

Political Campaign Notes

Registration Advances

A smattering of registration figures available as we go to press indicates that real progress was made in almost all parts of the state in the final registration drives before the September 15 deadline.

California Labor COPE is compiling the official registration figures, county by county, with a breakdown by congressional, state assembly and state senatorial districts. As soon as they are available they will be sent to all central labor councils and coordinating political action bodies at the local level for planning final activities in the campaign.

Endorsement Pamphlet

California Labor COPE endorsement pamphlets, with separate versions for twelve areas in the state, are beginning to roll off the presses. Orders for the attractive folders will be filled starting next week.

It should be noted that endorsement pamphlets, and local slate cards put out with them, should not be distributed to the membership until the end of this month or the

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Medical-Insurance Interests Mar Conference

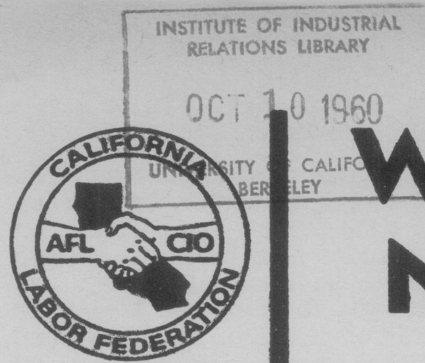
A well-organized team of medicos, aided and abetted by professional private insurance representatives, this Monday and Tuesday in Sacramento prevented the Governor's Conference on the Aging from expressing its support for prepaid aged health care under the social security principle.

The medical association-insurance company coalition ran roughshod over the hopes and aspirations of the aged and marred an otherwise constructive conference which produced more than 150 proposals to improve the lot of senior citizens.

Governor Edmund G. Brown, in a fighting speech for legislative action, made health care under social security a key point in his recommendations to the two-day conference attended by 3,000 delegates.

The conference's failure on this count sharpened the aged health care issue for California in the mounting political campaign. Labor-backed John F. Kennedy is making social security extension to meet health care needs of the aged a key issue in his campaign, while Republican candidate Nixon is doing the bidding of the medico-insurance coalition, which disrupted the Sacramento conference with divisive tactics.

Federation President Albin J. Gruhn headed a delegation of labor representatives at the conference



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Proposition No. 1 Blasted North and South

Leading public figures in northern and southern California this week drew strong support from one of the world's foremost builders of water conservation dams in condemning Prop. No. 1 — the multi-billion dollar "Special Interest Plum" opposed by labor.

The public unmasking of the giant water scheme followed this sequence:

1. Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District, exploded the myth that the Los Angeles area needs water from the proposed state project. During the thick of negotiations last week over a "worthless" contract which the state is trying to sell the district to get southland votes in November, Jensen said flatly that the LA

area doesn't need water for up to 20 years, and that there are other means of getting the water when it is needed.

2. In the Bay Area, almost simultaneously, State Senator George Miller Jr. blasted Prop. No. 1 as the "culmination of a ten-year propaganda campaign" based on the false premises of "surplus and shortage." The outspoken liberal Democrat from Contra Costa County said the November ballot measure proposes the "legalized looting" of so-called water surpluses that don't even exist.

3. The final unmasking came this week when Harvey Slocum, a world renowned builder of dams and native of southern California, voiced his firm conviction that the north-south water diversion project is "all wrong." Slocum charged: "The state is just not telling the people the truth about costs and feasibility of this project. . . ."

The week of rapid developments left the proponents of the water scheme jumping up and down on a "panic button," frantically trying to stampede voters into signing the proposed multi-million dollar "blank check."

Jensen Alerts Southland Voters

Jensen's statement in the southland last week was interpreted as a clear warning to greater Los Angeles voters against the "panic button" tactics being used in the south to sell Prop. No. 1.

The Metropolitan board chairman and southern California water expert is known to have stated on previous occasions that the LA area

who fought side by side with hundreds of senior citizens against the medical-insurance forces to secure constructive action on the medical care front.

Gruhn headed a major conference division on housing which came up with far-reaching liberal recommendations to meet the needs for low and middle income housing among the aged. These and other positive recommendations concerning economics and employment, rehabilitation, social welfare, education and other aged needs were in sharp contrast with the emasculated health care report.

Labor delegates who worked in conference sections on financing of medical care filed a blistering report to the final conference session, exposing the "Khrushchev-like" tactics of the medico-insurance group.

Secretary George Johns of the

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Medical-Insurance Interests Mar Conference

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San Francisco Labor Council, who filed the labor report, was ruled out of order under conference rules when he tried to obtain conference consideration of a seven-point labor recommendation on the explosive issue.

The labor report charged that "a flying squad of otherwise dignified medicos ran from section to section casting votes, and trading on the traditional exemplary reputation of their profession, deliberately confused" the medical care sessions.

"This disgraceful, Khrushchev-like exhibition," the report said, created a majority recommendation totally unrepresentative of this conference."

"It actually only represents the status quo viewpoints of the medical and insurance industries," the report stated.

The official conference reports from the economics and employment division, and an overlapping division on health care reported constructively on the health care needs of the aged, but presented only a division of opinion on the action necessary to meet these needs with justice for the aged. The medico-insurance groups were clearly associated in the conference report, however, with the reactionary "pauper's oath" approach. Labor and senior citizens together were reported as fighting for the Forand-type approach under social security.

The labor report was read amid cheers of approval from senior citizens at the conference, who showed a keen sense of frustration under the weight of the medico-insurance tactics. The labor report contained seven recommendations:

1. That the conference support a national prepaid health insurance plan of the Forand-type to be financed by employee and employer contributions to the Social Security Administration, and that Governor Brown make known this recommendation to the forthcoming President's Conference on the Aging, and to California senators and congressmen.

2. That labor-management and voluntary health insurance carriers continue to experiment and expand coverage for the aged, while efforts are made to fill the gaps in public assistance programs.

3. That the conference give support to the immediate formulation of a state prepaid health insurance plan under a social insurance program to be financed through contributions to the state Unemployment Compensation Disability Fund, and that Governor Brown urge such legislation be enacted by the 1961 session of the state legislature.

4. That such a statewide health insurance bill be drafted in such a manner that provisions can be easily integrated into any future legislation at the national level.

5. That either federal or state legislation be quickly enacted to provide adequate health care for senior citizens who do not fall within the recommended social security programs.

6. That the earnings limitations in the federal Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance retirement program be raised so that more private funds may be made available for the purchase of health insurance, or other health plans on a voluntary basis.

7. That appropriate legislation be considered to control the inflation of medical and hospital costs that has resulted from the lack of planning in the piecemeal spread and development of voluntary health insurance plans.

Other Conference Actions

Among the highlights of the constructive actions taken by the conference in other areas were the following:

—Conference endorsement of recommendations submitted by the Governor's Commission on the Employment and Retirement Problems of Older Workers, in support of a state law prohibiting age discrimination in hiring, expanded counselling and placement services for older workers, and the establishment of a permanent state advisory board on problems of older workers.

—Far-reaching recommendations on the better organization of health care and rehabilitation services for the aged (but no recommendation on health insurance except for the state to implement the recently passed "pauper's oath" bill).

—Housing action by the federal government to authorize 10,000 units per year of low-rent housing for the elderly; authorization for local redevelopment agencies to contribute land to nonprofit quasi-public or private corporations for low rent senior citizens' housing; enactment of a new state loan program utilizing self-liquidating bonds similar to those used to finance the Cal-Vet Farm

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first week in November for maximum effectiveness.

The national COPE pamphlet containing the voting record of Kennedy and Nixon is being shipped from Washington air express this Friday, and is expected to be available for distribution about Tuesday or Wednesday of the coming week. This is an excellent factual piece for early distribution in all contact work with voters.

Kennedy Materials

The heavy demand for Kennedy materials has created a serious shortage problem.

Thos. L. Pitts, chairman of the California Labor Committee for Kennedy-Johnson, this Friday sent a letter to local councils containing samples of campaign material that is available in limited quantities, with a request that an order form be completed indicating how much of each can be used in the next two weeks so that as much of the demand as possible can be met.

These materials are being made available through the efforts of both the Northern California and Southern California Kennedy Committees headed by Federation Vice Presidents Bob Ash and W. J. Bassett, respectively.

Pitts urged that any bumper strips ordered be used in a program which puts them directly on cars (and does not rely on people who get them in the mail to do this). He urged also that posters be placed with a person who will actually put them up in union halls and other public places (and that they not be mailed out).

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and Home Loan Program for the purpose of providing low-cost financing of homes for the elderly; and other far-reaching housing proposals.

—Recommendations for advancing the educational opportunities of retired individuals, backed up by specific recommendations at the state and local level.

—Recommendations for providing for substantial increases in monthly old age assistance payments, and their adjustment to changes in the consumer price index; extension of old age assistance to non-citizens who have resided in the United States for 25 years; better relationship of old age assistance to the varied requirements of single persons, married couples and individuals with various types of living arrangements, with increased payments to those requiring out-of-home care.

Gov't Officials Folding Under Grower Pressure

Two recent developments on the farm labor front show signs of key government officials knuckling under to anti-union pressures of growers.

Robert C. Goodwin, Director of the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Employment Security, this Monday, in effect reversed a state finding of a bona fide labor dispute at the Lindsay Cochrane ranch in Tracy and gave the big tomato-grower his strikebreaking "braceros."

State Director of Employment Irving Perluss has issued a startling order relieving two Sacramento Valley grower organizations using imported labor from their obligation to provide "day hauls" for recruiting domestic tomato pickers.

The order was granted at the growers' requests on trumped-up and totally unconfirmed grower charges that domestic workers boarding the buses were determined strikers.

In Washington the sequence of events left observers asking whether the Department of Labor's strikebreaking decision on the use of "braceros" wasn't an attempt by top federal officials to square themselves with Republican Presidential candidate Richard Nixon, should he possibly win this November.

Big California growers who are fighting the farm worker organizing campaign, last week, numbered among a group of farmers who announced with great pomp and ceremony that they were supporting Nixon for President.

Perluss' hasty action relieving the growers of the requirement that they provide "day hauls" for domestics as a condition of receiving "braceros" was in direct conflict with a basic Bureau of Employment Security standing rule. The Perluss order put the Department of Employment in the position of enforcing grower "yellow dog" demands against domestic workers who are union members.

The Bureau of Employment Security rule at point provides that there can be no discrimination against domestics because they are union members. It was established recently in a United Packinghouse Worker case.

Valley farm organizations hailed the Perluss decision as an indication of a "turning tide" in support of the farmer efforts to smash the organizing drives. Other grower groups throughout the state announced that they are planning like action to "take the offensive in the current farm labor situation."

AWOC in Stockton, however, points out that Perluss is already allowing growers in various areas to use "braceros" without providing "day hauls" for domestics who are available for harvest work. The growers, in effect, are prejudging every domestic as a potential striker to be avoided at all costs with the help of the state, AWOC notes.

According to an AWOC spokesman, Tracy tomato grower Lindsay Cochrane,

under Goodman's decision, is now using "braceros" and the State Department of Employment is not even requiring that Cochrane make a pretense of recruiting domestics by providing "day haul" buses for domestics.

The Goodman ruling in Washington, this Monday, held that the AWOC strike declared bona fide by the state on the Cochrane ranch automatically terminated when the first picking of tomatoes was completed during the course of the strike. The immediate beginning of the second picking was deemed to make the strike a "new dispute."

Goodman ruled that a new group of workers in the second picking would have to strike, before it could be recognized.

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The literature shortage requires the most effective use of what is available.

A limited supply of Kennedy-COPE buttons has been sent to central labor councils.

ILGWU-Sponsored Coast to Coast Weekly Election Broadcasts

This Wednesday, October 5, the ILGWU began its weekly campaign program to run until the election over the ABC radio network, coast to coast.

Adlai E. Stevenson was featured this Wednesday. On each of the next four Wednesdays the following persons will speak to the nation: **October 12, George Meany; October 19, Eleanor Roosevelt; October 26, Lyndon Johnson; November 2, John F. Kennedy.**

Check your local ABC station for the exact time. In the San Francisco area the programs are being carried over KGO each Wednesday at 10:30 p.m.

Each broadcast will also feature stars from Hollywood and Broadway, including: Frank Sinatra, Marlon Brando, Shelley Winters, Talullah Bankhead, Eve Marie Saint, Henry Fonda, Peter Lawford, Edward G. Robinson, Melvyn Douglas, Ralph Bellamy, Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh.

Jennis Matyas of the Ladies' Garment Workers International Union in San Francisco is urging local effort to build listening audiences.

Truman Coming to California

Former President Harry S. Truman will address a fund-raising dinner of the Northern California Labor Committee for Kennedy-Johnson, scheduled to be held at the

The fantastic order leaves AWOC strikers still picketing the ranch while "braceros" are being supplied by the government. On top of this, Cochrane is no longer obliged to provide the "day hauls" to recruit the domestics as a new group of workers for the second picking.

The Goodman decision followed a hearing in Washington demanded by the growers in which AFL-CIO and AWOC leaders submitted testimony on the existing situation.

The mushrooming cloud on the farm labor front at the week's end carried with it new demands by the notorious Associated Farmers for immediate government action to smash workers' rights under phony "save the crop" cries.

Claremont Hotel in Berkeley, Thursday, October 28, Chairman Bob Ash announced this week.

The dinner price of \$15 includes everything. Truman is out stumping for the labor-endorsed Democratic Presidential ticket and is not pulling any punches when it comes to reviewing the record of the Eisenhower-Nixon team.

Building Trades Pressed to Action

C. J. Haggerty, president of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department, has sent out a special bulletin to all building trades bodies, setting forth the vital issues of the 1960 presidential campaign, and urging building trades to get behind get-out-the-vote drives at all levels of coordinated labor activity.

"Today is the time to start," Haggerty warns. "Sign up volunteers and wives with your locals, then contact COPE, WAD or the central body and let them know who is available, when, where, etc., so that they can plan their election day activities. Don't delay — the future of our country, our families and our building trades unions may be determined by this election."

"Vote No" Proposition 1 Campaign

California labor's campaign to smash the "multi-billion dollar special interest plum" proposed in the state water bond ballot proposition (No. 1) is getting under way. A hard-hitting pamphlet exposing the destructive effect this proposal would have on the future development of California will soon be available.

In the development of local campaigns there should be planning for the use of this piece.

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is not dependent upon promises of receiving water through the central valley where experts agree every drop of Feather River water could be put to greater economic use.

Recognizing that there is no real water surplus in the natural hydrographic area of the great central valley of California, responsible Los Angeles water authorities have consistently demanded water delivery guarantees which even the state's own hired experts say are totally lacking in the unprecedented water bond proposal.

Jensen said flatly: "We are not out of water today and we won't be for a long time — at least 10 years, perhaps 15, and maybe 20.

"There are alternatives to this plan.

"So far as I am concerned, I'm ready to let the whole thing drop—to kiss the state project goodbye and work out our own problems."

Miller Lashes Plan

Senator Miller confirmed the southland's reservations in a penetrating review of the false premises of the ballot measure before an El Cerrito Rotary Club luncheon.

Referring to a fiction of northern water surpluses created over the past ten years, Miller said that, despite the claims of its proponents, the plan had no provision for replacing water to be siphoned from the Delta and no provision to control winter floods.

"There is no surplus of water in the Delta from which the water is to be piped . . . to Southern California," Miller declared.

In warning that such transportation of water would "wreck a flourishing economy on the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers," Miller had the sound backing of other water experts.

S. T. Harding, a prominent consulting engineer on California water projects since 1911, has con-

firmed that total demands on Delta waters exceed estimated flows. The state has recognized that additional water must be put into the Delta, Harding says in his new book "Water in California," but the money "for these works are not provided in the bond issue. . . ."

Miller said the proposal by the state's financial and engineering consultants that Oroville Dam — the keystone unit on the Feather river — not be constructed for 10 years "is a basic injustice of the Proposition No. 1 water plan."

"Until the Oroville Dam is built, there can be no provision to replace any of the water which will be taken from the Delta," he said.

The state's own consultants have reported that there is not enough money in the bond proposal to build even the keystone Oroville water storage unit.

Miller added:

"Even if constructed on time, Oroville will not produce enough power to pump the millions of acre feet of water from the Delta and over the Tehachapis. This means—even with Oroville power — the state must purchase additional power from private companies.

"It is a sound, established axiom of reclamation that a dam produces power for sale . . . so that power revenue will allow sale of water at a price the consumer can pay.

"And for ten years at least, there will not even be the insufficient amount of Oroville power which is planned in this scheme. The state general fund will have to be tapped—that means taxes for every citizen in the state. . . ."

Miller's attack hit at the recognized deficiencies in economic planning in Prop. No. 1. The proposed transportation of water from one natural water basin to another would use about four times as much power as would be produced in the water scheme going before the voters.

Experts estimate that Prop. No. 1 would destroy power in an amount needed to provide jobs for 400,000 to 500,000 factory workers.

Dam Builder Underscores Warnings

Dam-builder Harvey Slocum's rejection of Prop. No. 1 this week drew focus on the basic unsoundness of the whole scheme.

The building superintendent of Grand Coulee Dam in Washington, California's Friant Dam, and currently, the massive Bhakra Dam in India, was interviewed in his Alhambra home by San Francisco Chronicle correspondent Jackson Doyle.

"It looks like a sellout in Sacramento," Slocum said of the ballot proposal, adding:

"It would violate immutable laws of nature . . . California's water problem is extremely difficult . . . the problem is to conserve and equitably control the use of the available water.

"But basically, it is wrong, morally, financially, legally, to transfer water from one watershed to another. One finally wakes up to the fact that no more water can be used than falls on any given watershed, and not all of that without upsetting immutable laws of nature.

"Once you move water great distances you never catch up with the demands. Southern California is finding that out, but it still has supplemental supplies to develop in its own area . . .

"This plan would rob Peter to pay Paul. . . . The state talks about the Feather river as if it were the Amazon. . . . The Amazon has an average flow of 2.2 million cubic feet per second. I have seen the Feather river as low as 300 cubic feet per second. . . ."

As a southern Californian, Slocum said that Prop. No. 1 would "just compound the problems of southern California, create more demands there than could ever be met, and all to the detriment of the north. . . ."