

## Kennedy-Nixon Voting Record Pamphlet

The national AFL-CIO COPE has announced the publication of a new pamphlet containing the voting records of presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon.

Titled "A Look at the Record," the pamphlet is designed for broad distribution to union members and others interested in labor's appraisal of the candidates.

It features a readable description of ten issues of major importance on which the two presidential aspirants have voted, along with a score card covering other issues as well.

Sample copies were sent out this week by California Labor COPE to all local organizations with order forms. (See story on vote drive, below.) The pamphlet is free of charge.

Orders will be filled as soon as a supply ordered from Washington is received by state COPE. National COPE reports an unprecedented number of orders, necessitating the printing already of over seven million copies.

Local organizations are urged to complete their order forms and return them to the state COPE office immediately.

The pamphlet summary shows that from labor's viewpoint, on key issues, Kennedy voted right 120 times, and wrong two times, as compared with a record of 10 "right" and 59 "wrong" votes for Nixon. In percentages, the tabulation shows Kennedy voted "right" 91.6 percent of the time, and Nixon only 13 percent of the time.



THOS. L. PITTS  
Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer

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# Weekly News Letter

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## Pitts Named Kennedy State Labor Chairman

Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, announced this Wednesday that he has accepted the responsibility for directing labor's statewide campaign to elect the Kennedy-Johnson presidential ticket.

As state chairman of the Labor Committee for Kennedy-Johnson, Pitts' appointment assures a coordinated labor effort between northern and southern California labor committees for the two Democrats, headed respectively by Federation Vice Presidents Robert S. Ash in the north and W. J. Bassett in the south.

In accepting the labor post, Pitts expressed confidence that California will "lead the way in a mounting campaign that will sweep Kennedy into the White House."

"There's no doubt in my mind after witnessing the historic debate between Kennedy and Nixon this Monday on TV," Pitts said.

"I feel certain," he added, "that every American who viewed that telecast is beginning to understand why labor and other progressive forces in this nation are looking to Kennedy for the leadership that has been so sadly lacking in the present Administration."

On the issues, according to Pitts, "Nixon clearly associated himself with the big-business-banker-oriented policies and programs of the past seven years which have com-

bined periodic recessions with ever-increasing levels of unemployment and a near-stagnant rate of economic growth."

"He confirmed everything our state Council on Political Education said recently when we endorsed Kennedy," Pitts asserted.

The two issues discussed most heatedly in the TV debate were federal aid to education and health care for the nation's senior citizens.

"The difference between the candidates on these issues are typical of the wide gap that exists between Kennedy and Nixon in their concern for human beings," according to Pitts.

In keeping with his record in Congress, Kennedy reviewed the "urgency" of federal action to provide aid for both school construction and teachers' salaries. He promised continued leadership in the fight to obtain health care for the aged as a matter of right under social security.

Nixon, on the other hand, was  
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## Local Coordination of Vote Drives Urged

Central labor councils, local COPE organizations and AFL-CIO unions in the state received an urgent plea this week for coordination of local "get-out-the-vote" drives for the November general election.

In separate communications directed to local organizations and coordinating bodies, California Labor COPE Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts outlined the bare essentials of a program for success at the polls on election day. The time to start preparing, Pitts said, is NOW.

In a letter to local unions, the state AFL-CIO official indicated that a good job had been done on

registration in most areas, based on preliminary reports. Pitts said that "congratulations" would be in order, except that "these newly registered voters will help only if they

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## Bar Association Report Labels L-G Poor Law

The American Bar Association has joined with organized labor in viewing the Labor Control Act of 1959 as bad law.

The ABA's Section on Labor Relations Law has adopted a report

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# Gruhn Views Role Of Labor Toward Education Support

New teachers in Stockton recently were given a detailed accounting on labor's historic activities in the mainstream of active public support for the advancement of the nation's school system.

Federation President Albin J Gruhn, addressing a "welcome dinner" arranged by the Stockton local of the AFL-CIO Teachers, stressed the need for classroom-teacher control over negotiations for better salaries and other conditions of employment for teachers.

"The first step in reestablishing in the public mind . . . the importance of the teacher is a step which requires positive recognition of the teachers' equal status to other professions in the service they render to the community," Gruhn said.

"That step," he added, "is to pay our teachers a fair salary. We have already lost too many qualified teachers to other fields of endeavor due to inadequate salaries," Gruhn asserted.

The state AFL-CIO president gave solid support to the need for the organization of teachers.

"Unlike most professional people, teachers have a specific employer," Gruhn said.

"Accordingly," he pointed out, "long-term professional and economic advancement can come only through a bona fide union of classroom teachers."

The American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO was depicted as giving the best assurance of maintaining classroom-teacher independence from domination by administrators.

In his detailed review of labor's support of public education and the current needs of our school system, Gruhn said that the labor movement was seriously "disturbed about many elements of our educational system."

"We are deeply concerned," he said, "about the thousands of American children who, by segregation, are denied their constitutional rights to equal education. We are appalled by proposals from the Ad-

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# Local Coordination of Vote Drives Urged

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get out and vote on November 8."

The following were suggested as minimum steps to local unions as their responsibility in preparing to get out the vote:

1. Signing up with central labor councils or local COPEs, as the case may be, for election day and election eve work. In addition to voluntary workers, Pitts said that every fulltime officer and office worker should be made available for work in a coordinated local plan. "Pledge personnel to your local political action body now," Pitts urged.

2. Getting out a mailing to every local union member, stressing the importance of voting. In such a mailing, it was suggested that unions might want to include an attractive leaflet on the voting records of Kennedy and Nixon, currently being printed by the national AFL-CIO COPE.

A sample copy of the new voting record leaflet was sent to each union with a quantity order slip to be returned to the San Francisco office of California Labor COPE. Pitts suggested, however, that local organizations should first check with their central labor council or local COPE before ordering, as a local supply of the Kennedy-Nixon voting record pamphlet may already have been ordered.

3. Checking the membership problem on absentee voting. Pitts made known the availability of information on absentee voting procedures through the state COPE office.

On other points of preparation,

## Pitts Named Kennedy State Labor Chairman

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pinned to the record of the Republican-Dixiecrat coalition that killed both measures in the last Congress with the assistance of the "veto" threat of Eisenhower.

In the case of school aid for teachers' salaries, millions of TV viewers learned for the first time that it was actually Nixon's tie-

Pitts urged local unions to inform state COPE of their campaign literature needs, and to check also on the needs of their members for information on the state's "time out for voting" law. This information is available from local offices of the state Labor Commissioner as well as the state COPE office.

In a follow-up letter to central labor councils and political action bodies, Pitts stressed equally the necessity of early planning to enlist the cooperation of local organizations.

"We urge that you contact every local in your area to sign up their staff people and that you do this now," Pitts wrote. A COPE pamphlet describing procedures for getting out the vote was sent to central labor councils and local COPEs to assist them in their planning.

The following were suggested as minimum needs:

1. Telephone crews to phone homes to urge early voting.

2. Some cars and drivers to get people who need help to the polls.

3. Sound trucks to cover working class areas and plant gates.

4. Special house-to-house work in selected precincts before election day.

Each central labor council and local COPE was sent a list of women's union auxiliaries in the state made available through national COPE. The enlistment of these auxiliaries where they exist was urged by Pitts in the hard work ahead before election day. Pitts reminded local organizations that the state COPE was available for help in setting up "get-out-the-vote" programs.

breaking vote that killed the proposal in 1960.

"In view of this record, Nixon is the one who is naive if he believes that the American people will not see through his glib attempt to identify himself with the Kennedy goals, differing with him only on the means," Pitts said.

"The real Nixon was exposed," Pitts declared.



# Strikebreaking Order Lifted in Farm Dispute

A Stockton superior court judge last Thursday lifted an unlimited injunction which he issued on September 14 to block AWOC picketing of a Tracy corporation farmer and denied the state Department of Employment its authority to make a ruling on the existence of a labor dispute.

The unprecedented restraining order, issued tomato-grower Lindsay Cochran, was blasted at the time by legal observers as an outright invasion of both the administrative process and the constitutional rights of farm workers.

Thursday's action completely waived the restraining order against state Director of Employment Irving Perluss, but confined picketing on the Cochran tomato ranch to two pickets at each farm gate.

Following the court action, Employment Director Perluss this Monday issued a ruling that AWOC's strike at the Cochran ranch was a "legitimate labor dispute." The director's ruling under the Wagner-Pizer Act automatically stopped further referral of domestic workers to the struck fields.

Perluss made it clear, however, that "whether the Mexican Nationals working on the ranch will be removed is a separate and independent determination to be made by the Secretary of Labor under the international agreement between the United States and Mexico."

The anti-union Council of California Growers immediately announced they were going to carry the matter to Washington in order to block the possible withdrawal of the Mexican Nationals. A meeting was scheduled by Under Secretary of Labor James T. O'Donnell in Washington for this Wednesday with representatives of the grower and AWOC present.

Anti-union grower groups who refuse even to recognize the existence of the union are seeking rulings and court actions which will give them the right to use imported labor as strikebreakers in labor disputes. They are charging that all AWOC strikes are trumped-up disputes to eliminate "braceros."

Meanwhile, with the tomato harvest in full swing, AWOC reports continued progress in reaching understandings with many tomato growers on a minimum piece rate of 17 cents per box of tomatoes where the picking is good.

Last week, striking farm workers pulled pickets off three Sacramento County tomato farms when the owners agreed to pay workers the minimum 17 cents a box.

These settlements were followed almost immediately, however, by an outbreak of other strikes in the Sacramento Valley. One against the Takauchi Ranch near Nicholas in Sutter County, called after the tomato grower refused to pay a premium piece rate for bad picking conditions, was characterized by a sit-down action in the tomato fields.

The Department of Employment ruled that the Takauchi strike was a bona fide labor dispute, thus precluding the referral of domestics to the struck ranch. This ruling, however, was marked by an announcement of modifications in the referral procedures of the Department of Employment.

Whereas in the past the Department has refused to make referrals while investigating whether a strike is bona fide, Perluss has now declared a change in policy which will permit referrals to be made during the investigation period.

Perluss called the new policy a "compromise," explaining that even though the Department would refer workers pending the determination of the existence of a labor dispute, it would tell the referred workers that a strike had been reported.

On the legislative front, meanwhile, Governor Brown has indicated that his Administration's 1961 agricultural program will attempt to resolve labor-management problems in California's harvest fields with "fair play" on both sides of the controversy.

In recent speeches in Willows and Fresno, the Governor struck a middle course, maintaining on the one hand that farmers should be protected at harvest time from strikes or disorders which threaten crop losses and wipe out a whole season's work and investment, and on the other hand that labor has a right to pursue better wages and conditions for agricultural workers.

Brown appealed for help from

## More: Gruhn Views Role of Labor

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ministration that federal aid to vocational education be curtailed at a time when we need to train and retrain more highly skilled workers on an increasing scale and with greater effectiveness."

Gruhn advanced labor's strong case for the adoption of a federal aid to education program covering both teachers' salaries and school-house construction.

As the main barrier to enactment, he cited "the real opposition to federal aid to education" as arising out of the taxation question:

"The federal tax system is based essentially on graduated personal and corporate income levies, progressive, workable and equitable. The state tax systems are based essentially upon regressive levies, such as sales taxes, which deny the principle of ability to pay and which impose a higher effective rate of taxation on poor and middle income families than the wealthy.

"Here is the real reason for opposition to federal aid to education," Gruhn said. "This is why we have such a din raised by the apostles of federal impotency," the state AFL-CIO President added.

"If they cannot avoid all taxes in support of schools by depriving the children of an education, at least they can be sure that you — not they — pay the lion's share," Gruhn concluded.

Gruhn assured the new teachers that the past record of the labor movement in support of the needs of our public school system and of the teaching profession will be continued and strengthened.

both sides in ridding the farm labor controversy of bitterness and in developing a "responsible, intelligent program for presentation to the legislature in January."

In recognizing the right of farm workers to organize, the Governor indicated that special consideration should be given to agriculture. "Many factories can close down during a labor dispute and resume production afterwards. But a harvest which is struck during harvest time stands to lose its entire crop," Brown said.

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## More: Bar Association Report Labels Landrum-Griffin Poor Law

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which declared that the first year of the Landrum-Griffin law (the Labor Control Act of 1959) has been one of "confusion and irritation."

The report was presented by Prof. Clyde W. Summers of Yale University on behalf of a committee made up of lawyers working in the labor-management relations area. It said that the Department of Labor has spent the past year trying to "make some sense out of nonsense."

Problems created by the "reporting provisions are numerous and complex, inevitably producing a multitude of small problems and annoyances," the report said. It declared that the section on union officer and employee reports "bristles with uncertainties as to who must report and what transactions must be reported."

The ABA report is especially concerned because this section of the law may well violate "the privilege against self-incrimination" and could be "unconstitutional."

While interpretations by the Secretary of Labor have considerably eased bonding problems raised by the Act, they have not solved the problem and "much confusion and uncertainty remains," the lawyers found.

"Surety companies," they noted, "have tended to fix rates which will be certain to cover all eventualities. . . . As a result, the costs to the unions have been extremely heavy. . . ."

The law's terms are such, the lawyers added, that a mere unsupported letter sent on to the Office of Compliance and Enforcement may start an investigation. The letter may be addressed to a Congressman, the NLRB, the Labor Department, the Justice Department or almost any other government official or agency.

"The filing of an ungrounded complaint may bring investigators,

who, by their questioning of union members, may create unjustified suspicions and fears. The investigator often explores all possible leads before interviewing union officers against whom charges are filed."

At the end of the first nine months, some 1,287 charges had been filed for investigation. ABA

criticized the present emphasis on catching violators, rather than upon correcting violations. It also criticized the air of secrecy surrounding investigations and insistence upon treating all investigation reports as confidential as bound to irritate those who seek to comply but are fearful of making a mistake.

## New AFL-CIO Investment Dept.

The AFL-CIO is establishing a Department of Investment to guide affiliates in investing general funds and pension and welfare funds in government-backed mortgage loans.

Action to establish the department was taken at the last meeting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council in Chicago. At the time, AFL-CIO President George Meany told reporters that the new department will advise unions regarding investments in housing.

Meany declared that it is hoped to put idle union money to work at a better rate of return than now obtained in current investments. He stressed also that a major purpose would be to enable home buyers and developers to obtain funds at reasonable interest rates and without being penalized by discounts now putting up funds for FHA and VA mortgages.

The move also is designed to help create jobs and prosperity in the U. S. economy. Two unions have already entered the field extensively. The International Ladies Garment Workers Union has about \$100 million of welfare funds invested in government-backed mortgages and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has about \$75 million of such investments.

In California, within the past year, the pension fund of the Car-

penters in Northern California has embarked upon an extensive program of regular investments in FHA and VA insured mortgages.

Nationwide pension and welfare funds negotiated by unions are estimated to have assets of \$30 billion. Most of this — about 90 percent of all such funds — is controlled by management, however.

A recent study of pension funds by the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that assets of corporate controlled funds (non-insured funds) reached \$25.3 billion at the end of last year, and that these funds are growing at the rate of \$3.2 billion annually.

Most of such funds are controlled by bank or trustees who have invested assets in corporate bonds, common stocks and government bonds. As of the end of last year, the funds held \$12.8 billion in corporate bonds, \$7.7 billion in common stock and about \$2.5 billion of government bonds. Only \$576 million was invested in housing, mostly in the luxury field.

There is no doubt that pension assets represent a major source of funds for the housing needs of the nation.

The action of the AFL-CIO is expected to help center attention on such funds and their uses, as well as stimulate investments of union-controlled funds in this area.