

State Jobless Rate Up Again

Despite a record level of employment, the number of jobless workers in California rose to 341,000 in July from 325,000 in June.

According to the State Department of Employment, this rise of 16,000 in unemployment was the largest recorded for any June-to-July period since the severe recession period of 1949.

The unemployed comprised 5.4 per cent of the state labor force in July, as compared with 5.1 per cent in June and 4 per cent a year earlier in July.

The new jobless figures were released simultaneously with a report by the State Department of Industrial Relations that the number of employed workers reached 6,028,000 in July, the highest employment total ever recorded for California.

Repeating developments of a month earlier, however, the expansion in employment was not enough to absorb increases in the number of persons in the job market.

The Department of Industrial Relations said that although employment is at record levels, its growth

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Spotlight Turns On COPE Pre-General Election Endorsement Convention

Political overtones omnipresent during the Federation's convention in Sacramento last week will be given full vent when the California Labor Council on Political Education meets next month in pre-general election convention.

The one-day meet is scheduled for September 15th at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, preceded by a session of the California Labor COPE Executive Council on the 14th.

Repeatedly in Sacramento last week, convention speakers and delegates alluded to the pending elections this November as holding the fate for many of the liberal legislative programs advanced by convention actions.

The primary business of the forthcoming COPE convention will be to endorse candidates for office who support labor's program for a liberal and progressive America. Specifically, the convention will:

(1) Review June primary endorsements made by the California Labor COPE,



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Weekly

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Federation Convention Charts Liberal Course for California Labor

The 3rd Convention of the California Labor Federation, meeting in Sacramento last week, hammered together the solid planks of a comprehensive and positive program for action which will guide the State AFL-CIO in the two years ahead.

By acclamation, some 2000 delegates to the capital city convention returned Thos. L. Pitts to office as executive secretary-treasurer to implement their liberal policy actions, together with Albin J. Gruhn, president; Manuel Dias, general vice president; 24 district vice presidents and nine vice presidents at large.

The Convention was marked by a clear determination on the part of the delegates to overcome anti-labor

inroads made against the trade union movement during the past year by taking the offensive behind programs designed to implement labor's long standing social, economic and legislative goals.

This determination was captured by Secretary-Treasurer Pitts at the convention's closing session when he said:

"The Federation is and will continue to be a fighting labor movement. . . . We intend to show that when we adopt a position, we mean business. . . . We will devise a program to educate the people of the state as to why we believe as we do . . ."

Convention delegates worked through fourteen detailed statements of policy submitted by the executive council numbering 84 pages, recommendations on all 15 statewide ballot propositions, and some 277 resolutions submitted by affiliated organizations.

(In the weeks ahead *Newsletter* will attempt to summarize the major policy actions as they relate to unfolding programs of the Federation.)

State Legislative Programs

The state legislative program advanced by the executive council (summarized in last week's *Newsletter*) received the convention "go ahead," augmented by a host of policy resolutions requiring the introduction of legislation at the 1961

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State AFL-CIO Rejects \$1.75 Billion Water Proposal

Delegates to the 3rd convention of the California Labor Federation last Tuesday voted overwhelmingly to oppose Proposition No. 1 at the polls this November.

The "Vote No" action on the proposed \$1.75 billion state water bond program was taken after lengthy floor debate. It upheld a unanimous recommendation by the Federation's Executive Council that the proposition be rejected.

In a 15,000 word argument against the water program submitted to the delegates, the Executive Council blasted proponents for using "panic button" techniques to sell the public a water program which:

—Lacks basic policy protections on all aspects of the program, including monopolization of benefits; allocation of costs between project beneficiaries; development of recreation facilities; public power; and economic and financial feasibility,

—Contains vast hidden subsidies to giant landholders who are the enemies of social and economic progress and the perennial supporters of vicious anti-labor legislation,

—Commits California to "pork barrel" planning and development of precious, limited water and power resources in a "policy vacuum" that allows special interests to use the state's credit in order to escape anti-monopoly and anti-speculation protections of federal development,

—Fails completely to protect the organizational and collective bargaining rights of employees who would be involved in the operation of the project, as well as the "prevailing rates" of workers employed by public agencies contracting with the state for water,

—Enthrones monopoly and commits California's rich San Joaquin valley to a future course of 20th century feudalism regarding the conditions of life and labor of farm workers.

In convention debate, delegates hammered the above points home in opposition to those who wanted to support the proposition on the strength of Governor Brown's advocacy and the promise of "jobs" for union members.

Speakers against the water program emphasized that opposition to Proposition No. 1 should not be

interpreted as opposition to the Governor's Administration.

In fact, the Executive Council statement against Prop. 1 reviewed the history of the water program and pointed out:

"This is certainly not Governor Brown's program. It is a program which actually goes back to the period when he was indeed fighting as Attorney General the very people who originated this scheme.

"It is the program of the monopolists, conceived in deceit with the late State Engineer, who set water development back at least fifteen years in California. . . ."

Brown, it was noted, merely gave the program of the monopolists "political feasibility" through the legislature by reconciling North-South differences.

The statement said Governor Brown "deserves credit for politically compromising the north-south dispute through the legislature last year; but not for sacrificing the main issue—the need for protections for the taxpayers," who must stand behind the entire program with the state's general fund.

In submitting its recommendations to the floor, the Executive Council said that Proposition No. 1 put labor's historic position supporting the public's welfare in water resources development to "the acid test" before the Sacramento convention of the Federation.

"Simply stated," the Executive Council said, Proposition No. 1 "posed" the following questions for California labor to convention delegates:

"In response to the lure of immediate job benefits to be gained by segments of labor from the construction of the proposed water development program, shall we abandon our historic principles and policies for sound water resource development, as embodied in the policy actions unanimously adopted by the 1959 Federation convention

Spotlight Turns On COPE

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urer Thos. L. Pitts. Recently all affiliated organizations were mailed delegates' credentials, together with information concerning San Francisco hotels, rates and reservations.

In reminding affiliates of the forthcoming COPE convention, Pitts noted that there remains less than four weeks for local organizations to complete their voter registration programs.

"With September 15th also the deadline for voter registration," Pitts said, "all political activity between now and the closing date should be directed at making certain that every trade union member and eligible family members are registered to vote in November."

in San Diego, and embrace a water program which was conceived in deceit under a previous administration and nourished through the legislature in a pork barrel?

"For the bait of jobs dangled before our noses, shall we snap at a program which was developed in a veritable legislative policy vacuum without sound criteria for determination of economic and financial feasibility, without protections of the taxpayers against vast monopolization of benefits and enrichment of the few, and without necessary protections for workers who would be involved in the operation of the project?

"Shall we participate in such abandonment of our principles and support a program, which would literally enthrone the monopoly and speculative interests who historically have been the enemies of comprehensive and integrated water development, who have used every political trick in the book to hold up such development, and who today stand first in line to reap handsome rewards for their disruptive tactics, all at the expense of the public?"

Delegates responded with a resounding "NO", confirming the Executive Council's stand that "a new low has been reached in the attempt of special interests to monopolize the water resources of California."

In another lengthy floor debate, delegates also supported the Executive Council's position that there be "No Recommendation" on Proposition No. 15—the controversial initiative measure on the ballot which would reapportion the state Senate on a so-called 20-20 basis for the "north" and the "south" respectively.

A standing floor vote backed the Council's position by an approximate three to two vote. A similar vote divided the Executive Council in its recommendation to the convention floor.

(See pages 3-4 for the convention's recommendations on all ballot proposals.)

U.S. Senate Focuses On Aged Health Care

After giving Senator John F. Kennedy a major victory last Thursday with the passage of a weakened, but substantial, minimum wage bill boosting the minimum to \$1.25 and extending coverage to some four million, the U. S. Senate this week focused its attention on the health needs of the aged.

On the Senate floor is a House-passed "omnibus" social security bill containing "pauper's oath" medical care benefits, which have only been cleaned up of administrative monstrosities by the Senate Finance Committee.

The medical care provisions otherwise are essentially the same as those passed by the House, providing aid to the states for "doling" out limited benefits to "medical indigents" as determined by state standards. Not even these benefits would be available, however, if states do not act by matching federal funds and adopting an "indigent" benefits program.

Efforts to add aged health care benefits under the social security principle will be made on the Senate floor with AFL-CIO and other liberal backing. Senator John F. Kennedy is reported set to lead the floor fight, urging the adoption of amendments to be offered by Senator Clinton Anderson (D., New Mexico) to accomplish the purpose.

The same Republican-Dixiecrat coalition that killed the Forand bill in the House recently killed Forand-type amendments offered by Anderson before the Senate Finance Committee.

The story of the Senate Finance Committee action was related to the Federation convention last week when Nelson Cruikshank, director of the AFL-CIO Social Security Department, flew to Sacramento on Tuesday to give delegates a first-hand accounting of the Senate situation.

Speaking of the floor action pending this week, Cruikshank said: "The battle of the century will be on . . . The Anderson amendments will carry the principles of the Forand bill. . . . In this fight every Senator's voice might well be the determining factor . . ."

The bill on the Senate floor, Cruik-

Ballot Proposition Recommendations

The 3rd Convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO made the following recommendations on the fifteen statewide propositions to appear on the November General Election ballot:

Proposition No. 1—California Water Resources Development Bond Act

This act provides for a bond issue of one billion, seven hundred fifty million dollars (\$1,750,000,000) to be used by the Department of Water Resources for the development of the water resources of the state.

Recommendation: Vote NO

Proposition No. 2—Terms of Assemblymen

Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 15—Provides that terms of members of the Assembly elected in 1960 and thereafter shall be four years; one-half of the members elected in 1960 shall vacate office at the expiration of the second year, so that half of the members of the Assembly shall be elected every two years.

Recommendation: Vote NO

Proposition No. 3—Disabled Veterans' Tax Exemption

Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 21—Permits a totally disabled veteran entitled to \$5,000 exemption on a home to transfer it to a subsequently acquired home.

Recommendation: Vote NO

Proposition No. 4—Terms of Office

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 1 (1960 First Extraordinary Session)—Permits the legislature to provide terms of office not to exceed eight years for members of any state agency created by it to administer the State College System of California.

Recommendation: Vote YES

Proposition No. 5—Compensation of Legislators

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 31—Sets salary of members of the state legislature at \$750 per month. Provides that increased compensation provided by this amendment shall not increase retirement benefits for those legislators already retired.

Recommendation: Vote YES

Proposition No. 6—Assessment of Golf Courses

Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 29—Establishes manner in which non-profit golf courses should be assessed for purposes of taxation.

Recommendation: Vote YES

Proposition No. 7—Chiropractors

Amendment to Chiropractic Initiative Act, Submitted by Legislature—Permits two, rather than one, board members from the same chiropractic school or college to be members of the board at the same time. Provides that the legislature may fix fees of applicants and licenses and per diem compensation payable to board members.

No Recommendation

Proposition No. 8—Eligibility to Vote

Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 5—Permits a person who has been convicted of a felony, other than treason or the embezzlement or misappropriation of public money, to vote and exercise other privileges accorded an elector, upon paying the penalties prescribed by law for his offense, including any period of probation or parole.

Recommendation: Vote YES

Proposition No. 9—Claims Against Chartered Cities and Counties

Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 16—Permits legislature to prescribe procedures governing claims against chartered counties, cities and counties, and cities, or against officers, agents and employees thereof.

Recommendation: Vote YES

shank pointed out, does not carry the Forand principle, but "does constitute a good vehicle on which the social security principle could be added, and then we would have a decent program."

Addition of social security health care benefits would supplement existing provisions in the bill which would provide a measure of protection for those who fall outside the coverage of social security.

Proposition No. 10—Administration of Justice

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 14—Provides that membership of the Judicial Council, besides judges, shall include members of the State Bar and two legislators; permits appointment of an administrative director. Creates a Commission on Judicial Qualifications consisting of judges, members of the State Bar and citizens; provides procedure for removal of judges for misconduct or to compel retirement for disability. Declares that the State Bar of California is a public corporation. Changes name of the existing Commission on Qualifications to the Commission on Judicial Appointments.

Recommendation: Vote NO

Proposition No. 11—Veterans' Tax Exemption

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 13—Provides that the residency requirement for veterans' tax exemption of \$1,000 means those who were residents at the time of entry into the armed forces or the operative date of this amendment; a survivor to be entitled to exemption must be a survivor of a qualified veteran and also a resident at the time of application. Extends exemption to widowers as well as widows; exemption denied to a survivor owning property of value of \$10,000. Permits a totally disabled veteran entitled to \$5,000 exemption on a home to transfer it to subsequently acquired home.

Recommendation: Vote YES

Proposition No. 12—Constitution: Eliminates Obsolete and Superseded Provisions

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 22—Repeals and amends several provisions of the constitution to eliminate obsolete and superseded provisions without substantive change. Provides that any amendment to the constitution which is proposed by the legislature solely to eliminate obsolete and superseded provisions shall not affect prior validations and ratifications. Any other measure submitted to the people at the same election which affects the same sections contained in the legislative proposal shall control to the extent of any conflict.

No Recommendation

Proposition No. 13—District Courts of Appeal: Appellate Jurisdiction

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 11—Provides that District Courts of Appeal shall have appellate jurisdiction of municipal and justice court cases as provided by law.

Recommendation: Vote YES

Proposition No. 14—Street and Highway Funds: Use For Local Grade Crossing Bonds

Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 1—Includes separation of grade districts among those bodies to which the legislature may appropriate fuel taxes and motor vehicle registration and license fee moneys. Such moneys allocated to local agencies may be used for paying bonds duly issued for grade crossing separation projects to the extent of 50 per cent of the sums allocated.

Recommendation: Vote NO

Proposition No. 15—Senate Reapportionment

Initiative Constitutional Amendment—Establishes and apportions 40 senatorial districts. Provides for the election of all Senators in 1962; one-half of the Senators to be elected every two years thereafter. Requires the legislature in 1961 to fix the boundaries of districts in counties having more than one district on the basis of population, area, and economic affinity, which may be refixed following each decennial federal census. Permits the legislature following the 1980 and each subsequent decennial federal census to reapportion senatorial districts on the same basis; provided that no county shall have more than 7 districts and that 20 districts shall be apportioned to designated counties, as follows: 20 senators to be allotted to the 45 counties located north of the line formed by the northern and western boundaries of San Luis Obispo, Kern, Tulare, Inyo and Mono Counties, and 20 senators to be allotted to the 13 counties south of that line.

No Recommendation

As the Senate plunged into debate on the issue, Vice President Richard Nixon announced his support of a plan proposed by Senator Jacob K. Javits (R., New York), which would be a substitute for both the provi-

sions in the "omnibus" bill and the Kennedy-AFL-CIO-backed Anderson amendments to be offered.

The Nixon-backed measure is along the lines of the grossly inadequate Eisenhower Administration

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is slowing down. Between July, 1959, and July, 1960, there occurred a rise of 2.5 per cent in the level of employment. This compared with a rise of 3.9 per cent between January, 1959, and January, 1960, during a similar twelve-month period.

The rise in employment, according to the Department of Industrial Relations, was caused by seasonal activity in construction, recreation, retail trade and food processing. But in manufacturing the increase was less than normal.

The July unemployment and employment figures underscored a warning issued last week in Sacramento by the 3rd convention of the California Labor Federation that "as the culmination of the near stagnant rate of economic growth during the Eisenhower years, another recession inspired by tight money and penny-pinching 'budget-balancing' policies appears to be in the making for 1961. . ."

Convention delegates adopted a statement pointing out that the Eisenhower years have produced a "snail's pace" per capita growth rate of only 6/10 of 1 per cent annually.

During the seven years prior to the Ike Administration, it was noted that per capita national growth averaged about 3.0 per cent, or "five times the rate realized in the past seven years"—under Ike.

"Medicare" voluntary insurance plan, sugar coated and broadened a bit to take on the appearance of a "compromise" measure.

Completely unacceptable to organized labor, the Nixon-backed proposal would also require state action and matching funds with a choice of three types of limited benefit plans available to those who would qualify, depending upon their income status.

All AFL-CIO affiliates and individual members are being urged to wire Senators Kuchel and Engle, supporting the addition of the Anderson social security amendments on health care and opposing the Nixon-backed proposal embodied in the Javits bill.

Federation Convention

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session of the legislature when it convenes in January.

In the traditional areas of legislative action involving labor laws and worker social insurance programs, the convention highlighted the following:

— Repeal of the misnamed state Jurisdictional Strike Act and replacement with a measure that establishes machinery for implementation of organizational and collective bargaining rights in intrastate commerce.

— Enactment of a state fair labor standards act, with a statutory minimum of at least \$1.25 per hour, applicable to all workers without exception, and payment of overtime beyond 35 hours a week, including double time for hours worked beyond 10 a day. Interim action by the Industrial Welfare Commission to reopen all wage orders to bring them up to date, as well as immediate extension of existing orders to agriculture.

— Liberalization of state unemployment and disability insurance programs to provide a maximum weekly benefit of \$70 under liberal benefits schedules, plus dependency benefits, vast expansions of coverage to agriculture, non-profit employees, and government workers, extension of the basic duration period, retroactive payment of benefits for the "waiting period," and long overdue reforms in financing.

— Repeal of artificial limits on workmen's compensation benefit payments for both weekly indemnity benefits and death payments; priority enactment of long-overdue rehabilitation benefits; vast liberalization of permanent disability rating payments; retroactive payment for the "waiting period"; enactment of dependency benefits; provisions of complete free choice of doctor; reforms in procedures for establishing minimum workmen's compensation premium rates.

— Extension of state FEP law to cover discrimination because of age; expansion of older worker employment services; regulation of private employment agency fees.

— Provision of organizational and collective bargaining rights for all public employees and employees of non-profit organizations.

In the field of civil rights, the convention set forth a comprehensive state and federal program for eliminating every vestige of discrimination from community life with emphasis on action to "prevent the continued subversion of American ideals regarding the family home and the undermining of the community's economic and spiritual health through discrimination in California against minorities in the field of housing."

A six-point program of action was

adopted to end housing discrimination with equal emphasis placed on establishing programs to providing decent housing for low and middle income families.

State Planning for Growth

As a part of a lengthy economic statement calling for reversal of Eisenhower Administration policies which have kept the economy going in "two gears—low and reverse," convention delegates urged a national "soul-searching" and "rededication" to a "more balanced development of our resources utilizing the principles of sound municipal, metropolitan and regional planning."

Because of the failure of the public to recognize the vital importance of community services in securing balanced economic growth, it was pointed out that many California communities are being strangled by "urban sprawl," characterized by impoverished school districts, a shortage of health and recreation facilities, decaying "downtown" residential and business areas, and a lack of balanced industrial development to sustain a growing population in full employment.

Emphasizing the need for expanded municipal, metropolitan and regional planning, the convention said:

"In the past, California has pursued the basically unsound approach of attempting to plan for a particular resource by itself rather than utilizing a state development plan integrating comprehensive economic resource development with physical planning and land use."

Legislative action was urged to "strengthen" and "implement with adequate staffing and financing," the legislative steps taken last year to create a state Economic Development Agency and provide for coordination of a state development plan.

State Prepaid Health Care

Reflecting a convention spirit of determined rededication to long standing goals in the field of social security, delegates voted to revive efforts to enact a state prepaid health care program based on the social insurance principle advanced in former Governor Warren's proposals, revised to benefit from experience under voluntary plan developments.

Voluntary plans have failed to do the job, the contention declared, adding:

"Close examination... reveals that their performance in meeting the health care needs of the general population is not much more impressive than for the elderly..."

"Only about 5 per cent of our people are covered by comprehensive prepaid health care programs..."

Commending Governor Brown for the appointment of his Committee on the Study of Medical Aid and Health in California, hope was expressed that "thorough-going recommendations" for action will be prepared for submission to the 1961 legislature.

In pledging revival of the Warren program for study and action, the delegates pointed to its "greatest shortcoming" as failing to come to grips with the problem of organization of medical services and facilities.

"The rapid development of specializa-

tion and considerations of economy place a premium upon the development of community medical facilities to provide both in-patient and out-patient care, utilizing group medical practices, and providing for health care services as well as the dispensation of medical care," the convention state.

"A state prepaid program must encourage the development of such integrated community facilities as the base for making quality care available to all at the lowest possible cost," delegates added while calling for "harnessing" the state's "financial resources... to provide low-cost, long-term financing for establishment of these types of community facilities."

In related actions, delegates called for legislation to:

(a) Regulate the establishment of so-called proprietary hospitals by "physicians who are more in the nature of investors than practitioners," barring construction and preventing wasteful duplication by requiring a state license demonstrating "need" in a community.

(b) Establish a uniform system of hospital accounting with public disclosure of financial operation, unit costs and schedules of charges.

(c) Establish standards to guarantee effective internal controls in hospitals safeguarding a high level of patient care.

State "Forand" Bill

In the event Congress fails to act this year in the adoption of an adequate health care measure for the aged under social security, delegates served notice that "California labor cannot ignore our responsibility to the thousands of aged persons who have contributed so immensely to the wealth of the state."

As an alternative to the failure of Congress to act, the Federation pledged to seek enactment of a state program at the 1961 session embracing the following broad principles:

1. Establishment of a separate fund under the disability insurance program, based on a 1 per cent contribution of employers on their taxable payrolls covered under the disability insurance law.

2. Provision of benefits to all those over age 65 who have retired with a reasonable coverage base under the disability insurance program.

3. Comprehensive benefits to include both in-patient and out-patient care.

4. Provision of full benefits for the spouse and/or dependents of eligible persons.

5. Full freedom of choice for the beneficiaries in selection of physicians and other medical services.

State Housing Action

Pinpointing still another area for state legislative action, convention delegates drew sharp focus on the steadily worsening housing situation for low and moderate income families.

In a detailed ten-page, printed statement adopted, the convention reviewed the staggering housing deficit being accumulated under the "banker-oriented" programs of the Eisenhower Administration, and outlined a comprehensive program for federal legislation designed to accomplish a necessary construction rate of 2.3 million units a year under expanded middle income and public

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housing or other directly subsidized housing for low income families.

California, however, cannot wait on federal action, the convention said. It was noted that state action "is not only necessary but well preceded in other industrial states."

Commending Governor Brown again for his recent sponsorship of a statewide housing conference to take the state's "sagging housing industry out of the doldrums," the convention said:

"We now call upon the Governor to convene his state housing officials with representatives of homebuilders, community housing authorities and redevelopment agencies, organized labor, and other consumers and the public at large as a special commission for the purpose of considering specific ways of implementing the findings of the Governor's Conference on Housing.

"Immediate action is necessary so that such an advisory group may adopt proposals which can be placed before the 1961 session of the California legislature for consideration and action."

Such a Commission, it was stated, "must be called on the premise... that the first responsibility of government is people, rather than profits... If financial interests are not willing to make mortgage money available at prices and on terms which will bring adequate housing within the reach of a majority of our families, then it is up to the government to develop the programs which will do the job."

The convention statement reviewed the low and middle income housing programs of New York State and City for possible approaches, and stated:

"The significant lesson of the New York experience is that the availability of loan funds is the primary factor in the encouragement of construction, both private and public.

"It emphasizes that the use of public credit is the key to low cost money and to ample money."

Governor Brown was urged to make this the primary consideration of the recommended special housing commission to draw up concrete proposals for action by the 1961 state legislature.

Farm Labor Spotlight

The solidarity and determination of California labor was captured in the overwhelming response of the delegates to the agricultural worker organizing drive.

Time and time again, delegates were brought to their feet in spontaneous demonstrations of their dedication to the cause of bringing organization to the farm workers as a means of raising their conditions of life and labor to a level of first class citizenship.

Early in the week, delegates shouted their approval when the state Director of Industrial Relations John F. Henning challenged the spokesmen of the corporate farmers who would have the public believe "that it is immoral for union labor to strike a farm operation at harvest time."

There are "philosophical answers" to this, Henning said, pointing out that "no responsible system of morality could condone an economic apparatus the success of which requires the degradation and the exploitation of human beings."

"But we will leave the philosophical approach and come to the practical, pragmatic matter before us," Henning said, adding:

"Until the day arrives when the growers of California are prepared to recognize the right of their workers to organize and bargain; until the day arrives when they sit down with the AWOC, then they have absolutely no moral right to question the freedom of the farm workers of this state to strike their operation in order to obtain an adequate wage!"

Repeatedly, Federation Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts has labelled the farm worker fight the number one issue facing California labor and the state on an organizational front.

In a lengthy statement of policy on the agricultural labor situation, delegates roared their approval of an endorsement action which placed the entire body of California labor squarely behind the AFL-CIO organizing drive, and called for removing the dual standards public policy regarding labor, social and economic legislation currently withheld from farm workers.

"The stakes in this issue are high, and extend beyond the borders of California and the nation," the convention declared.

"They embrace," the delegates added, "dedication to the principles of freedom and progress in our relation to the developing free trade union movement of those uncommitted areas of the world holding the keys to the profile of tomorrow," adding:

"The growers are involved in a situation of their own making, built from the tainted profits extracted from many decades and their refusal, even in 1960, to depart from a variant of the way of life that in 1860 had brought America to the very threshold of the most bloody domestic struggle of all of modern history..."

"It is the earnest hope of California labor," the convention declared, "that not a single crop will be sacrificed by the growers as the American conscience bestirs itself on behalf of the most elementary standards of decency for the families of farm workers."

This, the convention said, "is a matter which the growers themselves must decide. The California labor movement is dedicated to human values and the rights of the workers to share in the wealth of our economy."

The firm resolve of the policy action was demonstrated again by the thundering, standing ovation that greeted Norman Smith, Director of the AWOC organizing drive in California, when he was escorted to the rostrum on Thursday morning, accompanied by 25 field workers and a priest from the Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Smith attributed the successes of AWOC to the solidarity of the labor movement behind the organizing drive.

Responding to the charges of growers of "unorthodox" organizing methods, Smith outlined the primitive character of labor relations in agriculture based on rules established by growers which would apply the procedures applicable to already organized sectors of our work force without the application to farm workers of the very laws which established these rules to protect the organizational rights of workers.

In blunt terms, Smith pointed out that if the growers think they can have "rules that apply to organizations which have been recognized from thirty and seventy-five years," Smith said, "I can tell them plainly—they're nuts".

"Some way or other, we are going to get the job done," Smith added.

Looking forward to the long hard months and years ahead in accomplishing the organization objective, Smith warned against being deceived by publicity in the newspapers, radio and television that the job has already been accomplished.

Delegates were asked to recognize that the successes achieved thus far are only a beginning.

"I want to appeal to every delegate who is here to go back from this convention," Smith added, "to point out one thing to the people of your organizations. There is no such thing as an impossible job when it comes to organizing... The agricultural workers, although a great part of them is migrant, can be organized."

Constitutional Change

By a constitutional amendment, one of the two offices of general vice president was abolished and a new "At Large" vice president was created.

The new vice presidential seat was filled by the election of Jerry Conway of the United Steelworkers.

Hugh Allen of the Five Counties Central Labor Council was elected to fill the office of vice president in District No. 15 vacated by Robert Giesick.