

## Farm Labor Bills TV-Radio Review Sunday

A discussion of migratory farm labor legislation to be introduced in the 1961 session of Congress convening in January will be presented on Sunday, December 11, on the national ABC television and radio program "Issues and Answers".

Edward P. Morgan will lead the discussion by participants who include Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr., Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor.

The televised program will take place this Sunday at 12:30 p.m. PST. Most of the following ABC-TV stations in California are expected to carry it:

KGO-TV	San Francisco
KNTV	San Jose
KOVR-TV	Stockton
KABC-TV	Los Angeles
XETV	San Diego
KHSL-TV	Chico
KVIP-TV	Redding
KIEM-TV	Eureka
KLYD-TV	Bakersfield
KJEO-TV	Fresno

In addition, most ABC radio stations in California will carry the program on the same day at 5:30 p.m. PST.



THOS. L. PITTS  
Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer

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Weekly

# News Letter

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## Fed Executive Council Acts On State Legislative Program

The Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, meeting in San Francisco in weekend session, December 3-4, approved 184 state legislative proposals to carry out the policy mandates of the August Federation convention in Sacramento.

The legislative program of California labor was described as the "most comprehensive and balanced set of proposals ever developed by the AFL-CIO movement for presentation to the legislature when it convenes in January 1961."

In a grueling two-day weekend session, the 36-member state AFL-CIO Executive Council worked out the details of legislation reflecting the workingman's interest in broad public issues as well as those affecting his employment and social security status as a wage earner.

Comprehensive programs to lib-

eralize unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation, and unemployment disability insurance are supplemented by proposals to help meet many of the social needs of the general public.

Falling in this latter category are the following far-reaching measures:

—A bill to establish a California Mortgage Authority, created for the purpose of assisting and encouraging persons and families to acquire homes under reasonably low interest mortgage obligations.

—A program providing for the retraining of persons whose skills are no longer employable because of technological and engineering advances in our economy so that they may remain productive members of our society. This program, to be conducted within the Department of Employment in cooperation with the Department of Industrial Relations, would be particularly geared to helping older workers who are displaced by automation and other technological developments.

—A related measure calling for a vastly expanded vocational rehabilitation program for many individuals whose productive potential is under-utilized because of various handicaps.

—A state "Forand-type" measure employing the social security principle to provide medical and health care benefits for senior citizens. This measure is supplemented by another proposal applicable to the

## AWOC SCORES OLIVE HARVEST SUCCESS

The latest chapter in the successful organization of California farm workers was released this week by AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organization Committee director Norman Smith in a review of developments in the state's olive harvest.

Eight solid days of negotiations by AWOC representative George Seratt ended the B & L Olive Ranch strike near Valley Springs and brought the latest agreement. Its terms included a 50 per cent increase in wages, rehiring of all strikers, hiring of only union men in the future, and complete freedom of access to the ranch for AWOC representatives.

Of interest is the fact that the entire original crew of 23 were recent immigrants from Mexico. Since termination of the strike, the ranch has added 30 union men to the original crew.

Smith indicated that B & L had been paying \$1.00 per 38-pound box at the start of the harvest. In the course of negotiations, management finally offered \$1.25 and asked the union to take a poll of

the crew on acceptance of their offer. When 21 out of the 23 voted against it, B & L capitulated and agreed to the \$1.50 price as well as the other conditions of settlement.

AWOC stated that relations with the ranch are now very cordial and the grower is well satisfied with the union labor he is getting.

In Corning, where AWOC won a union agreement on one ranch, a series of strikes set the prevailing wage in olives at \$1.25 per 33-pound box. Rates ranging up to \$2.00 a box for poorer picking and larger boxes were also won.

Organization in the Oroville area was estimated to have been success-

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# HEW Survey Shows Study Cited by AMA Is Phony

A Department of Health, Education and Welfare survey has given the lie to American Medical Association propaganda concerning health care needs of the nation's elders.

The HEW survey found that 77 per cent of the nation's citizens over age 65 have chronic ailments. A phony survey used by the AMA to defeat Forand-type legislation in the 86th Congress alleged that the nation's elders were, on the whole, in good health, that they can afford the medical care they need, and that they neither want nor need a medical care plan geared to social security.

The AMA-cited survey was later proved to be unscientific and limited to higher bracket whites only. It was found that one of the professors who directed it was an unpaid consultant to the AMA. The "survey," which emanated from Georgia's Emory University, was financed by the William Volker Fund, which has been described as "conservative" even by the AMA.

Several sociologists who took part in the Emory survey without knowing its true purpose later repudiated it. One, Prof. Noel Gist, University of Missouri, declared that if he had known the study was to be used for political purposes, "I would not have undertaken it at the outset."

The HEW survey was released at the beginning of October. Had it been released earlier, it is believed its findings could have made a big difference in the medical care fight's outcome.

The HEW findings were based upon a survey of 73,000 householders over a two-year period, ending in June of 1959. It showed that persons in the 65 and over age group go to the doctor 6.8 times a year, compared with five times for those in the 45 to 54 age group. It also showed that about 42 per cent of those over age 65 have some degree of chronic activity limitation and that about 18 per cent suffer chronic limitation to their mobility.

The report showed that 48 per cent of those elder citizens, with family incomes of less than \$2,000 a year, had chronic limitations of activity. In the \$7,000 and over in-

come group, only 37 per cent of those over 65 suffered such limitations.

There is no doubt that the number of visits made by the over-65 group to doctors would be far greater were the oldsters able to afford it. There is no doubt also that the nation's elders are being deprived of needed hospital and other medical care for this reason.

This is corroborated by a study of the University of Michigan, which showed that elderly residents of that state had twice the medical care expenses and half the income of younger families. It also showed that about half the over-65 group have incomes averaging less than \$2,000 and that a similar percentage has no health insurance.

## Fed Executive Council Acts On State Legislative Program

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general public, establishing a state health insurance program to assure availability of medical care for all citizens.

These and many other proposals highlight the legislative program to be advanced before the legislature. In the area of direct labor legislation, major proposals include the following:

—A measure establishing a comprehensive set of procedures governing the conduct of elections, designation of collective bargaining representative, certification of collective bargaining agent in labor relations matters involving intra-state commerce. The bill would have full application to agricultural labor, along with other measures extending to farm workers all socio-economic programs enacted in recent decades.

—Several measures to extend organizational rights for collective bargaining and other concerted activities to public employees.

—A measure establishing a comprehensive state fair labor standards act, including provisions for minimum wages (establishing a minimum wage rate of \$1.25 per

## AWOC Scores Olive Harvest Success

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ful on 90% of the olive ranches. Terms of settlement included minimum piece rates and recognition of AWOC's right of access to workers on the job.

In the Strathmore-Lindsay area, heavy grower resistance was encountered. Despite this, successful actions are moving piece rates upward to a level of \$1.25 per 33-pound box. A major holdout is producer-processor V. R. Smith of Lindsay. AWOC is maintaining picket lines at this operation.

Several olive growers have already agreed to AWOC's proposal for beginning negotiations well in advance of next year's crop to ensure an orderly harvest. The AWOC spokesman indicated that plans had been laid to undertake the negotiations next summer.

hour) along with maximum hours, and the establishment of administrative powers and duties in the office of Director of Industrial Relations for its implementation. This measure would also apply to agricultural labor.

—A bill requiring state regulation of exorbitant fees frequently charged by private employment agencies.

In still another area of growing public concern, the Executive Council took a strong position to push for protection against deceptive practices in weights and measures vitally affecting the consuming public.

The Council warned distributors that it would fight every effort to establish weights and measures procedures which would allow packaged and processed foods to contain amounts less than stated net weights.

Specifically, the Council called for the introduction of the measure that would repeal a state law passed in 1957 that allows the establishment of such procedures for so-called "deficiency tolerances" in packaged foods.



# Expanded Vocational Education Programs Urged by Pitts

Gearing our school system to a revitalized program of vocational education to halt leakage from the economy's skilled manpower supply was discussed this Tuesday in Los Angeles by California Labor Federation Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts.

Addressing the American Vocational Association's trade and industrial division, the state AFL-CIO leader's remarks centered around training programs for journeymen and supervisors as well as apprentices.

While the demand for skilled workers will jump from the present 8.5 million to 11 million by 1970, Pitts declared that our training programs are not even keeping abreast of replacement requirements.

Pitts noted that the problem was aggravated by the obsolescence of journeymen's skills caused by rapid change in technology and materials. He saw the magnitude of these changes reflected in the fact that some 80,000 California journeymen are taking some form of instruction compared to a total apprentice registration of only 21,000.

The Federation spokesman expressed the belief that educational requirements in the skilled trades will be raised sharply during the 1960s. Citing a study indicating that only one-fourth of those entering the skilled trades recently had proper educational preparation, he asserted:

"Perhaps the most important need which can be filled by the schools lies in the area of first establishing a sound foundation in math, communications and scientific principles."

Condemning the stepchild status of vocational and technical education in our secondary schools, Pitts called for raising it to a coordinate position with other school courses. By addition of realistic scientific and math material, he forecast a reduction in school drop-outs together with much better job qualification of high school graduates.

Pointing to the need for a "kindergarten through college" effort to promote skill development, Pitts quoted Dr. James B. Conant:

"Our job is to raise the level of

expectancy in the minds of our youth."

The Federation official stated that this was especially relevant where discriminatory employment practices persist. While elevating community attitudes, he observed that the schools must make greater efforts toward supplying Negro and Mexican-American community members information on apprenticeship requirements.

Pitts repeated an earlier warning:

"Here we have an immense reservoir of intelligence, aptitude and desire, the essential ingredients for development of a skilled manpower pool adequate to the needs of the future. . . . If we think that our future skilled manpower problems can be met without the eradication of discriminatory practices, then we are playing an ostrich game with the facts and only deluding ourselves."

Pitts emphasized that expanded vocational education efforts should take place within the framework of the existing apprenticeship programs, which he considers flexible enough for extensive growth and improvement.

Other recommendations made by Pitts regarding contributions the schools can make toward improving and increasing our pool of skilled manpower included development and utilization of the following:

1. Improved counseling services.
2. Current manuals, assignments, visual aids and competent instructors.
3. Surveys of industrial needs and job analyses for better curriculum preparation.
4. Projecting industrial trends into the future.
5. Providing classrooms, texts and equipment.
6. Relating training to actual jobs.
7. Avoiding gearing programs to slow learners.
8. Eliminating gaps and duplications.

Pitts also stressed the potential for rejuvenating training at the apprenticeship, journeyman and supervisory levels through the "Career of Skill" program started five years ago in Contra Costa County

# Reno Discrimination Again Serious

Discrimination in public accommodations by hotel, motel, and casino owners in the Reno area is again very serious, reported William Becker, Secretary of the California Committee for Fair Practices, after his meeting this week in Reno with officers of several unions and of the NAACP Branch of the Society for the Underwriting of Racial Equality (S.U.R.E.).

The California Committee for Fair Practices recalled that, as a result of California interest, Reno discrimination was made into such an issue last year that, with the Winter Olympics scheduled for that area, Reno businessmen were forced to promise their Governor that they would drop practices which might lead to an international incident harmful to the entire nation.

"If it was possible to avoid discriminatory practices when the eyes of the world were centered on Squaw Valley, it should be possible to do away with such practices com-

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and now endorsed by the Carpenter's Union nationally as well as by the state Apprenticeship Council and the Joint Apprenticeship Committee.

Formulated through the participation of all interested parties, the program's advocates urge that permanent supervisory training programs be instituted under continuing evaluation and guidance of advisory committees composed of management, labor and junior college representatives.

Pitts agreed that the "Career of Skill" program should start with only one survey course to acquaint journeymen with their own training deficiencies and supervisors' responsibilities. A total program should then be developed, he said, with the addition of other courses aimed at the ultimate award of a certificate or AA degree.

Citing California's competition with other states on the basis of an adequate skilled labor pool and high productivity, rather than through shortsighted low-wage standards, Pitts urged that this principle be adopted even more vigorously nationally to help resolve our international trade problems.

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## Reno Discrimination Again Serious

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pletely," said Becker. "The eyes of the world are still on America and especially on our efforts to end inequality."

According to the reports, received by the California civil rights group, the old discriminatory pattern reappeared shortly after the Olympics were over. This retreat in Reno is in marked contrast to Las Vegas where, in the same period, the business establishments generally eliminated discriminatory practices with no problems resulting.

The interest of the California civil rights group in Nevada practices stems from the fact that Californians form the largest group of customers for the Reno and Lake Tahoe establishments.

The California Committee for Fair Practices is the organization which coordinated the successful campaign for the FEPC and other civil rights laws in California in the 1959 legislative session, with active state AFL-CIO participation.

Now that there is a strong law forbidding discrimination in public accommodations (the Unruh Civil Rights Act) in this State, more Californians are suffering from discrimination in accommodations in Reno than in our own State," said Becker. That is why it is a California problem.

Becker said that NAACP attorneys reported that one case against a Reno casino which solicited business in California, but refused to honor a reservation held by a Negro, had been contested and won. He said that further suits under this law were up to the individuals who were hit by the discrimination, but urged individuals to check their problems out with the NAACP branch in their area.

## Unionists Promote U.S. Made Film 'Spartacus'

Thousands of union members, representing dozens of crafts, have turned themselves into voluntary press agents for a movie. They are out to help promote the big new Super Technirama 70 production, "Spartacus."

The campaign is spearheaded by the Hollywood AFL-CIO Film Council. For a number of years, this group has been struggling to solve a serious unemployment problem created by runaway American movies produced abroad in order to escape American wage standards. Up to the present time, there has been an alarming increase in such practices.

By contrast, Bryna Productions decided to make "Spartacus" in this country. They believed the time saved through utilizing the unmatched know-how of Hollywood's craftsmen would offset the more advantageous scales prevalent in European studios.

The Hollywood craftsmen, most of whom belong to the AFL-CIO International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, feel they have much at stake in the "Spartacus" experiment. They believe the success of this Universal-International film might well prove the turning point in their drive against runaway production. That is why they want to

bring the picture and its fair-minded producers and distributors to the attention of union members throughout America.

"Spartacus" is the biggest picture ever made in and around Hollywood. It is understood to represent an investment of \$12 million.

The story concerns the last century before the Christian era, a time when Imperial Rome, the greatest single power in history, was shaken to its foundations by the one force that has never been conquered—man's eternal desire for freedom.

The titanic struggle of Roman might against a rebel army of slaves is portrayed in terms of the love of one man for his fellow man and for a woman who follows him across countless battle-grounds. It is also the story of those who fought against him: the patrician senators, more interested in their estates than in the slaves who worked on them; the military leaders, more interested in the power of command than in the welfare of those under them.

In short, "Spartacus" is a very good yarn for a struggling bunch of union members to promote and for union members everywhere to step out and see.

## Church Group Seeks All-Out Aid to Farm Labor

The extension of all major protective legislation to farm labor to eradicate widespread social evils has been recommended by a national Protestant church study group.

The sweeping recommendations were heard by a three-day conference in Washington, D. C., sponsored by the National Council of Churches of Christ, which was attended by 250 church, government, social welfare and labor delegates from 34 states.

The conference sought to develop a ten-year master plan to enable Protestant churches to set in motion a program "to free migrants from the shackles of economic, social and educational deprivations."

The recommendation to extend the right of collective bargaining, minimum

wages, unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation and other benefits to farm labor resulted from the group's belief that traditional emphasis upon helping farm labor should be replaced by providing these workers with the means to help themselves.

While urging the churches to support the principle of collective bargaining in agriculture, the study group advocated maintaining a neutral position in regard to the growers and farm workers in their bargaining relationship.

The church council conference was advised by AFL-CIO assistant director of organization Franz E. Daniel that the recent farm worker organization campaign in California has resulted in raising wages by more than \$12 million in this state.