

CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP CONFERENCE CALL

The official call has been sent out for the California Conference on Apprenticeship scheduled for May 18-20 in San Francisco at the new Jack Tar Hotel.

The three-day meet is billed as a "conference by and for all persons and organizations interested in apprenticeship, including apprenticeship committees, representatives of labor, management, federal and state governments and schools in California and other Western states."

Its purpose is to develop to the fullest our total resources in apprenticeship "to meet the challenges of the future, to give people involved in apprenticeship programs an opportunity to know and understand each other, and to exchange experiences and ideas."

Industry conferences are being planned to cover all the trades. A wide selection of workshop sessions will feature discussions covering the entire field of apprenticeship training problems, ranging from counseling, recruiting and selection

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Civil Rights Issue Equated to Basic Labor Rights

A warning was sounded this week for organized labor to heed the fact that the moral, economic and political stakes involved in the civil rights fight are as real and as far-reaching for union people as they are for the minority groups immediately involved.

All affiliates of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, were urged by Thomas L. Pitts, newly-elected secretary-treasurer of the state body, to communicate immediately with their congressional representatives in support of a strong and meaningful civil rights bill.

Pitts' letter to local unions and central bodies came on the heels of the Federation executive council's



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Executive
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PITTS, GRUHN ASSUME FEDERATION HELM

The executive council of the California Labor Federation, choked with emotion over the retirement of C. J. Haggerty and his departure for Washington to assume the presidency of the Building and Construction Trades Department, concluded a two-day session in San Francisco last Thursday and Friday with the unanimous election of Thomas L. Pitts to the office of executive secretary-treasurer of the state AFL-CIO.

The vacancy in the office of president left by Pitts' election was filled by Vice President Albin J. Gruhn, also by unanimous council action.

The oath of office was immediately administered to the new officers by C. J. Haggerty, who was retained as a consultant by the executive council for the transition period be-

fore he leaves for Washington on April 1.

Following his election, Pitts told the council:

"I am deeply honored to be chosen to follow in the footsteps that have been made in the sands of time by a man like Neil Haggerty—it won't be easy to follow in these footsteps, but I will do my best to carry on and to do the work before us . . .

"This is the highest honor that could be given to anyone in the labor movement in this state, and it will not be treated lightly. I know it will be carried on with the same help that has been forthcoming in the past from you and the rank and file members of the AFL-CIO movement."

Underscoring this commitment to the future, President Gruhn added in his acceptance speech:

"I feel very humble of this great honor you have bestowed upon me . . . We have a great responsibility in the years ahead in this labor movement. I will do all I can, in my own small way and with your cooperation, to help the present secretary-treasurer to continue to build

adoption of a report from its civil rights committee during the council's March 4-5 quarterly meeting. The committee's report was submitted by Chairman Albin J. Gruhn. Gruhn was subsequently elected president of the Federation.

AFL-CIO affiliates were alerted that "the current civil rights debate in the U. S. Senate, along with the one expected to get underway in the House of Representatives by March 10, probably affects the long-range well-being of the labor movement more profoundly than any other issue to be voted upon in the present session of Congress."

Pitts stated: "Assurance of the

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PITTS, GRUHN AT HELM; EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIONS

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the structure and foundation that Secretary-Treasurer Haggerty has built in this state in the interests of all working men and women and all citizens, to make California a better state to live in."

The vacancy left in vice presidential district 14 by the elevation of Gruhn to the presidency will be filled at the next meeting of the executive council.

The election of the new Federation officers culminated two days of lengthy discussion and action on a crowded agenda. Among actions taken by the council were the following:

1. Voted approval of the master plan for higher education that is now before the special session of the legislature and which would include development, expansion and integration of facilities, curriculum and standards in junior colleges, state colleges and the University of California to meet the expanding needs for higher education in the state.

2. Tabled consideration of any action on the state Senate reapportionment initiative presently being circulated to qualify for the November election.

3. Extended full support to the Screen Actors Guild in their current strike against the theatrical motion picture producers.

4. Unanimously approved the report and recommendations of the executive council's special committee on water, which reaffirmed the Federation's convention position on the \$1.75 billion state water bond program. The report expressed labor's continued opposition to the water bond program "unless a special session of the legislature is called, and until the necessary policy protections are enacted into law."

5. Endorsed a project to establish the "Earl Warren Legal Center" on the Berkeley campus of the Uni-

versity of California for the purpose of improving the understanding, application and administration of our laws. The council instructed the secretary-treasurer to work out a program which would bring labor's contributions together in a "gift" from California labor toward the Center.

6. Called for immediate action in the field of civil rights to mobilize California labor behind the passage of effective and meaningful legislation by Congress this year.

7. Established a Union Label Committee within the Federation.

WATER ACTION

The executive council's action reaffirming the Federation's position on the state's \$1.75 billion water bond program was contained in a six-page report submitted by the executive council's special committee on water.

The report reviewed an earlier committee meeting with the Governor on January 15 concerning the Federation's demand for legislative policy protections against monopoly and speculation and the safeguarding of the rights of workers as a condition for support of the bond issue.

Subsequent to this meeting, it was noted, the Governor released the policies which would govern the state water program under his administration. These declarations were contained in a statewide TV address by the Governor on January 20, 1960, and in a statement of "contracting principles for water service contracts under the California Water Resources Development System" released by the Department of Water Resources the following day.

Both the speech and contracting principles, the report said, were "carefully studied by the committee, giving every possible consideration to their content and adequacy,

with reference to the policy position of the Federation."

Against this background, the report stated:

"It is the unanimous opinion of the committee, after reviewing the Governor's policy declarations at a lengthy meeting in the office of the secretary-treasurer in San Francisco, March 2, that acceptance of the Governor's declarations of policy intentions at this time would be clearly contrary to the Federation's convention policy, and its historic position in support of comprehensive water and power development in accordance with basic policies designed to secure and protect the rights of workers and to ensure the widest possible distribution of benefits of such development. It is our further opinion that their acceptance by the next convention of the Federation without any modification by the Governor, and without securing a legislative base for their advocacy, would require a substantial reversal of the Federation's long-standing policy position on water and power development.

"We are not satisfied that the Governor has given sufficient consideration to the necessity of securing legislative policy protections. We find no reason, therefore, for recommending a departure from the present policy of the Federation."

The committee report also noted with great concern "the complete absence of any policy pronouncements which will protect the organizational and collective bargaining rights of many employees who will be involved in the California water program."

"We deem them equal in importance with policies relating to the protections for the taxpayers against monopoly and speculation," the committee report said.

Firm policies were called for to secure (1) guarantees on the right to self-organization of public employees, (2) guarantees on the right of collective bargaining for workers employed in the operation, maintenance and repair of the project, and (3) prevailing rates in the construction, modification, re-

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construction and alteration of water projects.

These protections were declared essential not only for the state, but also for those agencies which will contract for the benefits of state development.

Noting that the organizational, collective bargaining and prevailing rate safeguards are completely unmet, both legislatively and in the Governor's policy declarations, the report added:

"This remains the case while a number of irrigation districts, which would be contracting districts with the state for water, are requiring unilaterally imposed 'yellow dog' agreements forbidding employees of these districts to even join a union."

The report, as unanimously adopted by the executive council, pinpointed the substantive and legal inadequacies of the Governor's policy declarations with regard to both the unjust enrichment issue and the marketing of public power.

Brown was commended for his sincere efforts to clear the air on many policies facing the voters "who must go to the polls this November on a matter of vital importance to the state." Unfortunately, the report said, "the Governor's intentions in his sincere efforts to resolve policy issues so that the state may proceed with a program for planned and orderly development of precious water and power resources cannot be accepted as adequate protection in a project which, to a large measure, will govern the future course of California's development and growth."

In adopting the report, the council therefore urged the Governor "once again to call the legislature into a special session so that the people may vote for the water bond program based on firm policies, rather than mere executive declarations, which in the implementation road ahead face an almost insurmountable obstacle course."

The council action concluded:

"Unless such a special session is

called, and until the necessary protections are enacted into law, we unanimously recommend the continued opposition to the \$1.75 billion water bond program in accordance with the convention policy position of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO."

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to journeyman extension training and apprenticeship legislation.

It was learned this week that a workshop session is also being planned on the problem of placing individuals from minority groups in apprenticeship training programs.

The Standing Executive Council Committee on Civil Rights of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, has assigned top priority to this problem in its program for action.

Albin J. Gruhn, chairman of the civil rights committee and newly elected president of the state AFL-CIO, was instrumental in securing the inclusion of the minority problems workshop after an exchange of communications with the state Division of Apprenticeship Standards and the state Apprenticeship Council. Joseph Christian, a Los Angeles district vice president of the Federation, has been named a co-chairman for planning the workshop.

The three-day San Francisco apprenticeship meeting was fully endorsed by the executive council of the state AFL-CIO when it met last week in San Francisco.

Advance conference registrations may be made by writing to the California Conference on Apprenticeship, Box 3224, San Francisco 5.

For further information, contact the local office or staff of the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards, or the U. S. Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training.

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right to vote is a basic minimum that must be won if our democratic processes are to have any meaning. The Southern congressmen and senators who played such a major role in enacting Landrum-Griffin and in frustrating efforts to enact liberal social legislation recognized the civil rights fight as the most basic challenge that can be made to their life-and-death power over legislation.

"The reactionary big business interests who look to the perpetuation of these undemocratically elected legislators in order to facilitate bigger and better anti-labor laws in the future are also deeply involved in the fight against enactment of a decent civil rights issue.

"Local unions and trade union members who play a passive role on this issue," the state AFL-CIO leader declared, "are missing the boat just as surely as though they had sat out the legislative struggle which preceded enactment of the Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin Acts."

Passage of an effective civil rights bill was seen as a major step toward a congressional atmosphere conducive to enactment of fair national labor relations policies along with many sorely needed improvements in the entire field of social legislation.

The Federation advocated inclusion of a number of specific provisions in civil rights legislation. One of the most important of these was the appointment of federal officers to register Negroes and to insure their voting rights in both state and federal elections in areas where it has been determined that these rights have been abridged by local officials.

It urged prohibition of poll taxes and the use of force to obstruct court decisions on school desegregation. Federal pursuit across state lines of

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AFL-CIO TO CONTINUE ORGANIZING DRIVE AMONG WEST COAST BAKERY WORKERS

LOS ANGELES — AFL-CIO's organizational campaign to bring West Coast bakery workers into the ranks of American Bakery and Confectionery Workers will continue with the objective of elections in the near future, Franz E. Daniel, AFL-CIO Assistant Director of Organization, announced recently.

Campaigning will involve bakery workers in Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego, Stockton and Sacramento, California; Portland, Oregon; and Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane, Washington. These workers are currently represented by the Bakery and Confectionery Workers, which was expelled from AFL-CIO on charges of corrupt leadership.

Petitions for immediate elections have been filed in Oakland, and Salt Lake City and Ogden, Utah, Mr. Daniel said.

"We are encouraged by the membership response to AFL-CIO's appeal in all locations," he said. "The initial reaction has been so good that we will continue our organizing campaign on the entire coast."

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persons suspected of hate-bombings was advocated.

The letter from Pitts stressed the importance of granting authority to the U. S. Attorney General to sue in behalf of individuals where civil rights violations are involved. Preservation of federal voting records and statutory authority for the President's Committee on Government Contracts were seen as integral parts of an effective measure.

The Federation also called for federal aid to communities to facilitate orderly school desegregation or where state funds have been withheld. Similar assistance was asked for provision of schools for servicemen's children in those areas where schools have been closed.

Mr. Daniel pointed out that the B & C must obtain a new contract before May 1, when NLRB petitions are once again timely. The contract prevents a petition until 60 days before the expiration of the contract.

"The West Coast B & C Conference has promised to win an outstanding contract," he said. "The leadership now must deliver or betray the confidence of the members. The weakness and isolation of the ousted B & C will make this job more difficult than usual."

"We are urging ABC-AFL-CIO supporters to work vigorously in their local unions for a decent contract," he said. "The leadership may be tempted to sign a substandard agreement quickly in order to stay on the alert to prevent this development."

The AFL-CIO official pointed out that the present drive has been directed at the wholesale bread and cake workers. B & C members in the retail, cookie and cracker and candy industries will also be the target of the future organizing work.

ABC-AFL-CIO represents 85,000 bakery workers and the discredited B & C 50,000, Daniel said. "Through constant organizing activity the B & C will be wiped out and all bakery workers reunited in AFL-CIO," he said.

On-Site Picketing

A House Labor subcommittee last week approved a bill to permit building trades unions to picket multi-employer construction sites. The bill would have the effect of reversing the Supreme Court's six to three decision upholding the NLRB in the now famous Denver Building Trades case.

Building trades representatives from all over the country, converging on Washington, D. C., next week for their annual legislative conference, will be working hard for this bill, and other features of the AFL-CIO "Positive Program for America."

Seeds of Another Recession Seen In Housing Starts Drop

A drop in January non-farm housing starts 13 per cent below a year ago, as announced by the U. S. Department of Commerce, has added fuel to growing concern that the present housing construction downturn contains the seeds of a new recession.

The number of housing starts in January represented a seasonally adjusted rate of 1,210,000, down 9 per cent from the December, 1959, seasonally adjusted rate.

Housing experts are predicting that 1960's housing starts will be down by 200,000 or more from the inadequate level of 1959.

A statement recently adopted by the AFL-CIO executive council which warned the nation of the dangerous situation developing, said this would throw an additional 400,000 or more workers out of jobs "at a time when high level chronic unemployment already plagues the nation."

The AFL-CIO leaders said the "major reason" for the housing slump has been "the tight money policy the Eisenhower Administration has foisted on the nation's economy." It added that in the 1953-54 and the 1957-58 recessions, "it was the cutback in housing activity which preceded and helped precipitate the general economic setback."

The national AFL-CIO is pushing hard for the enactment of an emergency housing bill introduced by Representative Albert Rains (D., Ala.) which would make \$1 billion in federal funds available for mortgages on moderate priced houses and free home buyers from excessive "discount" charges piled on top of high interest rates. The executive council termed the Rains bill a "necessary stopgap to restore minimum levels of housing activity."

The Eisenhower Administration, on the other hand, appears more de-

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Rees-Doyle Act Extension Held Up in Committee

A bill before the special session of the California state legislature to extend the life of the Rees-Doyle Health and Welfare Program Supervision Act beyond its June 30, 1960 automatic expiration date drew heavy fire from insurance and employer groups this Wednesday at hearings before the Assembly Committee on Finance and Insurance. Committee action was withheld pending the scheduling of another hearing next week.

When the issue was included in the Governor's special session call, it was anticipated that the major obstacle to extension would be getting it by the Senate. After this Wednesday's hearing, there is speculation in Sacramento that the measure, AB 23, may even fail to get by its first legislative hurdle in Assembly committee.

Primary author of the extension bill is Tom Rees (D., Los Angeles), who also chairs the lower house Finance and Insurance Committee.

In order to head off opposition based on the passage by Congress of the Federal Health and Welfare Disclosure Act, AB 23 seeks to avoid charges of duplication by restricting state activity in the health and welfare field to supervision, regulation, examination and investigation of employee benefit programs by the state Insurance Commissioner.

This watered-down version, however, would correct a narrow interpretation given the scope of the original act by spelling out its application to programs established unilaterally by employers as well as those negotiated by organized labor. Following adoption of the original Rees-Doyle Act in 1957, the Insurance Commissioner confined its scope to trusted, negotiated programs.

The watered-down extension pro-

Higher Education Program Support Urged

Federation Secretary-Treasurer, Thomas L. Pitts, sent individual communications to members of the California legislature this week, urging approval of a program for higher education in California worked out by a liaison committee of the State Board of Education and the Regents of the University of California.

The program is embodied in ACA 1 and SCA 1, companion constitutional amendments before the special session of the legislature, which, if approved, would go before the voters at the November general election.

In conveying endorsement action taken by the Federation's executive council last week, Pitts wrote legislators:

"We sincerely believe that the adoption of these constitutional amendments by the legislature for submission to the voters this November would constitute a long step toward assuring California a higher education system adequate to meet its growing needs."

posed in AB 23 would require the Insurance Commissioner to examine any program which he has reason to believe is "being operated in a manner contrary to the rights and interests of the beneficiaries of such programs . . ." The original Rees-Doyle Act, due to expire this June, permits examination at any time, but requires the Insurance Commissioner to do so at least every three years.

A proposal that the cost of examinations should be a charge against the fund has been dropped from the text of AB 23 as presently being considered by the legislature.

Apart from the examination features, registration of programs would be continued under AB 23. A basic \$5.00 registration fee would be required of all funds, plus an additional amount ranging from \$5 to \$50 based on the number of per-

The digest of the companion constitutional amendments is as follows:

Defines public higher education to consist exclusively of three segments: the junior colleges, the state colleges and the University of California. Provides for government and functions of each segment. Prohibits legislature from authorizing any institutions of public education to offer instruction beyond the 14th grade level.

Creates Trustees of the State College System of California as a body corporate to administer the State College System with full powers of organization and government, subject only to such legislative control as may be necessary to insure compliance with terms of the endowments of such colleges and security of their funds. Fixes membership of such board of trustees to five ex officio members, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker, Superintendent of Public Instruction and chief executive officer of the State College System, and 16 members appointed by the Governor for 16-year staggered terms. Includes incumbent members of the State Board of Education as first appointive members. Creates a Co-ordinating Council for Higher Education and prescribes membership and powers thereof.

sons eligible for benefits under the programs registered.

Under AB 23, the Rees-Doyle requirement on annual financial reports would be limited to making such reports *available* to contributing employers and covered employees. An exemption in the state act for funds and insurance policies placed with corporate trustees is broadened to include exemption from regulation, examination, and investigation by the Insurance Commissioner, as well as supervision by him.

Provision is made also for the Insurance Commissioner to exempt from such regulation, examination, reporting, investigation or supervision, programs which are so regulated by other state agencies. This provision is aimed primarily at avoiding duplicate authority over pension programs by both the state's Corporation and Insurance Commissioners.

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

NEWS ITEMS IN BRIEF

Railroads Union Shop

The AFL-CIO has announced that it is joining with 15 non-operating railroad unions in asking the U. S. Supreme Court to reverse a Georgia state court decision involving union shop agreements on railroads. The Georgia ruling, now on appeal before the high court, would prohibit the enforcement of a union shop contract if part of the members' dues are used for political and legislative activity.

The attack on the railroad union shop agreements, the AFL-CIO points out, challenges the right of all unions, "to enter into union shop contracts without abandoning the most effective means available for promoting the best interests of the membership: political and legislative action."

Economic Slowdown

This month's "Economic Review," published by the AFL-CIO Department of Research, points to clouds on the economic horizon that could lead to a "considerable slowdown" in the economy about mid-year, thereby setting the stage for another recession. The labor economists are warning of possible trouble ahead if "positive steps" to boost sales, production and jobs are not taken at this time.

Seeds of Another Recession Seen In Housing Starts Drop

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terminated than ever to do the bidding of the banking and financial interests in the mortgage loan market. Ike's answer is to add to the cost of housing by giving the financial boys a higher interest rate.

The only hope for an adequate level of housing construction to meet housing needs rests in reducing the present exorbitant costs of mortgage money so that the largely untapped middle income housing market can be reached. Housing experts agree that the nation needs an annual building rate of at least 2.3 million housing units a year.

The AFL-CIO leaders are urging that once Congress passes the emergency Rains bill, it should "turn immediately to consideration and enactment of a long-range housing program geared to the nation's total long-term housing requirements." The program would include:

— A large-scale, low-rent public housing program "to provide decent homes for low income families."

— An effective middle income housing program.

— A fully adequate program of housing for the elderly.

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

— A greatly expanded slum clear-

STATE TAX CUTS?

The State Senate Committee on Revenue and Taxation has ignored Governor Edmund G. Brown's warnings against tax cuts which would result in "fiscal irresponsibility." Early this week the upper house committee approved \$20 million worth of tax cuts, including bills to repeal the state sales tax on both prescription drugs and other medicines, and also to conform the state's income tax and bank and corporation tax laws to federal statutes in almost all respects, except tax rates and a few other items.

Watch the politics in the road ahead for these bills. Major tax cut push is coming from Republicans who oppose Brown's use of an anticipated \$63 million surplus next fiscal year for basic state capital outlay and construction. GOPers would follow previous Republican Administration policies on financing the larger portion of state capital outlays by floating general obligation bond issues.

ance and urban redevelopment program.

— Effective encouragement to metropolitan planning.

— Other measures, including encouragement for cooperative and moderate-priced rental housing; adequate housing for family farmers and farm workers; requirement of payment at a prevailing wage in any housing construction involving foreclosure in emergency situations.