

Apprenticeship Meet Forms Permanent Body

A permanent State Conference on Apprenticeship to develop and expand apprenticeship training was formally established at the conclusion of the California Conference on Apprenticeship held in San Francisco May 18-20.

Composed of members of the California Apprenticeship Council, all apprenticeship committees in California, and other organizations interested in apprenticeship, the new permanent body will hold general meetings every two years.

The Conference, which explored apprenticeship and manpower needs, attracted more than 1200 representatives from California, the twelve Western, and other States.

Exploring the theme "Apprenticeship Faces a New Decade" the opening session of the Conference highlighted the general problems facing the nation in the '60's. The afternoon session concerned itself with the factors in training and California's need for skilled craftsmen.

Problem-solving Workshops exploring all facets of apprenticeship training was the activity on the second day. On the closing day representatives from labor and management attended Industry Conferences, which were devoted to particular problems to their industry.

(Continued on Page 3)

Public Employee Rights Legislation Held Applicable to Chartered Cities

A significant opinion was issued this week by State Attorney General Stanley Mosk interpreting the scope of application of state legislation affecting public employee rights to form or join bona fide labor organizations.

Although confined specifically to firefighter legislation sponsored by the California Labor Federation and enacted by the 1959 state legislature, the Attorney General's opinion is considered important to all public employees on the question of whether organizational rights legislation passed by the state can be applied to chartered cities.

This question has been one of the major issues holding up general legislation affecting public employee rights.

The firefighter law involved in the ruling concerns a new chapter added to the Labor Code last year,



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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151

Pitts Alerts Unions on Time Off for Voting Rights

With the June 7 primary election less than two weeks off, Federation Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts this week urged local organizations to acquaint members with their "time-off" rights for voting under state law.

The State Election Code gives an individual employee the right to take off as much time as will enable him to vote, but not more than two hours of such time may be taken without loss of pay. There are conditions, however, attached to the exercise of this limited right, Pitts cautioned.

1. The time off must be at the beginning or end of the employee's regular working shift "whichever allows him the most time for voting and the least time off from his regular working shift, unless otherwise mutually agreed."

2. The employee must inform his employer on or by the third working day prior to the day of election (Thursday, June 2) that he will need the time to enable him to vote on election day in order to meet the requirements of a two-day notice in the law.

3. The employer also is required

to post notice ten days prior to the election at the place of work, setting forth the provisions of the Election Code governing voting time off.

The above requirements have been affirmed by Attorney General Stanley Mosk in a release advising employees of their interests.

Time-off rights are contained in Section 5699 of the Election Code as amended in 1957. The section reads as follows:

"If a registered voter does not have sufficient time outside of his working hours within which to vote at any general, direct primary or presidential primary election, he may, without loss of pay, take off so much working time as will, when added to his voting time outside his working hours, enable him to vote.

"An Employee may take off so much time as will enable him to vote, but not more than two hours of which shall be without loss of pay; provided, that he shall be allowed time off for voting only at the beginning or end of his regular working shift, whichever allows him the most free time for voting and the least time off from his regular working shift, unless otherwise mutually agreed.

"If the employee on the third working day prior to the day of election, knows or has reason to believe, that he will need time off to enable him to vote on election day, he shall give his employer at least two working days' notice that he desires time off in accordance with the provisions of this section."

(Continued on Page 4)

'Prosperity' Major Issue in 1960 Election Campaigns

As the nation prepares itself for the presidential nomination conventions this summer of the Republican and Democratic parties, it is evident that one of the major campaign issues will bring focus on the nation's so-called "prosperity."

Underscoring the issue, the Public Affairs Institute in Washington, D.C., has released a new pamphlet entitled "The Prosperity Issue in the 1960 Elections," prepared by the noted economist Dr. W. S. Woytinsky.

The 36-page study reviews the claims of party leaders and comes up with some figures that are likely to stir the ire of Republicans. Included are the following:

Per capita disposable personal income, a true measure of the well-being of consumers, had an annual rate of growth of 1.5 percent during the years of the Eisenhower administration, 1953-59, as compared with 2.6 percent during the last four years of the Truman administration just preceding it.

Industrial production per capita gained annually 3.3 percent in the last six years of the Democratic administration under Truman, but there was no real gain and actually a loss in per capita industrial production during the six years of the Republican administration.

National production per capita (GNP in constant dollars) expanded

at an annual rate of 4.3 percent during the years of the New and Fair Deals, from 1933 to 1953; but only inched along at an annual growth rate of 0.74 percent during the years of the present Administration, from 1953-1959.

In 1959, our **per capita output in manufacturing and mining** was no higher than it was six years earlier when the Republicans took office.

In terms of **per capita national income** the rate of annual growth in the healthy calendar quarters not suffering from recession effects during the Democratic administration was 4.0 percent; during the Republican administration it was 1.5 percent.

The Rockefeller Brothers Report indicated the annual rate of growth of the economy required to use our growing manpower and resources would average 4 percent. The rate of growth during the last Democratic administration reached that figure; that of the Republicans fell far below it.

Dr. Woytinsky devotes a chapter to the discussion of "Inflation—The Great Crusade," in which he shows the BLS consumers price index moved upward 9 percent during the six Republican years 1953-59 as compared with a consumers price rise of 8 percent during the preceding six years of Democratic rule, 1947-53.

This eminent economist declares that: "There was no inflation, and no serious danger of inflation in the United States since the end of World War II, except a minor inflationary wave originated by the Korean campaign. The slightly upward trend in prices was not inflationary and did not endanger the economy. Finally, throttling the national economy and preventing its normal development is a much greater evil for the nation than a moderate rise in prices that may accompany rapid economic progress."

He sums up: "An advance in prices by one percent a year while real national income advances 4.5 percent is no threat to the nation—and this has been the pattern of 1947-53. An advance of 1.4 percent in the cost of living while the real national product advances annually 2.4 percent and the Administration tries to prevent its more rapid growth, is a sad and dangerous situation. And such has been the record of 1953-59."

Drug Probe Shows High Prices, Profits

New federal laws may be necessary to protect the American people from the monopolistic practices of drug manufacturers, and existing laws should be more vigorously enforced to stop profiteering and misleading advertising, the AFL-CIO has declared.

The continuing investigation of the Senate anti-trust subcommittee headed by Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.), commented *Economic Trends and Outlook*, publication of the AFL-CIO Committee on Economic Policy, "has already shown that the American people are paying vastly inflated prices for prescription drugs because of the policies and practices of the large drug manufacturers."

These practices, the AFL-CIO charged, "maintain uniform high prices, extraordinary profits, exaggerated advertising claims, and great expenses for advertising and promotion aimed at convincing doctors to prescribe drugs by their brand names."

The AFL-CIO said the government so far "has failed" to protect consumers against these practices.

The gap between the production cost of prescription drugs and their sales price is "staggering," the AFL-CIO said.

The Senate hearings showed that the drug prednisolone cost \$1.57 per 100 tablets to produce and bottle. This amount sold for \$17.90 to druggists and \$29.83 to consumers, according to staff testimony, the AFL-CIO said.

"The difference between the \$1.57 production cost and the \$17.90 wholesale price is mainly

composed of extraordinary profits and the substantial expense of propagandizing the nation's physicians," the AFL-CIO said.

The analysis said that, in 1959, the after-tax profits of 27 top drug-makers were 21.9 percent of their net assets or nearly double the 11.6 percent profit rate of some 2,000 leading manufacturers.

Profits Exceeded Investments

The Kefauver hearings showed, the AFL-CIO said, that a banking group which bought the war-seized Schering Corp. from the government's Alien Property Custodian for \$29 million in 1952 had run up \$32 million in after-tax profits in five and one-half years.

High prices are maintained not only by "extraordinary profits" but also by great expenditures for advertising and promotion, the analysis said.

The AFL-CIO said the Kefauver hearings revealed that the 20 largest drug manufacturers spend 24 cents of each sales dollar on advertising and promotion, compared to 6.4 cents for research. This means about one-half billion dollars a year out of a sales volume of \$2 billion, the AFL-CIO added.

Apprenticeship Opportunities For Minorities

An eight-point program to expand opportunities in the apprenticeship and specialty trades for all youths, irrespective of race, color or creed, was advanced last week at a day-long workshop session of the California Apprenticeship Conference held in San Francisco.

Consistent with the conference theme of developing programs for action, the minority problems workshop focused its attention on "positive" approaches to the discrimination problem.

Albin J. Gruhn, California Labor Federation President and chairman of the state AFL-CIO Civil Rights Committee, led discussion sessions of the workshop.

J. J. Christian, Federation V-P and Secretary of the Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council, presided over the workshop with Eddy Feldman of the furniture industry.

Labor panelists included: C. R. Bartalini, President, State Council of Carpenters; T. E. Sanford, Carpenters Local No. 299; Spencer Wiley, U.A.W.; C. L. Dellums, Sleeping Car Porters.

The action program called for:

1. Establishment of a central point of information on all phases of apprenticeship and specialty training under the direction of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards which would provide the necessary information to prospective apprentices and trainees on (1) Opportunities for training and placement, (2) Qualifications for training and placement, and (3) Long range benefits received from said training and placement.

2. Establishment of coordination between the various state agencies such as the Division of Apprenticeship Standards, Division of Fair Employment Practices, Department of Employment, Board of Education, along with the California Labor Federation, employer organizations, and minority group organizations in order to expand opportunities for training and placement of youth irrespective of race, color, or creed in the apprenticeship and specialty trades by holding periodic conferences on state and local levels of the above named agencies and organizations and their local counterparts. These confer-

ences to promote a greater acceptance by employers and labor to the need and advantage of apprenticeship and specialty training programs in their respective industries

3. Establishment of vocational education councils composed of equal representation from management and labor in every high school district in California to promote the vocational education program which is the base for apprenticeship and specialty training.

4. Use by the Governor of his good office to assist the state agencies in the development of the coordination necessary to effectively cope with the problem of discrimination in the apprentice and specialty training program.

5. Establishment through the Division of Apprenticeship Standards and the local Joint Apprenticeship Council of an effective publicity program through all news mediums for the dissemination of information on apprenticeship and specialty training opportunities for all youth irrespective of race, color, or creed; with special emphasis on the non-discrimination factor of this training program.

6. Development of a program by the California Apprenticeship Council and the Division of Apprenticeship Standards to stimulate interest among minority group youth in apprenticeship programs and foster additional opportunities by encouraging the establishment of permanent relationships between JACs and minority group civic organizations and furnish apprenticeship information to these organizations through speakers, literature and personal contacts.

7. Initiation by the Division of Apprenticeship Standards of a survey of minority apprentices by craft so that it will know where progress has been made and where problems, if any, exist. We urge that this be done again periodically so that progress can be plotted.

8. Provision that in future conferences or meetings of the Apprenticeship Council, the subject matter of minority group problems and their relationship to apprenticeship training be presented in such a way that the entire conference will have an opportunity to participate directly on this important sub-

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(Continued from Page 1)

Some eighteen such Conferences were held.

As a result of discussions of the nine Workshops and eighteen Industry Conferences, the following resolutions were adopted:

That civil service apprenticeship programs be approved only when they meet prevailing apprenticeship standards in industry;

That the Conference create a study committee on the employment of minorities to support continuing programs, encouraging the employment of apprentices by contractors on state, county, and municipal projects (See story, this page);

A permanent committee be formed to study the question of "Jobs for Apprentices" by the California Conference on Apprenticeship;

That the Conference oppose fees for classes in vocational and academic courses offered by junior colleges and adult evening schools;

That the California Apprenticeship Council urge the California State Board of Education to make mathematics a required course of study in high school.

ject matter which vitally affects every phase of the conference and not tied to any one particular area or craft.

Gruhn praised the program adopted by the workshop "as coming to grips with the knotty problems that plague minority youths seeking job opportunities in the skilled trades."

The action, he said, is fully consistent with the emphasis the state AFL-CIO Committee on Civil Rights is placing on discrimination problems in the apprenticeship programs.

William Becker and Max Mont, area representatives of the Jewish Labor Committee, noted that the program emphasizes the importance of cooperation between all groups concerned with equal opportunities so that real progress can be made. Both Becker and Mont were among panelists participating in the workshop.

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Public Employee Rights Legislation Applicable

(Continued from Page 1)

recognize the new state law.

Mosk's decision in sustaining the rights of firefighters to form or join bona fide labor organizations met the issue head on.

In ruling that the code applies to chartered cities, the Attorney General pointed out that in areas where a conflict exists between an act of the legislature and a city charter provision, the legislature will prevail except in matters of strictly local concern.

When the subject is a matter of both state and municipal concern, once the legislature acts, any act of the municipality in conflict becomes void, Mosk said.

"Whatever the general policy with regard to the recognition of governmental employees' labor organizations has been, the state legislature in Labor Code sections 1960 through 1963 has announced a different policy with regard to firefighters," states the opinion. The legislature, it was noted, has also provided that employees subject to the terms of these sections "shall not have the right to strike or to recognize a picket while in the course of the performance of their official duties."

"Recognizing that the field encompassing the right of individual workmen to be free to organize and join labor unions is a matter of more than strictly local concern, sections 1960 through 1963 guaranteeing the right to firefighters will prevail over conflicting laws of chartered as well as unchartered cities and counties," the opinion concluded.

The ruling was prepared by Deputy Attorney General James A. Gaughran of San Francisco. It is contained in Opinion No. 59/270, which may be obtained by writing to the state Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, State Building, San Francisco.

FILMS ON LABOR'S POLITICAL ACTION

Order the following from the AFL-CIO Film Division, 815 - 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

THE WISCONSIN STORY. 16 min. Rental \$2.50. Produced by Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, 1958.

Shows how union membership lists and their families are checked against city and county registration lists, how new registration or changes are pushed, and the techniques for getting out the vote. This film emphasizes the "telephone brigades" which were organized by the Women's Activities Division of COPE in Wisconsin and the need for pinpointing labor efforts in the precincts where working people live.

BUILDING UNION PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS. 28 min. Rental \$3.00. Produced by the United Steelworkers of America.

This is a story of how a union member gets active in politics. He is moved by his personal interests—fishing and supplementary unemployment compensation. He stops taking things for granted and starts doing something. He becomes the local's representative in an election campaign for a state assemblyman.

YOU CAN DO IT. 10 min. Rental \$2.00. Produced by UAW, 1952.

Film stimulates an interest in politics. Talks about why half our population stays away from the polls. Stresses the fact that government is a servant of the social and economic groups that work at politics. Points up the role of the individual in establishing group pressures.

YOU CAN WIN ELECTIONS. 25 min. Rental \$3.00. Produced by Roosevelt University and the Independent Voters of Illinois, 1954.

One person's vote has and may change an election. How to get that vote and others is the story of this film. It tells of four steps that need to be taken from door-to-door in each precinct. Excellent film for training and encouraging the local union members to help get out the vote.

LABOR'S WITNESS. 33 min. Rental \$3.00. Produced by the UAW, 1957.

Dramatic film of an actual hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee. UAW President Walter Reuther tells the members of the Committee how the UAW works at getting its members registered and voting. He describes the UAW education program, and the union's endorsement policy.

LEST WE FORGET. 25 min. Rental \$3.00. Produced by Democratic National Committee, 1948.

This film uses newsreel footage of life in the U.S. from World War I to Roosevelt's fourth election in 1944. The greatness of the "New Deal" is emphasized and the Harding-Coolidge-Hoover drift to depression and war is shown.

MAN ON THE HILL. 13 min. Color Cartoon. Rental \$2.50. Produced by U.S. Armed Forces, 1958.

This is a film about your Congressman. It emphasizes the work of committees in Congress and the importance of legislation to our daily lives. It offers excellent cartoon presentation of the work of elected representatives you have in local, state and federal governments.

VOTING PROCEDURE. 14 min. Rental \$2.50. Produced by Indiana University, 1955.

Here are details about voting. They are presented to help the viewer realize that the process of registering and voting is simple. The film stresses the need for voter preparations: knowing where to vote, how to "split" a ticket or vote "straight."