

"Bracero" Exploitation Attacked

The Imperial County Labor Coordinating Committee this week issued an open statement to the press, depicting the devastating effect of the mass importation of Mexican Nationals on domestic workers in and out of agriculture in the area.

The committee, composed of various labor organizations in Imperial County and endorsed by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, is seeking to mobilize community support for proper enforcement of Public Law 78, under which Mexican Nationals are being exploited and domestic labor displaced.

In its statement to the press, the committee said: "We find that in the building trades they are being used to do painting, carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, tractor driving, common labor, etc. . . . in the culinary end, Mexican Nationals are used to do the cooking in the camps, in many instances, contrary to Public Law 78, at 70 cents an hour."

In the form of a report to the public, the committee added:

"We find, further, that these Mexican Nationals are fed on the farms and are charged \$1.75 per day for room and board. In too many instances, in checking through this procedure, we find that the average cost of these meals is approximately 69½ cents per day. We have further evidence that the farmers'

(Continued on Page 2)

LABOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN ALAMEDA CO.

Training for labor leadership to maintain the strength and integrity of the trade union movement in the face of mounting attacks, underscores the coming leadership conference sponsored by the Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO.

Robert S. Ash, executive secretary of the Alameda AFL-CIO Council and state AFL-CIO Veep, announced that the Second Annual Leadership Conference will be held at the Mark Thomas Inn, Monterey, November 1 through 4, 1959.

Designed for in-service training of Alameda County's labor leadership, the four-day conference will cover a broad field of trade union interests and activities which a la-



C. J. HAGGERTY
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS

Weekly
UNIVERSITY OF
BERKELEY
News Letter

Oct. 9, 1959
Vol. 1—No. 37

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

151

FEDERATION SETS LABOR LEGISLATION CONFERENCE DATE, NOVEMBER 16-19

A statewide educational conference on labor legislation has been set for November 16-19, at the Mar Monte Hotel in Santa Barbara, it was announced this Tuesday by C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Under joint sponsorship of the Federation and the University of California, the four-day session will focus on providing both a working knowledge of the new so-called labor reform law passed by Congress and the necessary labor legislation background for understanding its significance to the trade union movement.

Haggerty announced that the labor legislation conference will be followed on November 20 and 21 by the Federation's tenth annual Labor Press Conference—a two-day session also to be held at the Mar Monte Hotel in Santa Barbara. Registration for each conference will be separate.

Official invitations to attend the two conferences, Haggerty said, will be sent to all affiliated organizations

next week, together with advance registration forms. Conference programs will be distributed shortly thereafter.

Advance planning on the labor legislation conference has determined the general areas and scope of the educational program. The opening sessions on the first day of the conference will be devoted to an historical review of the role of labor legislation, including the courts, in the development of the labor movement, followed by a session on the politics leading to the enactment of the new bill.

Two full days will be devoted to analysis of the new law, with division of the measure into three parts for detailed review and discussion in panel sections.

The final day of the conference will have as its central theme, "The Road Ahead," followed by featured speakers on related subjects of labor law enforcement in California and gaps in social legislation.

In announcing the legislative conference, Haggerty said that the aim is to bring to participants in the conference the best available people in and out of the labor movement as speakers and discussion leaders who will be able to assist participants in gaining a broad understanding of the significance and scope of the new labor law.

Emphasis in the conference will be placed on meeting the needs of trade unionists who have the responsibility for maintaining the strength and integrity of the labor movement under the new law.

(Continued on Page 2)

"Bracero" Exploitation Attacked

(Continued from Page 1)

associations and individual labor brokers have made enormous profits from the feeding of these people.

"There is a practice, for instance, where they will employ 200 laborers, use 100 today and lay them off, and then use the other 100 tomorrow—but the 200 still pay the \$1.75 per day for board and lodging.

"There were a number of housewives in the various areas who made a living by furnishing board to these men. These women have now gone out of business because the farmers put a stop to the bracero leaving the farm, as the bracero who violates this 'stop order' goes back to Mexico."

Further evidence of abuse was advanced as follows:

"There is another grave abuse where we find commissaries on the farms where they sell commodities such as overalls, shoes, hats, confectionery, drinks, etc., and in some instances, beer. The bracero is charged prices far above the regular market price. The bracero does not get off the farm, so naturally, he buys his commodities at these commissaries. They have what we could consider a check-off system, as these purchases are deducted from his wages. We have photostat copies of checks that have been issued, after deductions, for as little as \$.05 and \$.10 for a week's work.

"These procedures regarding the selling of commodities and feeding on the farm and not allowing the bracero to go into town to make purchases or eat in restaurants, etc., outside of the farm, means that the local merchant is deprived of that business from the bracero, even though his wage is only 70 cents per hour. This also affects employment in general.

"There is another abuse regarding the insurance companies, who charge the bracero so much per month for medical treatment. The general age of the bracero is between 18 and 35 years, which is the prime of life; and of course that means that he does not need as much medical attention as those in an older age bracket. Also, he is frequently attended by office help and not by doctors. This doctor sit-

LABOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN ALAMEDA CO

(Continued from Page 1)

Andrew Biemiller, and state AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer C. J. Haggerty.

A dinner session on Monday will feature Irvin Beller of the IUD Department on "Economics and Collective Bargaining."

Three sessions on Tuesday, November 3, include:

"Grievance and Arbitration"—Sam Kagel, attorney, arbitrator, and professor of the University of California; Richard Hackler, international representative of the Communication Workers of America.

"Credit, Financing and Buying Counselling"—Dr. Jesse Coles, University of California Department of Economics, member of the Heller Committee.

"How to Use Governmental Services"—Jack Henning, director of the Department of Industrial Relations; Charles Roumasset, U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and John Hutchinson, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California.

"Political Campaigning" will be the subject of a dinner meeting on the third day, featuring Hal Dunleavy, researcher and statistician; W. J. Bassett, executive secretary of the Greater Los Angeles AFL-CIO

uation is one that goes beyond the imagination, as there are not enough doctors assigned by the insurance company to take care of the sick, for thousands are assigned to one doctor. He is denied the choice of doctors; does not, in many instances, have an opportunity to read over what his rights are between himself and the insurance company; and of course, being of foreign nationality, he is not fully apprised of his rights."

In welcoming recent efforts by State Attorney General Stanley Mosk and officials in Governor Brown's Administration to improve the plight of agricultural workers, the Imperial County Labor Co-ordinating Committee has announced its determination to intensify its activities in gathering and documenting facts of mistreatment of braceros and violations of Public Law 78.

Financial support of the labor movement in California has been appealed to by the Imperial Valley group, with the support of the California Labor Federation.

Federation; and Don Wyatt of Don Wyatt and Associates, San Francisco.

The final day's sessions cover:

"Responsibility of a Union Officer to His Membership", "How to Deal with the Consuming Public", and "The New Labor Reform Bill—How to Live With It". Among speakers and participants will be Charles P. Scully, general counsel of the California Labor Federation; Sam Eubanks, executive secretary of the San Francisco-Oakland Newspaper Guild and Federation vice president, and others.

The final session will be a banquet with a feature speaker on "Responsibilities of a Union Officer and Members to the Community".

Bargaining in First Half of 1959

The average union-negotiated settlements in the first half of 1959 provided wage increases of roughly 4 per cent plus several improvements in fringe benefits, according to the latest collective bargaining report issued by the national AFL-CIO.

As always, there was considerable variation among the settlements, but a broad summary of the distribution of wage increases negotiated in the first half of this year shows:

(1) The largest number of wage increases, a majority, have been between 7 cents and 12 cents an hour. In percentage terms, these increases have typically run from 3 per cent to 5 per cent.

(2) Large increases, 13 cents or more an hour, have been fairly frequent. They have been negotiated in more than 20 per cent of the settlements.

(3) Smaller increases, under 7 cents, have been negotiated in about one of every five settlements. Such increases, usually 5 cents to 6 cents, are for the most part in the lowest wage, chronically depressed industries.

(4) Settlements for no wage increases have been relatively rare, occurring in only 2 per cent to 3 per cent of negotiations, a smaller percentage than in past years.

Report Under "Labor Reform" Law Due Oct. 14

Labor organizations which have established trusteeships over any subordinate labor organizations on or before September 14, 1959, were reminded this week they must file an initial report with the newly-created Bureau of Labor-Management Reports of the U. S. Department of Labor not later than October 14, 1959.

The reminder came from John F. Ryan, Departmental Field Officer of the Bureau located in San Francisco.

Ryan said that there are no specified forms to be followed in filing the initial report. Organizations affected by the regulations are required to supply a description of the trusteeship and a report of its financial condition.

Complete details on the contents of the report were outlined in the regulations issued September 25, and published in the issue of the Federal Register for September 29, 1959. The Federal Register is sent to depository libraries in all the major cities of the country.

The reports, Ryan added, should be addressed to the Bureau of Labor-Management Reports, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D.C., and should include the following major items:

- (1) The name and address of the subordinate organization;
- (2) The date on which the trusteeship was established;
- (3) A detailed statement of the reason or reasons for establishing or continuing the trusteeship;
- (4) The nature and extent of participation by the membership of the subordinate organization in the selection of delegates to represent such organization in regular or special convention and policy-determining bodies and in the election of officers of the labor organization which has assumed trusteeship over such subordinate organization; and
- (5) A full and complete account of the financial condition of such subordinate organization as of the time trusteeship was assumed over it.

Further information on these reports, as well as other aspects of the law, may be obtained from John F. Ryan, Room 315, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco.

35 MILLION NEW HOMES NEEDED BY 1975

Thirty-five million new homes must be built by 1975 in order to provide decent housing for every American family, the AFL-CIO Department of Research reports.

Labor's Economic Review, one of the department's monthly publications, warns that the slums and rural shacks where one out of four families now live can be eliminated only if there is a sharp increase in housing for low and middle-income families.

"We are building too few houses because housing legislation and housing programs have all but completely neglected the families with the most pressing need for decent homes," the publication emphasized.

The housing problem is particularly critical for Negroes and other non-white groups, the Research Department declared. Nearly three-fourths of all Negro families live in

substandard housing and "only a tiny proportion of houses built during recent years have been available to these families."

To meet the nation's needs, the department publication called for a comprehensive housing program including:

- A large-scale low rent housing program to provide decent homes for low income families as "the cornerstone of the nation's housing effort."

- An effective program "to make good homes available to middle income families through low-interest, long-term loans." Families in the \$4,000 to \$7,000 income range must now spend a disproportionate amount on housing.

- Similar financing for housing to meet the special needs of elderly couples and individuals.

- A federal policy "to assure every family an equal opportunity to obtain decent housing without regard to race, color, creed or national origin."

- Expanded slum clearance and urban redevelopment on a large enough scale to permit every city to wipe out its slums and blight.

- Encouragement to metropolitan planning so that artificial boundaries do not block housing and redevelopment programs.

Declaring that the current rate of housing construction should be increased by at least 900,000 units a year, the Dept. of Research estimated that every home constructed requires one man-year on on-site construction and an additional man-year off-site in plants producing bricks, lumber, steel, cement electrical equipment, furniture and other products.

Meeting the nation's housing needs would thus create an additional 1.8 million jobs, the department declared.

An important by-product of a stepped-up housing program, the department pointed out, would be the creation of new jobs which would make "an important contribution to the nation's economic prosperity."

Tomato Shed Workers Make Gains

Acceptance of a new contract covering 1,000 tomato packing shed workers in 12 San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Contra Costa tomato sheds was announced this week by Norman Smith, Director of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in Stockton.

The contract provides for 12½c general wage increase, which brings the hourly base rate up from \$1.37½ to \$1.50; increases are from 17½c to 35c an hour in the rates for bulk packing tomatoes; a \$2,000 life insurance paid for by employers; a contract requirement that employers maintain unemployment insurance payments; and the establishment of a joint employer-union committee to study inequities resulting from differences in shed layouts.

The new contract, signed by the Local 78, United Packinghouse Workers of America and the Tomato Shippers Labor Committee, has established the highest wage scales in the tomato industry in the United States.

Smith, who is AFL-CIO Director of a joint organizing campaign in behalf of the Agricultural Workers Union and the UPWA, said that the wage increases provided in this contract means an increase of \$20,000 a month in purchasing power for the workers in the communities where the packing sheds are located.

California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
995 Market St.
San Francisco 3, Calif.

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

1960 ELECTION CAMPAIGN ON

"We start today on the campaign of 1960," the recent AFL-CIO convention in San Francisco declared in one of its closing actions.

The early start underscored a series of resolutions adopted by the convention calling for stepped-up political activity to overcome the "reactionary bi-partisan coalition" in Congress that blocked liberal legislation and put through the Landrum-Griffin "control" bill.

The convention charged a "concerted and malignant conspiracy" between major industrialists and reactionary groups in both political parties "to render the labor movement ineffective" both in politics and at the bargaining table.

The political goals of the trade union movement, the resolution on political activity declared, are to "advance the general welfare." The convention specifically endorsed the work of the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education and "directed and authorized" COPE to continue, coordinate and assist in political work in state, city and county labor bodies.

The convention in addition urged:

- That all union groups, national and local, render all aid possible to COPE's "policies and programs."

- That all union members, as "a primary obligation", make themselves eligible to vote and make individual contributions for political work.

- That the voting records of all members of Congress and of state legislatures be treated as "basic evidence of their convictions and attitudes," with the "distribution and explanation" of the records a primary function of labor's political efforts.

The resolution declared labor's

Industrial Relations Librarian
Institute of Industrial Relations
214 California Hall
University of California
Berkeley 4, Calif.

SQUAW VALLEY DISCRIMINATION FEARS REAL

California-Nevada labor's fears over an international incident involving housing discrimination at the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics were confirmed in a report of Nevada's Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, it was disclosed this week by William Becker, northern California Jewish Labor Committee representative and secretary of the California Committee on Fair Employment Practices.

Organized labor in California and Nevada, working with civil rights groups, are diligently trying to head off the occurrence of discrimination when the 1960 Winter Olympics take up at Squaw Valley.

It is recognized that while the public accommodations discrimination problem is common to both states, Nevada practices in this field are notoriously bad.

Participants and visitors at the 1960 Olympics will be seeking accommodations in the surrounding areas on both sides of the border.

The report of the Nevada Advisory Committee, disclosed by Becker, confirms deep-seated public accommodations discrimination in the two Nevada areas of Las Vegas and Reno and vicinity. The Reno area will provide many of the public accommodations for the 1960 international event.

The Advisory Committee report notes that Reno, like Las Vegas, is a community largely geared to a tourist economy, and has consequently a relatively large portion of public accommodation. These range from luxury-type establishments

"independence of any political party" and its determination to support "candidates regardless of party affiliation whose records and attitudes indicate a devotion to the welfare of our country and its people."

through middle-class to definitely second-rate.

"None of the better class establishments welcome Negroes or Indians, and comparatively few of the middle-class establishments welcome them," according to the report.

It is noted that there is one rundown, dilapidated section on the fringes of the main business area, "where members of minority groups are welcome in public accommodation."

Specific reference is made in the Advisory Committee's report to a recent survey of motels conducted by the largest gambling establishment located in the Reno area which caters to minority groups.

This establishment, according to this report, sent a letter to each of the "116 motels with Reno phone numbers listed in the current Bell Telephone Company of Nevada directory. The response was approximately 15%, and only 4 motels responded 'yes' to the question, 'Do you accept Negroes as guests?'"

Efforts of organized labor and civil rights groups to preclude discrimination incidents from taking place are receiving broad support from public officials in both California and Nevada.

Reno officials have accepted the problem as one which must be solved.

In California, this week, Attorney General Stanley Mosk called upon all Olympics organizing committees to take immediate action to avoid discrimination at the 1960 Olympics.

In a letter to chairman and members of the local Olympics Civic Committees, the Attorney General requested action to "prevent the possibility of . . . embarrassment either to our state, or to our citizens or guests."

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 7085
San Francisco, Cal.