



THOS. L. PITTS  
Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer

# Weekly News Letter

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## Executive Council To Meet Jan. 18-19

The executive council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO has been called into session for January 18-19, 1962 at the Hollywood-Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood.

The winter meeting will be a regular session of the 36-member executive body of the state AFL-CIO movement.

Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts, as state delegate to the recently concluded Miami Beach convention of the AFL-CIO, is expected to report on convention developments and policy actions as they may require implementation at the state level. A substantial number of executive council members were also delegates to the AFL-CIO convention from international unions and central labor councils.

Last week, upon his return from Miami Beach, Pitts applauded the convention as facing up to "the urgency of resolving internal problems so that the energies of the labor movement may be effectively mobilized and geared to the challenges of the sixties." He declared that the California movement "will bend every effort to help implement the mandates of the convention."

The Hollywood meeting of the executive council also precedes the economic and legislative conference summoned by the AFL-CIO for January 22 in Washington, D.C. to urge action by the 87th Congress on pressing, unresolved problems facing the nation. Pitts will be traveling back to Washington as the Federation's representative.

Another item before the Council will be the anticipated special session of the California legislature which Governor Brown is expected to call concurrently with the regular budget session when it convenes in February.

Numerous requests are before the Governor for a special session "call," although he has not indicated which items will get his nod.

Among these, the Federation has urged that the session be opened to legislation creating a state manpower development commission designed to cope with job training and skill development problems stemming from the advance of automation.

## AFL-CIO Prods Congress for Action On Jobless

The Number One domestic problem in America remains the establishment of full employment for the nation's growing and increasingly efficient work force. Solution of the problem, the AFL-CIO has warned Congress, requires the "full and energetic application" of the Employment Act of 1946.

Testifying in Washington before the Joint Economic Committee's Subcommittee on Economic Statistics, on the eve of the 1962 Congressional session, AFL-CIO President George Meany declared that the "deeply disturbing" factors underlying unemployment percentage rates in recent months "makes matters worse than the unemployment rate would indicate."

"About 2.5 million jobs are required now to reduce current unemployment to a tolerable level," Meany said, adding:

"An average of 1.3 million new jobs will be needed each year for the next decade to absorb the increase in the labor force.

"An even greater number of jobs—2.3 million a year, by our estimates—must be found for workers displaced by automation and other technological changes.

"So even if the present backlog

of unemployment disappeared, even if the country enjoyed full employment right now, 3.6 million jobs a year, 70,000 jobs a week, would have to be found in order to keep the American people at work."

Factors making the unemployment rate "deeply disturbing" were listed by Meany as follows:

—An "artificial slackening off" in the growth of the labor force, which in the past year increased by only 250,000 instead of the one million or more that could be anticipated by the population growth. The explanation, he said, is that "many potential workers . . . became discouraged by the extent of unemployment and didn't even bother to look for work."

—The duration of unemployment in some occupations and areas—about 30 per cent of present job hunters have been idle for at least 15 weeks, more than 17 per cent for 27 weeks or longer.

—Failure over the last year to cut the number — 2.4 million in November — working only part-time because full-time work was not available.

—The increase "by leaps and bounds" in man-hour productivity since early 1961 and its extension from manufacturing into retail and wholesale trade, the service trades and construction.

"In laymen's terms," Meany noted, "there's little wonder, in view of rising population, man-hour productivity and a slower rate of economic growth, that the end of

## IWC to Consider Composition of Wage Boards at Jan. 12 Meeting

Notice was sent out this week reminding interested persons and groups that the Industrial Welfare Commission will meet on January 12, in Room 2198 of the State Building Annex, commencing at 10:00 a.m., for the "consideration and selection of wage board members."

The meeting, announced previously in News Letter, is in connection with the Commission's decision to reopen all but one of its existing industrial and occupational orders setting minimum wages, maximum hours and other conditions for women and minors employed in the state. The order not being reopened is the one covering agricultural workers issued earlier this year.

On December 4, IWC Chairman John W. Quimby wrote interested groups and individuals, including

all labor organizations in the state, requesting recommendations for appointments to the various wage boards. The boards make recommendations to the Commission, and must be established as a condition for reopening wage orders.

Under law, also, the Commission determines the size of each board, subject to the requirement that

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each recession has left us with an ever-rising backlog of jobless."

Meany told the joint subcommittee, headed by Senator William Proxmire (D., Wis.), that a combination of greater business activity, greater production and a faster rate of economic growth, in themselves, are falling short of meeting the problem of providing enough jobs. This is, in part, he said, because they do not contain "the provisions needed to fit workers to the new occupational demands of a changing society."

(The California Labor Federation, in this connection, has called upon the state to establish a manpower utilization commission charged with the responsibility of planning skill development and job training programs to match men and jobs in an automated age.)

According to AFL-CIO President George Meany, the tools for creating jobs must be supplemented by federal government action, including:

- A flexible public works program such as that proposed by Senator Clark in a bill backed by labor.
- Improving the economic health

of distressed economies through the Area Redevelopment Act.

- A national program of retraining and — where necessary — relocation of workers whose skills have been made obsolete.

- Establishment of federal unemployment compensation standards.

- Strengthening of the educational system, with emphasis on upgrading of vocational education.

- Special assistance for older workers displaced by automation or plant migration.

- A federal study of the effects of automation with a view to shortening the work week without any cut in pay.

Meany also differed sharply with the Administration's announced determination to balance the federal budget in the coming fiscal year. The creation of enough jobs to keep America at work and the country strong, in view of the job situation, he declared, is more important than balancing the budget.

"The intensification of the technological changes is displacing more and more people, and the country has to look at it as our most important problem," Meany concluded.

## State COPE Backs Spencer in Special Election

The California Labor Council on Political Education this week endorsed Charles M. Spencer (D) for election to the legislature from the 30th Assembly District (Stanislaus County) in an important special election slated for January 23.

The endorsement was made on recommendation of the local COPE, which interviewed the two candidates in the race for the Valley Assembly seat vacated by former Assembly Speaker Ralph Brown upon receiving a judicial appointment by Governor Brown.

Spencer's Republican opposition flatly told the local COPE that he did not wish group endorsements, and that he was seeking only individual endorsements. He refused to declare his position on any of the issues in the campaign raised by the local COPE.

Spencer gave full backing to the rights of the working man, pointing out that "when the working man

has money in his pocket and security on the job, the entire economy is prosperous and everybody benefits."

Rejecting punitive legislation against labor, Spencer said, "Labor needs to be strong in order to protect living standards. . . . Government must be interested in the protection and strengthening of all resources—human as well as material. An elected official who is interested solely in the protection of investments is taking a one-sided view of responsibility."

An active campaign is being waged on behalf of the labor-backed candidate.

Recently state COPE Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts addressed a special meeting of the Stanislaus labor movement on the vital importance of full-time involvement in political action to accomplish the legislative goals of organized labor.

A second special election is also

## Automation Film Available

Starting January 1, 1962, the AFL-CIO film library has available for distribution a film on the problems of automation and unemployment, entitled "The Awesome Servant."

The 55-minute film is an ABC-TV production, and was shown on the ABC network on October 31, under the sponsorship of Bell and Howell.

The film is considered an excellent review of the automation problem as it affects job opportunities and full employment. It features a number of shots of workers from the Ford Motor Company talking about the impact of automation on jobs, and presents a cross-section of views concerning automation challenges and problems expressed by leaders of labor, government and business. These include Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg and UAW President Walter Reuther.

A discussion guide for use of the films is also available from the AFL-CIO Department of Education. The service charge for use of the film is \$7.50. Booking requests should be directed to the AFL-CIO Department of Education, 815 16th Street, N. W., Washington 6, D.C., designating two dates at least one month apart.

Another new film available is one on arbitration, entitled "Let's Arbitrate," produced by the American Arbitration Association. The rental fee on this 25-minute film is \$3.00. Again, two dates, at least one month apart, are requested in making bookings with the AFL-CIO Department of Education.

set for February 13 in the 31st state Senatorial District where there is a vacancy caused by the death of former Senator Jack Hollister, a conservative Democrat who headed the important upper-house committee on labor. As of this date, three Republicans and two Democrats have filed in this crucial special election. A COPE endorsement is pending.



## COPE Dollar Drive Set for May

The month of May each year has been designated by the recent AFL-CIO convention for the coordination of labor's efforts to raise voluntary funds for the support of federal office candidates through COPE structures at the national, state and local levels.

A resolution on political education adopted by convention delegates declared that "millions of trade unionists will be denied the opportunity to participate fully in the COPE program" as long as labor continues "to operate at a small per cent of capacity."

Organized labor, it was noted, is an important source of campaign funds for candidates "who support a liberal position" and cannot "look to big business for big money to finance their campaigns."

"No degree of activity by national COPE, no amount of literature, no number of earnest resolutions can fill this void without the full support of each affiliate," delegates declared.

The resolution also declared it to be a primary obligation of trade union membership that each AFL-CIO member be a registered voter. It called upon each national and international affiliate to designate one or more staff members who will work to assure the full participation of each local union, its officers and members, **in the COPE structure.**

Delegates also urged each local union to appoint a COPE committee which would designate a COPE chairman charged with the responsibility of coordinating the local's COPE program with the city, county and state COPE concerned.

"We accept our responsibility," the resolution said, "as Americans and trade unionists, to participate fully in the political life of the nation. There is no piece of legislation passed by the Congress, no administrative decision made by government agency which does not bear in some way on the lives and fortunes of trade union members. There is no real question of whether trade unions should concern themselves with politics. We cannot in good conscience avoid concern with the fate of our country and the world. We are concerned with our children's education, with the de-

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there shall be an equal number of employer and employee representatives with an impartial chairman.

Wage boards are to be established for each of the following industrial and occupational classifications: manufacturing; personal services; canning, freezing and preserving; professional, technical and clerical occupations; public housekeeping; laundry and dry cleaning establishments; mercantile establishments; after harvest operations; transportation; amusement and recreation; broadcasting; and motion picture industry.

In his letter requesting recommendations, Quimby pointed out that prospective members of the

boards should meet the following qualifications:

(1) Be representative of the industry and qualified to speak for the various occupations in that industry.

(2) Be articulate and fair-minded.

(3) Have knowledge and experience in the field of wages, hours and working conditions of women and minors.

Quimby enclosed with his letter an IWC booklet listing establishments and occupations covered by various Commission orders. The classification of industries under these orders will be subject to further review at the scheduled January 12 meeting in San Francisco.

The California Labor Federation is actively pressing for up-dating of the state's minimum wage orders, which currently set the minimum at \$1.00 per hour. Governor Edmund G. Brown, who has appointed the current Commission, is also known to favor quick action to update the orders.

All Industrial Welfare Commission meetings are open to the public. Individuals and groups interested in the January 12 meeting are invited to attend.

## New Employment Statistics Guide

The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has announced the availability of a new "Guide to Employment Statistics," which may be obtained by writing to the BLS's Regional Director, Max Kossoris, Room 802, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco.

The new guide is considered an important aid to all users of industry employment statistics, and of special significance to readers of: Employment and Earnings; Monthly Labor Review; Monthly Report on the Labor Force; and related BLS publications on industry employment statistics.

Published in the form of a catalog, the guide contains industry definitions which clarify BLS titles and BLS combinations of 1957 Standard Industrial Classification Industries. It also includes beginning dates for national employment, hours and earnings, and labor turnover series for each BLS industrial classification.

## Labor Commissioner Opens Orange County Office

State Director of Industrial Relations John F. Henning and Labor Commissioner Sigmund Arywitz this week announced the opening of a new district office of the Division of Labor Law Enforcement in Santa Ana, Orange County. Deputy Labor Commissioner Joseph L. Blake has been designated to head up the new office.

In announcing its opening, Henning and Arywitz stated, "We have long been aware of the need for an office of this Division in Santa Ana so that the people of this rapidly growing county may be better served. . . . The new office will handle wage claims as well as other complaints of labor law violations, employment agency fee controversies and all other matters arising from the Division's jurisdiction in Orange County."

cent treatment of our old people, with civil rights for all citizens, with the protection of our union contracts, with the wise management of natural resources, with the ability of the farmer to earn a fair price for his crop, with the maintenance of a climate in which business can flourish and expand. We are concerned with these things because they are all building blocks in the structure of our country, and our very lives depend on the strength of that structure."

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## Study Shows Shifting Nature of Work Force

The Department of Labor has produced more than 500 pages of statistical facts gathered during the past half-century on American jobs and earnings, reflecting the huge social and economic revolution that has been going on in the United States.

Here are some of the major findings, which present an immense challenge to American leadership—political, labor, educational, business and industry:

- During this period the number of non-agricultural workers has more than doubled, rising from 27 million in 1919 to well over 54 million in 1960. But the distribution of these workers has changed greatly.

- There are industries that have lost ground at a startling rate and there are other segments of the economy that have far outpaced the overall growth of the work force. Let's take some examples:

- The mining industry has dropped from more than 1 million in 1919 to barely 700,000 in 1960, with production workers alone dropping more than 300,000 in the past 15 years.

- Back in the Twenties, the railroads employed about 2 million workers. Today, there are about 780,000—a commentary on the revolutionary changes that have taken place in the American transportation system.

- The story in manufacturing is especially significant. The United States is the world's greatest manufacturer, yet in the 40 years that its non-agricultural work force has doubled, its manufacturing jobs have increased only about 60 percent.

- The durable goods industries

## Auto Insurance Discrimination Charged

Deploing the failure of the State Insurance Commissioner to act on a complaint of racial discrimination in auto insurance rates, the Jewish Labor Committee this week appealed to Attorney General Stanley Mosk for a full investigation.

Isidor Stenzor, state chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, declared that "more than four months have elapsed since we entered the original complaint."

The JLC request to Mosk urged "an immediate and full investigation of not only the particular insurance company in question, but also of auto insurance practices in general to determine the extent of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry."

According to Stenzor, "the original complaint contained conclusive evidence of discriminatory rate practices."

The evidence submitted at the time included copies of a map of

Los Angeles County allegedly furnished by an insurance company to its agents. On the map, large areas were blocked out in red with a notation, "applicants residing in RED area MUST be rated at Group 2 or 3."

All "red areas" were those with predominantly Negro population. The name of the insurance company, together with other information, was provided the State Insurance Commissioner and the Attorney General by the JLC.

"These discriminatory rate differentials could result in as much as thirty percent higher rates for Negroes," Stenzor said, adding:

"On the basis of this evidence, and other information that has in the past come to the attention of the Jewish Labor Committee and other human relations organizations, I urge an immediate investigation of the particular insurance company in question, as well as the auto insurance industry as a whole."

—that is, the heavy duty goods that don't wear out fast—have pretty well held their own with a doubling in the work force from 4.7 million in 1939 to 9.4 million in 1960. But even among the durables the story is not all rosy. Primary metals, for example, which includes steel, have actually lost job ground during the past 15 years, dropping from 1,279,000 employees in 1947 to 1,228,000 in 1960.

The story of the non-durables is nowhere nearly as good as that of the durables with the manufacturing work force increasing barely 50 percent from 5.5 million to 7.3 million during the 1939-1960 period.

Here is a grave warning for the future. The millions of new workers for whom jobs must be found

are not going to find them in manufacturing if the present trend continues. Either we do something about boosting manufacturing employment or we have to find new kinds of jobs, reduce hours or increase purchasing power.

There are, on the other hand, segments of our economy that have shown tremendous growth. This is especially true in the service industries which employed 2.3 million workers in 1919 and today employ 7.4 million, more than tripling. Employment in construction also has soared relatively over the years.

Thus far the American people and their government have met these problems largely by looking the other way. But the maladjustments are crowding in on us more and more. (AFL-CIO News)