

## Kerr-Sproul Special Guests at Haggerty Testimonial Dinners

President Clark Kerr and President Emeritus Robert Gordon Sproul of the University of California will be special guests at the C. J. "Neil" Haggerty Testimonial Dinners for the benefit of the Earl Warren Legal Center, scheduled for San Francisco and Los Angeles next month.

The announcement was made by Thos. L. Pitts, chairman of the Haggerty Testimonial Dinner Committee and secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Twin \$100 a plate dinners have been planned to honor Haggerty, former secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, who was recently elected president of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department in Washington, D.C.

The first dinner will be held May 19 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, and the second has been scheduled for May 23 at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

Net proceeds of the dinners will be given to the Earl Warren Legal Center to help establish on the Berkeley campus of the University of California the first such center in the western states.

According to Pitts, U.C. President Clark Kerr will be the special guest at the Los Angeles dinner and

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## San Luis Project: Who Killed Cock Robin?

By a voice vote last Friday, the House of Representatives Committee on Rules refused to give clearance to the California San Luis Project Authorization Bill (H.R. 7155—Sisk) for House action.

The refusal, interpreted by Washington observers as possibly blocking the federal-state joint project for this year, has Californians asking, "Who killed Cock Robin?"

Under the San Luis bill, provision is made for federal construction of the San Luis unit of the CVP in cooperation with the state, as the San Luis facilities would serve both water deliveries by the federal government on the San Joaquin Valley's west side, and by the state via the San Joaquin Valley—Los An-



THOS. L. PITTS  
Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer

# Weekly News Letter

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APR 19 1960

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY Vol. 2 No. 12  
April 15, 1960

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

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## Record Attendance Expected at COPE Endorsement Convention

Advance registrations indicate that a record 600 delegates will be on hand when the California Labor Council on Political Education convenes in pre-primary convention on April 21, at California Hall, San Francisco, for the purpose of endorsing candidates for the State Senate, Assembly and Congress in the June 7 primary election.

State COPE Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts issued the attendance estimate based on delegates' credentials officially returned to the San Francisco office of COPE by affiliated local organizations.

The endorsement meet will convene at 10 a.m. sharp on the 21st, following a day-long session of the Executive Council of California Labor COPE at the Jack Tar Hotel on April 20.

COPE constitutional procedures call for submission of endorsement recommendations to the convention by the Executive Council, based on a review of recommendations of local labor political action organiza-

tions. Local COPEs are currently interviewing the various candidates who have filed for state and federal district offices.

Labor endorsements in the primary are not official until the pre-primary convention acts.

The biennial political event takes up this year under a convention call which clearly spells out labor's stakes in effective political action.

"No trade unionist today," the secretary-treasurer's convention call states, "can honestly stand up in an assembly of organized labor and maintain the position that we can work for the accomplishment of our economic objectives and at the same time give only lip service to political action."

"If Taft-Hartley was not proof convincing enough," the call adds, "then maybe Landrum-Griffin has at least performed one service for us."

Emphasis is placed on continuing labor's historic non-partisan approach to political action based on the records and positions assumed by the candidates on various issues.

The records of legislators on issues vitally affecting the survival of a free trade union movement are deemed basic to labor's political endorsements. The convention call, however, places equal stress on positive political action:

"We defend the rights of workers, however, only because we are part of a liberal movement in this nation which believes in positive

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# San Luis Project: Who Killed Cock Robin?

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last year succeeded in gaining approval of the House version (H.R. 7155) by the House Interior Committee with the exception provision in the bill. Ever since that action, the measure has been waiting in the House Rules Committee for clearance for floor action.

Senate leaders responsible for securing approval of the San Luis Bill in the upper house served notice that they would not accept any lower house measure that contained the exemption provision engineered by the monopoly interests in the state. In the face of this stand, and because of the importance of the San Luis Project to the overall water development in the state, Congressman Sisk has been seeking clearance of his authorization bill under a House rule for floor debate that would provide for removal of the exemption provision.

California labor has been working closely with the California delegation urging support of Congressman Sisk in his efforts to clean up the bill and secure passage this session. On the other hand, the monopoly interests, with support of the so-called Feather River Project Association, have indicated that they want water development in California in the San Luis Project only on condition that it meets with their monopoly and speculation objectives.

The Kern County Land Company, with hundreds of thousands of acres in the lower end of the Valley, has been working vigorously in Congress to block the measure until assurance is given them that the reclamation law exemption will be retained. Certain southern California interests allied with the big land company have been working in a similar direction. As their captive organization, the promotional group known as the Feather River Project Association (the primary group supporting Governor Brown's \$1.75 billion water bond program) has made it clear recently that it, too, will support only those projects which contemplate multi-million dollar giveaways.

As reported in the March 18 issue of the News Letter, the FRP board of directors adopted a resolution demanding that the San Luis Bill be

killed if the exemption provision for the monopolists is deleted.

In the event that Congress should adopt the San Luis Bill without the escapement provision intact, the Association has taken the position of the big land interests that the state should proceed to construct the San Luis Reservoir and other joint use facilities as part of the state project, with the right of the federal government, as may be agreed upon, to provide the necessary storage capacity therein to serve its so-called federal San Luis area. The tremendous added cost to the state was deemed worthy of the monopoly forces who apparently provide the backdrop for the Feather River Project Association in its vigorous support of the Governor's \$1.75 billion water bond program.

Last week's action by the House Rules Committee brought to the forefront once again the real issues at stake in the California water program as it relates to the San Luis Project. Informed sources in Washington indicate "Cock Robin" was killed by the monopoly interest groups who were responsible for holding the San Luis Project Authorization Bill in Rules Committee.

Although the monopoly stranglehold on the bill has decimated chances of passage this session, Congressman Sisk is pushing to revive the measure with the active support of hard-core water development groups, such as California labor, which have been pressing for comprehensive water resources development over the years against the delaying and divisive tactics of monopoly interests who have not hesitated to stall projects which do not meet with their objectives.

This week Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, communicated with all state AFL-CIO organizations in the western reclamation states, urging that they press their congressmen and the leadership of the House to clear the San Luis Bill for passage as a "clean" measure. Pitts pointed out that the stakes are higher than California water development alone, and that blocking of the San Luis Project may well mean a "no starts" policy

on western reclamation projects for an indefinite period.

"The basic question facing California and other reclamation states," Pitts said, "is whether the monopoly interests are so powerful that they are going to be allowed to dictate the conditions under which basic water development programs may proceed in the West."

Observers familiar with the history of water development in California, both in regard to the Central Valley Project and the planning of the proposed state water program, point out that this is also the basic issue which Governor Brown must face in seeking approval of his water program from the voters this November.

## 'Cabaret' Tax Cut

Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, hailed the signing into law last Friday of a long overdue bill reducing the federal wartime 20-percent "cabaret" tax to 10 percent.

This reduction, the state AFL-CIO leader said, is going to materially ease the employment penalty that has existed in the entertainment field and related occupations since World War II when the tax was enacted.

The Federation was advised immediately of the President's action by California Senator Thomas H. Kuchel, who together with Senator Clair Engle, was urged by the Federation to press for signature by the President.

In an earlier wire to Kuchel and Engle, Pitts pointed out:

"Estimates are that five hundred entertainment places operated by hotels nationally have been forced to close under this oppressive tax, with an estimated loss of jobs numbering 41,000 musicians and 200,000 culinary workers.

"Such unemployment in turn is costing federal government a proportionate loss in income tax revenue amounting to \$11 million in excess of what is presently being collected under the cabaret tax.

"This war tax has no place in a peacetime economy," Pitts said.

## Stockton Farm Worker Mass Arrests Challenged

The latest confirmation of organized grower pressure for local police harassment of domestic farm workers occurred when fifty-five men were arrested last week in Stockton on vagrancy charges. Twenty-seven of the arrests took place on April 6.

Before union officials learned of the development, they were tried the next day and received sentences of 179 days' confinement. Although 178 days of confinement were suspended, the men were all placed on a two-year probation.

A new rash of arrests took place on April 7. AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee Director Norman Smith immediately provided legal counsel for 18 of the 28 workers in this group.

Union consultation with the district attorney's office resulted in the

dropping of charges against ten workers. The other workers represented by AWOC counsel were to appear in court on April 13. There was some indication that their cases would also be dismissed.

Municipal Judge Hugh J. Tye, before whom the men were arraigned, declared, "This is not the usual crop of vagrants and I don't doubt that some of these men were misarrested."

Smith pointed to other recent mass arrests of farm workers in Salinas, Bakersfield, and other areas. He charged, "This is pure connivance between the growers and police to frighten domestic farm workers away from here so they can cry that there is a labor shortage and import more Mexican Nationals."

## Japanese Nationals Operate Struck Shed & Field

Defying the clear provisions of law, an Oxnard area celery packer last week sought to continue his operation by using Japanese and Mexican Nationals after he had or-

dered unionized local workers off the job.

The action was coupled with packer Lester Katsuda's rejection of a United Packinghouse Workers of America, AFL-CIO petition for recognition as collective bargaining representative. Picketing of the celery shed and field began immediately.

Pointing out that domestic workers have prior rights to farm work and that imported labor is supposedly not allowed to be used in strike situations, UPWA International Representative Clive Knowles demanded enforcement of the law by the State Department of Employment. Knowles stated:

"The issue in the Katsuda strike is that foreign workers are being used to break a strike of American farm workers. Last year over 150,000 foreign workers were brought into California.

"Now, with the blessing of Secretary of Labor Mitchell, Japanese Nationals are being used as strike-breakers.

"Domestic workers are supposed to have first chance at work and to get the best jobs. Mr. Katsuda's idea is to hire domestic workers last, if at all, and give them the worst jobs."

## Lawmakers Wind Up Special Session

### *Allow Rees-Doyle Act to Expire*

The California legislature last Thursday wound up its special session called by Governor Brown with the passage of what the Governor labeled two "historic" pieces of legislation in the fields of higher education and smog control.

Down the drain with the session's end went AB 23 (Rees), which would have continued a watered-down version of the so-called Rees-Doyle Health and Welfare Supervision Act beyond its automatic expiration date of June 30, 1960. The measure, after getting a "do pass" recommendation from the Assembly Committee on Finance and Insurance, on its third time at bat, was allowed to die in the lower house Ways and Means Committee.

Death of the state supervision act means the end of possible dual regulations in conflict with the federal Health and Welfare Disclosure Act passed by Congress a few years ago.

### **Higher Education**

The master plan for higher education, as finally approved in SB 33 (Miller), retains legislative control over state colleges under a separate board set-up. The Miller bill differs primarily from the original proposal of educators submitted by Brown to the legislature in that it places the higher education program in the statutes instead of the state constitution.

The Miller bill is designed to provide a coordinated approach to higher education, dividing functions between the junior colleges, the state colleges and the University of California. One of its major features is the separation of state college administration from the State Board of Education.

The measure would create a 16-member board of trustees over state colleges, to be appointed for eight-year terms by the Governor. The state college board would be allowed to run the institutions in much the same manner as the University of California is now administered.

The bill also creates a coordinating council for higher education

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## Kerr-Sproul Special Guests at Haggerty Testimonial Dinner

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President Emeritus Robert Gordon Sproul will be special guest at the San Francisco dinner. Haggerty is a Regent of the University of California, appointed to that post by Chief Justice Earl Warren when he was Governor of California.

Tickets for both dinners may be obtained by sending checks to the Committee for the C. J. "Neil" Haggerty Dinner, 995 Market Street, Room 310, San Francisco 3, California, indicating the location of the dinner to be attended.

Any organization that buys ten or more tickets will have its name engraved on a metal plaque which will be permanently located in the Hall of Founders of the main conference building of the Legal Center.

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## Lawmakers Wind Up Special Session: Education, Smog Bills Pass

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comprised of three representatives each from the University of California, the state colleges, junior colleges and private institutions. It is declared the policy of the legislature not to authorize or acquire any sites for new institutions of higher education unless recommended by this coordinating council.

The coordinating council's major functions include (1) review of the annual budget and state outlay requests of the University and state colleges, (2) recommendation to the Governor and the legislature at each general session of its findings on the functions and programs of the several segments of higher education, and (3) development of plans for the orderly growth of public higher education, with recommendation on the need for and location of new facilities and programs.

### Anti-Smog Bill

With unexpected ease, the state Senate gave its blessings and sent to the Governor a bill requiring anti-smog devices on autos in the state upon approval of two or more anti-smog devices by a state Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Board.

Embodied in AB 17 (Cameron), the measure provides for the installation of smog-control devices on all new automobiles in California one year after certification of the devices by the state. Used cars would be required to have the equipment only in those counties which have a smog problem as determined by the board of supervisors.

It is estimated that the cost of smog devices will range from \$75 to \$150.

### Other Measures

Among other measures enacted by the special session of the legislature were the following:

AB 10 (Donohoe) increases the number and liberalizes the amount of state scholarships available to high school students entering college.

AB 14 (Ernest R. Geddes) Permits cities and counties to create pedestrian malls.

AB 34 (Rees) Makes emergency appropriation to the Department of Employment for the purposes of administration of unemployment compensation under the extended duration benefits bill which has just gone into operation.

AB 38 (Hanna) Allows a state college employee to retain accumulated employee rights when he transfers to a newly-established state college before or during its first three academic years when the program of the new college was limited, in its first year, to off-campus educational programs.

AB 84 and AB 85 (Hanna) Curb operation of so-called "ten-percenters" in second deeds of trust in the housing mortgage field.

ACA (4) Frew) Provides for \$400 million bond issue at primary election for state Veterans Farm and Home Purchase program.

AJR 1 (Burton) Urges Congress to enact legislation extending to states the opportunity to integrate public retirement systems with federal OASDI provisions of the Social Security Act.

House Resolution 30 (Charles H. Wilson) Recommends that parties engaged in the labor dispute concerning the L.A. Metropolitan Transit Authority promptly arbitrate all matters in dispute.

SB 60 (O'Sullivan) Requires candidates at primary election to obtain the nomination of the party with which he is registered as affiliated as a condition to obtaining the nomination of the opposing party.

SB 77 (Cobey) Extends closing date for filing of candidates in the 38th Assembly District because of the death of Assemblywoman Dorothy Donohoe, following the official closing date of April 1.

SCA 2 (Dilworth) Provides for \$300 million state bond issue for school house construction at the primary election.

SJR 1 (McBride) Urges President and Congress to adopt amendments to the Social Security Act to permit public employees who enter the OASDI system prior to 1962 to have retroactive coverage from January 1, 1956.

SJR 4 (Collier) Urges Congress to repeal the excise tax on the transportation of persons.

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**programs for a more prosperous nation under which workers can realize their hopes and aspirations. Our endorsements politically, therefore, must also reflect labor's positive program for America."**

Advance registration of delegates will commence Wednesday morning, April 20 at 10 a.m. on the mezzanine floor of the Jack Tar Hotel, and will continue until 10 p.m. that night. On the morning of the con-

vention, registration will resume at 8 a.m. at California Hall, continuing until the convention opens at 10 a.m.

The opening session will feature an address by Al Barkan, associate director of AFL-CIO COPE from Washington on major political issues facing workers and voters generally this election year.

All convention sessions will be presided over by President Albin J. Gruhn.