

NOTICE ON REGISTRATION FOR COPE PRE-PRIMARY CONVENTION

Thos. L. Pitts, California Labor COPE secretary-treasurer, notified all affiliated organizations in connection with the April 21 state pre-primary endorsement convention in San Francisco that a change has been made in the headquarters hotel, for purposes of registration only.

Because of circumstances beyond COPE's control, Pitts said it has been necessary to change the headquarters hotel from the Clift to the Jack Tar Hotel, located at Van Ness and Geary Streets.

Registration for the pre-primary convention will commence on the mezzanine floor of the Jack Tar Hotel at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20, and will continue in the hotel until 10 p.m. that night.

The following morning registration will resume at the convention site, California Hall, Polk and Turk Streets in San Francisco, commencing at 8 a.m. and continuing until the convention sessions start at 10 a.m.

So that the convention may begin at the appointed hour, Pitts urged that delegates make every effort to register in advance at the Jack Tar Hotel.

Immediately prior to the pre-primary convention, the Executive Council of California Labor COPE will be meeting at the Jack Tar Hotel on April 20, to review en-

(Continued on Page 3)

Forand Bill Setback: Backers Are Rallying Forces

The needs of the nation's senior citizens for a minimum program of health care within the framework of the federal Social Security system were subverted to a conscienceless triumvirate of special interests when the House Ways and Means Committee last week rejected by a vote of 17 to 8 the AFL-CIO-backed Forand Bill.

Despite the surrender of the powerful Ways and Means Committee to the dictates of the Eisenhower Administration, the AMA and the private insurance lobby, supporters of the Forand Bill began rallying their forces with prospects for enactment of health care legislation for the aged remaining high this session of Congress.

INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS LIBRARY

APR 12 1960

CALIFORNIA LABOR FEDERATION

THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Weekly News Letter

Vol. 2—No. 11
April 8, 1960

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

151

Mounting State Unemployment; Payment of Extended U. I. Benefits In The Mill

In the face of mounting state unemployment, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, this Tuesday in San Francisco alerted labor organizations that, under the provisions of new legislations enacted by the 1959 session of the legislature, the state is expected to start paying extended U.I. benefits to persons having exhausted their regular jobless benefits

Known as the Miller-Collier Act, the extended duration bill was part of the Federation's U.I. liberalization program enacted at the 1959 session with the strong backing of the Brown Administration.

It provides for the automatic extension of the duration of unemployment insurance benefits for a maximum of thirteen weeks whenever unemployment in the state reaches 6 per cent of the labor force, as determined by the ratio of unemployment insurance claims to covered employment.

In anticipation that the extended benefits would be triggered by the rising unemployment rate, Director

FLASH! As we go to press, extended benefit payments have been declared officially effective by the Department of Employment.

of Employment Irving H. Perluss has announced that local offices of the department throughout the state began this Monday to take extended benefits duration unemployment insurance claims on a provisional basis.

Perluss explained that departmental statisticians have not determined to an absolute certainty what the unemployment percentage for the first quarter of 1960 will be because claims figures for the final week of March have not yet been received from field offices. He expressed the opinion, however, that the unemployment percentage which triggers the Miller-Collier Act into effect would be slightly over 6 per cent.

Marking the first time that the Miller-Collier Act would go into operation, it is estimated that the finding of 6 per cent level of unemployment during the first quarter of this year will provide extended benefits to some 67,500 exhaustees during the second and third quarters of this year, namely between now and September 30.

Claims are being taken on the provisional basis, Perluss said, because if the Miller-Collier Act becomes effective, it will be within the beginning of the April-June quarter.

Persons to whom extended benefits are paid during protracted

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued on Page 2)

Mounting State Unemployment; Payment of Extended U. I. Benefits In The Mill

(Continued from Page 1)

periods of unemployment must meet all the eligibility requirements they meet while drawing on their regular claims. In other words, they must be unemployed, able to work, and available and willing to accept immediate employment; they must search for work themselves, and they must not refuse an offer of suitable employment.

Also, the Miller-Collier Act provides that the extended duration benefits may be paid to an individual who has exhausted his basic benefit and is not available for work because he has entered a bona fide retraining program.

Upon determination that the extended unemployment insurance benefit duration program goes into effect this quarter, it will apply to the following persons:

(1) Those who have exhausted their regular benefits since January 1, 1960, or who exhaust them between April 1 and June 30, 1960, either because their benefit year expired, or because they drew all of the benefits to which they were entitled on their regular claims.

(2) Persons who drew all of the benefits to which they were entitled on their regular claims prior to January 1, 1960, but whose 52-week benefit years have not expired (in other words, who used up their monetary awards before January 1, but have not yet used up the one-year lives of their claims).

Persons who meet the eligibility requirements for an extended duration claim before the June 30, 1960 deadline for filing such a claim may draw on that extended duration claim, if they remain unemployed and otherwise eligible, through September 30, 1960. In no case may a claimant draw more than half the number of weeks of his last regular claim.

Estimates are that most claimants will be entitled to 13 weeks of additional benefits because the duration extension is based on half the number of weeks of the last regular claim's duration, and the duration of most regular claims is 26 weeks. A few regular durations range as low as 12 weeks, however, so that some exhaustees will be

drawing an additional 6 weeks benefits, upon the triggering of the automatic provisions of the Miller-Collier Act.

Growing Unemployment

Secretary-Treasurer Pitts, commenting on the almost certain operation of extended U.I. payments in the state, said:

"While it is somewhat comforting to know that persons exhausting their benefits in California will not be dependent upon the enactment of federal legislation on a temporary basis, as was the case in the last recession, the main problem we face is one of serious and mounting unemployment.

"Every step must be taken in Washington and in Sacramento, without delay, to get the economy back on the road of expansion at a rate necessary to maintain full employment for a growing population."

Underscoring the urgency of the unemployment situation, Governor Brown, this Monday expressed alarm over economic indicators which presage a rise in the jobless rate above 6 percent and a slowdown in economic expansion.

He said that the two principal areas of the state's economy involved are the defense and construction industry, both suffering from adverse federal policies. Brown pointed out that the southern California aircraft industry is suffering from cutbacks in federal contracts without compensating missile orders, but largely because of inadequate Pentagon "planning and phasing of the aircraft and missile production."

"Employment is also down in most areas of the construction business too," the Governor said. "The \$40 million plus cutback in federal highway fund allocations to California is partly responsible, but the big overall problem is the Administration's tight money, high interest policy.

"This policy is especially damaging to California because this is the nation's leading growth economy," he said. "We simply must build to meet our needs, and when the money for construction is not available, California gets hurt."

Dr. Theodore Anderson, Gover-

MINIMUM WAGE CAMPAIGN BANNER

Available from the Federation office for display at union conferences held at the local level, is an attractive eight-foot cloth banner, designed to focus attention on AFL-CIO-backed legislation before Congress to broaden the coverage of the Fair Labor Standards Act and to raise the minimum wage to \$1.25 per hour.

Featuring the slogan "DON'T PASS THE BUCK—PASS THE BUCK AND A QUARTER," the banner is in four colors, and in large lettering identifies the Kennedy-Roosevelt bill as the focus for action letters to representatives in Congress. The banner would be appropriate for use at political action conferences, registration rallies and other moderate to large labor gatherings. Organizations desiring use of the banner should contact Federation offices at 995 Market Street, San Francisco, designating the time and place for the meeting for scheduling purposes.

Also available are several minimum wage posters which can be used effectively in union halls. These posters may be obtained in quantity, without charge, by mailing orders to the Joint Minimum Wage Committee of the AFL-CIO in Washington, D.C.

nor Brown's chief of the state's new Economic Development Agency, also reported that the whole national economy has softened recently, that on a seasonally adjusted basis, industrial production declined nationally in February and again in March.

Although California's February employment was the highest for the month in the state's history, it simply is not keeping pace with the population growth and job requirements, Anderson reported.

Anderson advised the Governor that his new agency is taking a leading role in developing and diversifying the state's economy to reduce California's sensitivity to fluctuating defense contracts."

Forand Bill Setback: Backers Are Rallying Forces

(Continued from Page 1)

ing of the American Society of Internal Medicine that the Forand Bill, characterized as leading the nation "down the primrose path of the welfare state", could still reach the floor of the House if 219 Congressmen petitioned to bring it out.

The bill's sponsor, Aime J. Forand (D., R.I.), has announced that he will seek the necessary signatures for such a "discharge petition." Forand bill supporters point out that the failure of the House Ways and Means Committee to include health care provisions in any Social Security legislation this year would not spell an end to chances in this direction during the current session of Congress.

Any Social Security bill could be open to amendment on the House floor and would be subject to improvement in the Senate, where strong bills for aged medical care sponsored by Kennedy and Humphrey could be added as amendments.

Three leading Democratic presidential aspirants — Senators John F. Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey and Stuart Symington—have announced their wholehearted endorsement of medical care legislation in the upper house of Congress. The three presidential hopefuls, in a giant "Forand Bill Rally" staged in Detroit by the Auto Workers recently,

recently played the opposition of the Eisenhower Administration and pledged themselves to action to get a medical care bill enacted by the Senate.

The temporary setback in the House Ways and Means Committee was not totally unexpected among Forand Bill supporters. Federation Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts interpreted the House Committee action as sounding the alert for intensifying organized labor's letter writing campaign to Congress in support of the legislation.

"The chances are excellent," Pitts said, "that some kind of a Social Security bill is going to reach the floor this election year. Every congressman must be fully advised of the depth of grassroots support among workers for the inclusion of an adequate medical care program for the aged when such a bill reaches the floor."

Pitts added that the ground swell of rank and file support for a health care program for the aged is unmistakably evident in the local demand and distribution of several hundred thousand leaflets in this state, pressing for the enactment of the Forand Bill.

"Not since the passage of the Social Security law has any liberalization amendment drawn such militant support," Pitts said.

NOTICE ON REGISTRATION FOR COPE PRE-PRIMARY CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 1)

dorsement recommendations of local COPE's for submission to the pre-primary convention the following day.

The endorsements will cover some 80 assembly districts, 20 state senatorial districts, and 30 congressional districts.

It was also announced this week that Al Barkan, deputy director of the national AFL-CIO COPE will be on hand to address convention delegates on major political issues facing the nation this presidential election year.

Barkan is a deputy assistant to COPE director James L. McDevitt, who, because of regional COPE meetings scheduled in other parts of the nation, will be unable to be on hand for the California Labor COPE pre-primary convention.

On April 27-28, approximately a week following the California Labor COPE endorsement convention, such an AFL-CIO regional political conference will be held in San Francisco at the Whitcomb Motor Hotel. Open invitations have been extended to all AFL-CIO labor organizations in the state, and also to the wives of trade unionists.

Welfare and Pension Plan Report Filings

The U.S. Department of Labor reminded plan administrators that annual reports due under the Federal Welfare and Pension Plans Disclosure Act must be filed with the department by April 29.

To date the department has received 50,000 reports covering operations of welfare plans providing such benefits as hospitalization and medical care, and of pension plans providing retirement benefits. It is reported, however, that many thousands are still missing. Administrators have 120 days from the end of the year to file their annual reports.

"Imported Colonialism"—U.S. 20th Century Kind

Reiterating California labor's demand to put an end to human exploitation in the fields, the national AFL-CIO this week tagged the federal government program of supplying Mexican workers for corporation farms a form of 20th century "imported colonialism." AFL-CIO Legislative Director, Andrew J. Biemiller, appealed to Congress to overhaul the program to provide protections for American farm workers and gradually end the 18-year-old importation scheme.

It would be "unconscionable," Biemiller told a House Agricultural Subcommittee, to extend even temporarily the program due to expire June 30, 1961, without building in strong safeguards.

Bills to extend the Mexican Import Program beyond 1961 and to trim even the Secretary of Labor's

limited authority over wages and other standards by sharing such authority with the farmer-dominated Department of Agriculture are currently being heard by an agricultural subcommittee headed by Representative E. C. Gathings (D., Ark.).

In a strong statement of opposition, the California Labor Federation last week protested the bills as a Farm Bureau Federation-backed effort to rush the extension bills through Congress this year without adequate hearings. The Federation demanded full scale hearings in California to witness the full magnitude of human exploitation that has taken place under the Mexican National program.

As a minimum, the national AFL-CIO is urging approval of a bill by Representative George McGovern

(Continued on Page 4)

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

'Imported Colonialism'; U.S. 20th Century Kind

(Continued from Page 3)

(D., S.D.) to phase the program out of existence over a five-year period, meanwhile incorporating major safeguards against abuses.

Biemiller said that as the Mexican Import program is gradually ended, the U.S. government should join with Mexico in aiding the country's industry and agriculture to provide job opportunities for returned Mexican workers.

Pointing out that although imported Mexicans are supposed to be used only for emergency labor shortage on essential crops at prevailing rates, Biemiller added that they had been used instead by the thousands in year-round work on skilled and semi-skilled jobs without regard to the prior right of employment of domestic labor and at wage rates which have forced thousands of domestics out of the farm labor market.

Labor's regrets were expressed that Congress did not see fit to meet AFL-CIO's past request for a special committee to investigate "this program of imported colonialism."

However, Biemiller said, a group of consultants named last year by Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell produced a unanimous report that the import program should not be renewed even temporarily unless "substantially amended" to protect domestic workers.

The minimum McGovern bill, backed by the AFL-CIO, would incorporate the consultants' proposals as part of the foreign labor import program.

Meanwhile, it is reported in Washington that an agreement has been reached by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson and Secretary of Labor Mitchell to the effect that the Administration will not support any farm labor legislation this year.

The White House agreement be-

Industrial Relations Librarian
Institute of Industrial Relations
214 California Hall
University of California
Berkeley 4, Calif.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 7085
San Francisco, Cal.

Demand End to McClellan Committee Probe

Joining the AFL-CIO President George Meany in vigorously opposing a Senate resolution to extend the life of the McClellan Special Investigating Committee, the California Labor Federation this Monday wired California Senators Clair Engle and Thomas H. Kuchel urging an emphatic "NO" vote on Senate Resolution 294, presently before the upper house of Congress.

Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts simultaneously called upon central labor bodies throughout the state to take similar action in communicating their views against continuing the life of the McClellan Committee to California's two senators.

Senate Resolution 294 would give the committee a new 12-month lease on life, with \$100,000 to continue investigations.

In pressing for such extension, McClellan has been arguing that his Special Committee should have a "watchdog" role over Labor Department administration of the Landrum-Griffin Act. This points up a basic conflict with the Labor and Public Welfare Committee which previously won Rules Committee clearance for a larger staff to supervise the L-G procedures.

In the Federation's wire to Kuchel and Engle, Pitts set forth the state AFL-CIO position as follows:

1. The committee has had ample opportunity to carry out its investigations and make recommendations for enactment of legislation.

2. Legislation based on the activities of the committee indeed have been enacted into law in the so-called Landrum-Griffin bill.

tween the two secretaries is viewed by Washington observers as having a likely effect of blocking for this session all proposals to alter the existing program of imported Mexican farm labor, to aid domestic migrants, and to establish a minimum wage for agricultural workers.

3. Investigating committees are supposed to be established for a legislative purpose, and disbanded upon completion of that purpose.

Urging an emphatic "no" vote on the extension resolution, the state AFL-CIO leader frankly asked what additional purposes the Committee may have in mind now that the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act has been enacted into law.

The national AFL-CIO similarly challenged the current effort to gain a semi-permanent status for the McClellan Committee "in defiance of all Senate precedent."

In separate wires to all Senators, Meany pointed out that the McClellan Committee was created "as a temporary select committee with an unusually large budget and staff to conduct a particular investigation." He said the committee "completed its investigation many months ago, and Congress enacted legislation based in part" on its findings. Meany added:

"At that point the select committee's legitimate reasons for existence ended."

The San Francisco convention of the national AFL-CIO last year severely criticized the McClellan Committee as degenerating into "an ill-concealed effort to discredit and weaken and, if possible, destroy the free and democratic American trade union movement."

Delegates accused the committee of having been "little more than a vehicle of reactionary elements seeking to discredit" labor for "partisan political purposes."

While concentrating on labor unions and lending itself to the anti-labor activities of the NAM and Chamber of Commerce, the McClellan Committee has virtually ignored the much greater degree of corruption in business and other sectors of the American economy, the AFL-CIO action noted.