

Political Notes

GET-OUT-THE-VOTE CONTEST

A national presidential "get-out-the-vote" contest, with cash awards totalling \$2,000, has been announced by Labor's Committee for Kennedy-Johnson in Washington, D. C.

Any local labor political committee certified by a recognized AFL-CIO central labor body is eligible to participate in the contest. The committee must be organized and functioning in a specific political subdivision (city, ward, assembly district, etc.) with a population of over 15,000.

The winning committees will be those whose districts show the best proportion of Democratic to Republican presidential votes in the November 8 election, compared to the proportion of the vote in 1956. First prize is \$1,000, and the second prize is \$500. Five additional prizes of \$100 each will be given to the five local committees in the districts with the next best percentage improvements in the Kennedy-Johnson vote.

(Continued on Page 2)

PROP. NO. 1 BATTLE LINES DRAWN; "VOTE NO" CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The battle lines over Proposition No. 1 on the November ballot were brought into sharp focus this week as "pro" and "con" forces revealed their composition.

California labor was seen manning the barricades of public interest against a well-financed army of special interests supporting the state water bond measure.

In defense of California's future growth and prosperity, a statewide Committee for Sound Water Development and against Proposition No. 1 announced its formation. W. J. Bassett, secretary of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, and liberal Democratic State Senator George Miller, Jr. of Contra Costa County were named southern and northern California co-chairmen, respectively, with state AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts as secretary.

Supporters of the multi-billion dollar "special interest plum" were revealed in a financial report filed with Secretary of State Frank M. Jordan by the Californians for Water, the statewide committee formed to sell Prop. 1 to the voters this November.

Top contributor listed in the campaign report was the Southern Pa-



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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151

Kennedy-Nixon Record Pamphlet Gets Wide Distribution

Thos. L. Pitts, state AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer and statewide chairman of the California Labor Committee for Kennedy-Johnson, announced that labor unions throughout the state have commenced the distribution of 1,000,000 copies of a new pamphlet designed to give voters "A Look at the Record" of presidential candidates Kennedy and Nixon.

The state AFL-CIO leader said, "It is important at this point in the historic Kennedy-Nixon TV debates that voters have some factual background information for measuring expressions of viewpoints against the record performance of each candidate."

The pamphlet is published by the Committee on Political Education of the AFL-CIO, which compiled the voting record material from votes recorded in the Congressional Record, the official publication of Congress.

"In this year's presidential race," Pitts said, "there is no need to play a guessing game with what to expect in the way of performance from the candidates."

Both men served together in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1947-50. In 1951 and 1952, Nixon was in the U.S. Senate and Kennedy in the House of Representatives.

In 1953, Kennedy began his service as U.S. Senator and Nixon as Vice President. Since that year, Nixon's record has been limited to breaking tie votes in the Senate.

The COPE pamphlet tabulates how Kennedy and Nixon voted on 17 broad categories of legislative consideration.

According to COPE, on 131 key votes, Kennedy was 91.6 per cent "right"; 1.5 per cent "wrong."

Nixon is recorded on 77 key votes, with a score of 13 per cent "right" and 76.6 per cent "wrong."

Kennedy's and Nixon's votes on 10 major issues are featured in the new pamphlet. These are spelled out in considerable detail:

CIVIL RIGHTS

On February 22, 1950, an amendment was offered in the House to a Fair Employment Practices Commission bill to remove enforcement powers from the

cific Company, which is reported to own 200,000 acres of valley lands in the potential service area of the proposed water scheme.

The giant landholder contributed \$15,000 toward the campaign for Prop. No. 1—the biggest single sum yet reported by proponents of the \$1.75 billion water bond program. (The first filing with the Secretary of State showed \$120,541 collected by the Californians for Water as of September 29. A San Diego County Committee backing the bonds reported an additional \$51,599 in contributions.)

Consistent with the pattern of special interest support, the filing with Jordan showed many thousands of dollars in contributions from contractors and material suppliers who expect to benefit from

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued on Page 3)

Political Notes

(Continued from Page 1)

Entry blanks are available from AFL-CIO central labor bodies and must reach national headquarters, Labor's Committee for Kennedy and Johnson, 1801 "K" Street N.W. Washington 6, D.C. on or before November 1, 1960. The national committee is headed by AFL-CIO Vice President George Harrison, and comprises sixty presidents and other top officials of AFL-CIO international unions.

KENNEDY MATERIALS

The shortage still exists, but there is some improvement. Eighty-thousand Kennedy-Johnson windshield stickers and 150,000 Kennedy lapel tabs have been received and are being distributed through northern and southern California committees for the Democratic presidential ticket.

Other materials now being made available include: 50,000 copies of a four-page tabloid reprint from the AFL-CIO News, October 1, 1960, featuring a Meany-Kennedy discussion of 1960 election issues; 20,000 Kennedy pamphlets—"A Pledge to the Workingman"; 50,000 copies of another pamphlet featuring a Western prospectus.

REGISTRATION FIGURES

The Secretary of State reports that registrations for the general election reached 7,464,626 — an overall 1,089,344 increase in voter rolls since the June primary.

The increase breaks down as follows: 618,835 Democrats, 406,433 Republicans, 71 Prohibitionists, 6,955 members of splinter groups, and 57,061 who refused to list a party connection.

Republicans, who were leading in five counties during the primary, have lost Orange and Santa Barbara counties to the Democrats. GOPers have retained a registration margin only in Marin and tiny Alpine and Mono counties.

Democrats have 57.54 per cent of registrations, compared to 39.20 per cent for the Republicans.

California Labor COPE's analysis of the new registration figures, district by district, is presently being mailed out to local central labor councils and political action bodies.

SLIPPERY DICK

Trying to pin Vice President Nixon down on the so-called "right to

PROP. NO. 1 BATTLE LINES DRAWN; "VOTE NO" CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

(Continued from Page 1)

the bonds if they are approved by the voters.

Allen Bottorff, known as a long-time spokesman for big Kern County landholders, was also listed as a campaign contributor for the bonds. The Kern County Land Company owns an estimated 348,000 acres in the potential service area of the water scheme.

Still another special interest was brought out in the open when the Los Angeles Times this week editorialized in support of Prop. No. 1. The mammoth Tejon Ranch in Kern County, reported by Walker's Manual of Pacific Coast Securities to be owned 40 per cent by the Times-Mirror Corporation and Chandler and Sherman interests, holds 168,000 acres in the potential service area of the water scheme.

Estimates are that irrigable valley lands receiving water would be increased in value from \$500 to \$1,000 an acre.

OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN

Pitted against these forces, the newly-formed Committee for Sound Water Development against Prop. No. 1 moved quickly to battle what it called the "water monster."

In Greater Los Angeles, this week, some 950 billboards urging the voters to "stop the water monster" were unveiled.

work" issue is like trying to catch a greased pig in the dark of night.

John Herling, editor of a weekly Washington news letter, found this out when he tried to get an answer from Nixon at the Republican National Convention.

Asked specifically whether he approved section 14b in Taft-Hartley and "right to work" laws enacted on the state level, Nixon answered Herling as follows:

"Answering each question in order: (1) I do approve of Section 14b of the Taft-Hartley Act, for which I voted when I was a member of the Congress; (2) I do believe that the Platform, therefore, should have a provision providing it; and (3) as far as those laws are concerned, I believe that each state should have the right to make its determination as to whether it de-

(Continued on Page 4)

The boards employ an octopus as the monster-symbol to depict the far-reaching adverse effect the passage of Proposition No. 1 would have on the state.

The water monster symbol is also being used in a pamphlet developed by the committee to illustrate a factual analysis of Prop. No. 1. This Wednesday sample copies of the pamphlet were sent to all labor organizations in the state, together with order forms for membership distribution.

In a covering letter urging labor organizations to place their orders Thos. L. Pitts described Proposition No. 1 as "the multi-million dollar 'special interest plum' that would subvert principles of sound water development for a 'water mirage' of pork-barrel promises."

California labor, Pitts said, "has been fighting the scheme behind Proposition No. 1 ever since it was conceived some ten years ago."

The pamphlet is being made available to all groups and individuals who are working to stop the passage of Prop. No. 1.

In another phase of the campaign against Prop. No. 1, the California Labor Federation is utilizing its display booth at the "New Horizons of 1960" union label show in Los Angeles to explain the issues behind the water proposal to the show's visitors.

The Fifth Annual Exposition of union-made products, sponsored by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, opened this Wednesday, October 12, at the Shrine Exposition Hall.

The Federation booth displays maps of actual landholdings of monopoly interests who would be enriched by millions and millions of dollars at the expense of the taxpayers.

Other harmful aspects of Proposition No. 1 are depicted by blown-up sketches of the octopus-symbol at work, augmented by a live octopus to attract visitors' attention.

Materials being distributed include souvenir thimbles indicating how much water is likely to reach Southern California, even if the multi-billion "special interest plum" is approved by the voters and initiated.

Kennedy-Nixon Record Pamphlet Gets Wide Distribution

(Continued from Page 1)

Commission and make it voluntary rather than compulsory.

On this key FEP vote, Kennedy voted against the weakening amendment, and Nixon voted for it.

FOREIGN POLICY

Just five months before the Communist attack on South Korea, the House, on January 19, 1950, blocked a bill authorizing \$60 million in economic aid to Korea.

Nixon voted against the Korean aid bill—Kennedy for it.

SOCIAL SECURITY

On August 16, 1950, a motion was made on the floor of the House aimed at blocking efforts to restore disability insurance revisions to the Social Security Act Amendments of 1950, and to eliminate the Knowland amendment permitting states to refuse unemployment insurance benefits to workers who decline to take jobs at substandard wages or to serve as scab labor.

Nixon voted for the motion to block these liberal efforts, while Kennedy voted for it.

HOUSING

In 1949, the last major National Housing Act was passed, providing for slum clearance and redevelopment; 1,050,000 units of low-rent public housing; a farm housing program; housing research and a 10-year housing census.

Nixon voted against the 1949 housing bill, Kennedy voted for it.

INCOME TAXES

On February 2, 1948, a motion was made to send back to committee a Republican-sponsored tax reduction bill with instructions to increase personal exemptions from \$500 to \$700 and to increase corporation taxes.

Kennedy voted for this recommittal motion to help low and middle income taxpayers. Nixon voted against the recommittal motion.

EDUCATION

On February 3 this year, the Republican leader in the Senate moved to table reconsideration of a defeated amendment to provide increased federal aid for both school house construction and teachers' salaries.

As Vice President, Nixon cast the tie-breaking vote to table, and against federal aid for school teachers' salaries. Kennedy had voted against the tabling action.

CONSUMERS

On August 5, 1949, a bill was passed exempting independent natural gas producers from regulation by the federal government.

Nixon voted for this bill against protections for consumers. Kennedy voted against it.

On August 5, 1948, a motion was made in the House to pass a resolution relying completely on bank credit controls to halt inflation, ignoring the President's request for more direct measures. At that time, prices had increased 65 per cent since the previous vote on inflation controls.

Nixon voted for the motion and against consumers. Kennedy voted against the weaker controls.

RULES COMMITTEE

In 1949, the so-called "21-day rule" was adopted by the House of Representatives to break some of the "life and death control" which the Rules Committee possesses over pending legislation. On January 20, 1950, the following year, a resolution was passed repealing this 21-day rule, and restoring the dictatorial power of the Rules Committee to block House action on bills.

Kennedy voted against the resolution restoring this power, and Nixon voted for it.

MINIMUM WAGE

In 1959, during the consideration of the minimum wage bill, an amendment was offered to eliminate coverage for about one million workers, instead of broadening coverage.

Nixon voted for eliminating coverage for these one million workers. Kennedy voted against the elimination.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT

During consideration of the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947, there were three important votes in the House, where both Nixon and Kennedy were members.

The first of these, on April 17, 1947, was the passage of the House version known as the Hartley bill, which was even harsher than the final Taft-Hartley Act passed. It provided for banning industry-wide bargaining and bans on employer contributions to welfare funds, and permitted individuals to obtain injunctions against unions. Kennedy voted against this Hartley bill, and Nixon for it.

On June 4, 1947, the final version of the Taft-Hartley Act was approved by the House. Kennedy voted against it, and Nixon voted for it.

Following passage of the measure, and President Truman's veto of it, the vote on overriding the veto was taken on June 20, 1947. Kennedy voted against overriding the veto, and Nixon voted for it.

On April 22, 1959, a key vote was taken in the Senate on the so-called Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959. On the floor of the Senate the so-called McClellan "Bill of Rights" amendments were adopted, purporting to guarantee democratic rights to union members, but carelessly worded

Strikebreakers Used in Sacto TV Dispute

It was reported this week in Sacramento that KXTV, Channel 10 is importing strikebreakers from out of state to break AFTA-NABET locals in contract negotiations with the station.

A total of 42 employees covered by the two unions have walked out in protest of unfair labor practices, among which were charges of failure to bargain, and failure to bargain with authorized personnel.

Since that time, the station has been operating with supervisory personnel and with strikebreakers from Indianapolis, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Houston, Texas and Reno, Nevada.

Workers in the newspaper crafts have been quick to notice similarities between the bitter Portland, Oregon dispute and the KXTV strike. The same man who furnished newspaper workers to the Oregonian is reportedly furnishing television talent and technical help from Reno, Nevada.

Contract negotiations with the TV channel have been stymied since a representative from the parent corporations owning the station arrived in Sacramento September 2, 1960 and rejected progress made in negotiations with the station's authorized personnel.

The extent of the agreements reached between the station and unions were declared null and void.

The union-busting drive was launched with the importation of out-of-state strikebreakers and the offer of individual contracts.

The principal stockholder in KX-TV is John Hay "Jock" Whitney, Republican Ambassador to Great Britain. He has been apprised of the situation by both unions, but has not bothered to answer the union correspondence.

This failure to respond is being interpreted by local union leaders that the tactics now being employed in Sacramento by Whitney's New York office have his tacit approval.

so as to subject honest unions to endless harassment and litigation. When a motion to reconsider the adoption of these amendments was made, Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona immediately moved to table the reconsideration action.

Nixon voted with Goldwater to break a tie vote on the tabling action. Kennedy voted against the tabling move.

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Union Drive Boosts Tomato Rates 54 Percent

The secretary-manager of the state's Tomato Grower Association admitted this week that the AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee drive has forced tomato growers in the Sacramento River area to raise their picking rates 54 percent over last year's rate.

The admission came in the form of a protest by the grower association against a 17-cent per box figure set by the state Department of Employment as the prevailing rate to be paid imported braceros in eight northern counties: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba.

Under Public Law 78, the prevailing rate paid domestics in an area must be determined for the purpose of importing Mexican Nationals.

Alan Jensen, secretary-manager of the tomato growers, charged that the wage was based only on a sampling of workers and that 70 percent of the samplings were made in the Sacramento River area "where union activity forced growers to raise their wages."

He said the wage rate amounted to a 54 percent increase over last year's figure.

The admitted increase was accomplished in the face of organized grower efforts to smash the organizing drive in the tomato harvest, which has been marked by heavy importations of foreign labor.

The grower protest against the prevailing rate determination appeared to be based on the contention that rates paid braceros should be taken into consideration in determining the importation wage rates.

In previous years growers have been given almost full authority to set their own prevailing rate for importation of braceros.

Jensen said that there were 13,910 braceros and 2,190 domestics in the Sacramento Valley to-

mato fields. and yet, he said, the wage sampling was the result of interviews with only 884 domestics, or only 5.49 percent of the work force.

AWOC Director Norman Smith, however, reminded the growers that the purpose of the survey is solely to determine how much domestics are being paid, in order to apply the same rate to the braceros — thus about 40 percent of the pertinent workers were surveyed.

Smith added: "The prevailing wage is only the first step toward the wage rates that should be paid for this kind of work."

In San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Contra Costa counties, the Department of Employment set the prevailing rate at 15 cents per box, or 12-18 cents a box on a sliding scale which takes picking conditions into account.

San Joaquin County has been the center of the Cochrane dispute, where the U. S. Department of Labor last week gave the tomato grower imported braceros to break an AWOC strike.

UNION SHOP

On another front, a major breakthrough was scored this Monday when AWOC won a union shop agreement and wage increases from the Hedrick-Church olive orchards in Tehama County after a seven-day strike.

The agreement was reported to have strained the relations of the union shop grower with neighbors who are fighting union organizing efforts.

The Hedrick-Church orchards were struck on October 4 by AWOC after grower rejection of union demands to raise the picking price from \$1.10 to \$1.25 for a 35-pound "Feather River lug."

Hedrick explained to protesting neighbors that he was in no position to hold out against the union's wage demands.

Hedrick is reported to have said

Political Notes

(Continued from Page 2)

sires to have such laws.

"My own opinion from having studied labor relations over a long period of time is that, generally speaking, right-to-work laws at the state level, or as proposed at the federal level, do not generally serve the purpose for which they are drawn. But I do think that states should have the right to make the determination themselves."

Herling responded: "But, sir, that does not answer the basic question. How do you feel about right-to-work laws?"

Vice President Nixon replied: "To repeat, I indicated that I do not believe that they serve their purpose in the states, but I favor the right of states to adopt them if they so desire."

SMELL OF TIME

The Oregon Labor Press recently struck a responsive chord when it editorialized about the political behavior of Time magazine. The editorial pointed out Time's political behavior brings to mind the newly-published autobiography of a former managing editor of Time, T. S. Matthews, who wrote:

"In 1952, when it sniffed victory in the air at long last, there was no holding Time. The distortions, suppressions and slanting of its political 'news' seemed to me to pass the bounds of politics and to commit an offense against the ethics of journalism. . . .

"(After several years on the job) I had become so used to Time's ways, curt, snide, conceited as they were, that I hardly noticed them any longer—as I suppose a worker in a glue factory after a while becomes impervious to the smell of glue. . . .

"It wasn't only Time's dirty politics I disliked, but the tone, the smell, the personality of Time itself."

that he believes "a well conducted union is a good thing . . . I think many errors have been made by taking advantage of cheap wages."