-laws and any resolutions of the governing bodies adopted thereunder.'

"In view of the fact that the statute specifically permits action by resolution, it is my opinion that, unless specifically prohibited by the constitution and by-laws, such contributions may be made upon resolution as set forth in the section."

Farm Union Anniversary Celebration Set for April

State celebration of the 25th anniversary of the formation of the National Agricultural Workers Union, originally scheduled for early December in Fresno, has been postponed until April, it was announced this week.

The celebration is being sponsored by a national committee headed by Eleanor Roosevelt, and includes among others, C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

William T. O'Rear, secretary of the Fresno Labor Council, will announce the April date and program at a later time. AFL-CIO Vice President Walter P. Reuther has been scheduled as the principal speaker.

The deadline for receipt of greetings to be inserted in an historical journal to be published by the national sponsoring committee, commemorating the long hard struggle of the farm workers union, has also been extended to December 31. Proceeds from the journal, over and above printing costs, will be presented to the union.

Committee Issues New Farm Labor Report

THE POSITION OF FARM WORKERS, a new report on their status under state and federal laws, was released this week by the National Advisory Committee on Farm Labor, through its co-chairmen, Frank P. Graham and A. Philip Randolph.

The National Advisory Committee is a non-partisan organization determined to focus public attention on the plight of the farm worker.

On the state level, the California Citizens Committee for Agricultural Labor has been established for the same purpose and is working closely with the national committee.

The report states that "the most surprising way in which not only migratory but all farm workers appear to be discriminated against, in comparison with other workers in the United States, is in federal and state legislation that concerns them."

Some highlights of the report are:

Minimum Wage: "Agricultural workers are specifically excluded from the wage and hour provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act."

Unemployment Compensation: "Every state, except Hawaii (and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico), excludes farm labor from coverage under unemployment compensation laws."

Workmen's Compensation: "Agriculture is the third most hazardous industry in the United States in terms of accidents to its participants. . . . Only California, Hawaii, Ohio, (and Puerto Rico) have compulsory workmen's compensation for agricultural workers on the same basis as other workers."

Collective Bargaining: "Farm labor is excluded from all federal legislation that protects the rights of workers in interstate commerce to organize and bargain collectively."

Welfare: "Most states have assistance laws that discriminate against non-residents. Among those Americans who move every year are nearly a million farm workers who follow the crops."

Voting: "One of the reasons that migrants do not enjoy the various benefits now accorded by law to most other workers is their lack of political influence. . . . This results from many interlocking factors. But

it is seen most directly in their inability to vote. . . . Few migrants have the opportunity to fulfill the legal requirements of the home state for voters."

Child Labor: "From 150,000 to 600,000 children of migrant agricultural workers suffer from all the disadvantages and disabilities that handicap the whole migrant community. . . . Two aspects of the migrant situation particularly affect the children and their future. The first is the use of child workers, both legally and illegally. The second is the deprivation of such edu-

cational opportunities as would enable them to make their own lives an improvement over those of their parents."

In releasing the report, Dr. Graham and Mr. Randolph issued the following statement: "Approximately two million Americans are included in this deprived and neglected group. The National Advisory Committee on Farm Labor is convinced that the conscience of an adequately informed American people will not continue to tolerate the conditions presented in this carefully documented study."

Mitchell To Issue Legal Views on Bonding

The Department of Labor expects to issue a set of legal interpretations on the bonding requirements of the new labor law by mid-December, it was announced this week by Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell.

Last week Mitchell said that bonds called for under section 502 of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 are not required until after the beginning of the next fiscal year of the union affected.

In calling attention to the forthcoming legal interpretations, Mitchell branded as "incorrect and misleading" statements by some bonding and surety people about the bonding provisions.

The Secretary said that he has been informed that labor organizations were receiving letters from at

least one such firm stating that the Secretary had ruled that union officials and employees required to be bonded under the law must have such bonds by November 13.

According to Mitchell, this misstatement is causing serious confusion by implying that unless union officials and employees required to be bonded are so bonded immediately, they are in violation of the law.

The Secretary explained that while the bonding provisions of the law became effective the date the law was signed, September 14, 1959, the date when the required bonding protection must be operative depends upon each organization's bookkeeping (fiscal) year.

The Act requires the amount of each bond to be fixed at the beginning of the organization's fiscal year, with the amount based on funds handled in the preceding fiscal year. Thus, Mitchell said, the beginning of the new fiscal year becomes the logical and only date that the bonding provisions can apply.

"It could not well have been intended that the obtaining of a bond would be necessary in advance of the time when it would be possible to know the amount of the bond needed to meet this requirement," Secretary Mitchell declared.

Under the new law, bonds must be written by a corporate surety company in which no labor organization or its representatives have an interest. Such companies must hold a grant of authority from the Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety on federal bonds.

'Health Needs' Study Group

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mission; Mrs. Ernest Lienthal, of San Francisco, a consumer representative; Jack E. A. Stumpf, of San Bernardino, executive director of Community Services of San Bernardino; Stephen I. Zetterberg, of Pomona, attorney and member of the State Board of Health; Dr. Joseph B. Platt, president of Harvey Mudd College, Claremont; State Senator Hugh Fisher of San Diego; Assemblyman Ron Cameron of Whittier.

Ex-officio members are Dr. Malcolm H. Merrill, State Director of Health; Dr. Daniel Blain, State Director of Mental Hygiene, and John Wedemeyer, State Director of Social Welfare.

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FEP Committee Urges Age Discrimination Ban

The California Committee for Fair Practices has called upon the state legislature to include age bias among prohibited employment practices.

William Becker, committee secretary, told the Assembly Interim Committee on Industrial Relations recently that support of an age discrimination ban "is consistent with the FEP approach, which says that no irrelevant factor should bar a person from a job."

The California Committee for Fair Practices is the organization which campaigned for over six years for the enactment of California's new FEP law. It is made up of organizations such as the California Labor Federation, the NAACP, the Jewish Labor Committee, the Community Services organization, the Friends Committee on Legislation, the Japanese-American Citizens League, as well as various church groups.

The following represents the basic position of the committee, as presented by Becker:

"While, in many respects, discrimination because of age is different from discrimination because of race, religion or national origin, we are strongly in favor of including a prohibition against age discrimination in our California FEP law.

"We take this position basically because it is consistent with the FEP approach, which says that no irrelevant factor should bar a person from a job; that merit alone should be the basis for hiring or upgrading.

"Just as race or religion is irrelevant, so the age alone of a job applicant is irrelevant. People of all ages will vary in ability, training, health, strength, etc. and should be judged on their individual merits, regardless of their age, or race or religion.

"It is for these reasons that a number of state anti-discrimination agencies have, in recent years, added age discrimination to their area of concern.

"We are aware that this proposal is only one step toward meeting the problems of the growing number of Americans who are growing older and finding it more and more difficult to maintain a decent livelihood. But it is a step which should be taken."

Anti-Labor Laws

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fense, to ban political use of "compulsory dues" of union members, to outlaw "featherbedding" as working conditions, to outlaw strikes that affect the public welfare, to make mandatory a secret ballot of members before a strike can be called, and to give union members more "control" over conventions and other union affairs.

Taking a political lesson from last November's election, Hiestand cautioned his listeners against using the ballot as a means of enacting anti-labor measures.

He pointed to the overwhelming defeat of the "right to work" measure in California last year, declaring that many "friendly" candidates were defeated when money was siphoned off for the "right to work" fight.

Hiestand specifically urged advocates not to place another Proposition 18 on the ballot in California next year, declaring that "too much is at stake."

Fearful of the public's support of organized labor, Congressman Hiestand instead wants more of the "behind-the-scene" activity that produced the Landrum-Griffin bill in Congress.

"Right to work" forces give indications of following Hiestand's advise. Newsletter last week called attention to a "dear co-worker" letter from the co-called committee for "voluntary unionism" which urged reorganization of "right to work" forces on a broad political front, looking forward to legislative action in Sacramento.

Renewed Demand For Field Sanitation

United Packinghouse Workers of America this week renewed its demand for action at the federal and state level for toilet facilities at all farm locations where produce is being packed for shipment to the consuming public.

The Packinghouse Workers Union, which represents employees in 200 packing sheds handling produce, has repeatedly charged that public health is seriously endangered by the almost total absence of toilet facilities in agricultural field packing operations throughout the state.

Joe Ollman, union director for District 4, said:

"California producers grow and ship more than 50% of the total national production in 23 agricultural crops which go directly from the field to the retail outlets.

"More than one hundred thousand people are involved in the harvesting of these commodities. There is no law on the statute books of California or the nation which requires that toilet facilities be provided for these workers.

"The result is that there is wholesale contamination of raw vegetables and fruit before they reach the consumer's table. This outrageous condition is undoubtedly the cause of the great increase in gastroenteric diseases which in California ranks second as a cause of illness."

Ollman pointed out that his organization has called upon the California State Department of Public Health to sponsor such legislation in the next session of the state legislature. He said that the State of Oregon has passed legislation to that effect this year and that similar legislation would undoubtedly come before the next session of the California legislature.