

# Union Community Services Inventory

A study of existing activities of unions in the fields of community services work was launched this week by the Federation's Standing Committee on Community Services.

Vice President Sam Eubanks, chairman of the committee, has sent to all affiliated unions and councils in the state a survey questionnaire, urging that it be completed and returned to the California Labor Federation so that community services information may be assembled for use at both the state and local level.

In a covering letter, Eubanks pointed out that today AFL-CIO interest in its members goes beyond the eight hours of work; it reaches out from the workplace to the neighborhood and community. "We need your help," he added, "in securing the necessary information for promoting future AFL-CIO programs in this field."

The questionnaire, in brief, describes the community services activities as covering the work of service committees of various unions in relationship to scores of national and local voluntary and public agencies in the areas of community organizations and community health, welfare and recreation projects, including the development of union counselling programs and strike assistance programs.

Examples of specific union com-

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## Taxpayers Take Multi-Million Dollar Milking On State School Textbooks

Three major school textbook publishing firms last week extracted from taxpayers the price they have been demanding over the years as a condition for the use of their books as basic state reading texts in California schools.

The State Board of Education, over the objections of board-member Thomas L. Pitts, dumped a 29-year-old policy and awarded a multi-million dollar order for elementary reading textbooks to publishers refusing to lease their plates to the state.

In its biggest textbook adoption in California history, the state Board gave 69 per cent of an approximately 8,000,000 textbook order to three firms which sub-



THOMAS L. PITTS  
Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer

INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL  
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## FED URGES STRONG FEP ENFORCEMENT

Thomas L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, this Tuesday urged the State Fair Employment Practices Commission to reject efforts of some employer groups to weaken the new law by obtaining approval for continuation of discriminatory preemployment screening practices.

Speaking for one of the organizations which worked actively for enactment of a strong fair employment practices law in the state, Pitts said, "We are equally concerned that this law be given strong enforcement."

The state AFL-CIO leader warned: "It is logical that groups which tried diligently to defeat FEPC in the legislature and, unsuccessfully, to emasculate it, will undoubtedly attempt to reach their goals through administration of the law."

The Federation caution against retreat was wired to FEPC Chairman John Anson Ford in connection with Los Angeles hearings of

the Commission on a proposed "Draft Guide to Unlawful and Lawful Preemployment Inquiries by Employers, Employment Agencies, and Labor Organizations under the California Fair Employment Practices Act."

An earlier hearing on the proposed draft guide covering questions which may or may not be asked of job applicants or in help wanted advertising was held in San Francisco, February 24. Certain employer groups have concentrated their fire on removing from the preemployment draft guide prohibitions against requiring photographs, birth certificates and naturalization papers.

Referring specifically to these efforts to retain discriminatory screening practices, Pitts said, "The objections raised have no other purpose than to make it possible to continue discriminatory practices with administrative sanction. . . . We urge no retreat from the barring of the use of photos as an underhand method of screening applicants and discriminating against qualified workers."

Equal emphasis was placed on the retention in the draft guide of prohibitions against requiring birth certificates and naturalization papers. It is recognized that such documents contain all the necessary information for employers to flout the purpose of the new law.

In connection with citizenship or naturalization papers, it was pointed out that where employment by public agencies or perhaps defense plants may require evidence of naturalization or citizenship, such evi-

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# Taxpayers Take Multi-Million Dollar Milking On State School Textbooks

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lease their plates. As a result of this practice of state printing, taxpayers have been saved untold millions of dollars for use in meeting other education costs. A 1955 study by the Department of Finance shows that it costs one-third less to taxpayers to print textbooks in the state printing plant.

The immediate cost to the taxpayers in the Board's award to the three firms will be \$3 million. A. W. Collins, assistant state finance director, informed the Board that the 1960-61 state budget, now before the legislature, would have to be increased immediately by this amount.

Basic state textbooks are selected in the state by the State Board of Education upon the recommendation of a professional curriculum commission. No question has been raised concerning the judgment in having selected textbooks that are the best available for adoption by the state.

Past practices of the private firms in withholding their textbooks from bid, however, indicate a complete lack of concern about California school children having the opportunity to use the best books available. Under the procedures of the curriculum commission, generally only those textbooks submitted for bid are considered in selecting state texts.

In this connection, board member Pitts pointed out:

"Concern has been expressed that some publishers have not seen fit to submit a bid for years. But now apparently, they feel they can crash the market."

In all the years that these and other firms have withheld their books for consideration and adoption as basic texts, the issue of quality has more or less taken a back seat to the profit motives of the private publishing firms.

As the lone member who abstained from approving the Board decision, Pitts declared:

"I cannot support the power trust that has been made in California. This action will mean a tremendous and unnecessary tax load in the years ahead."

The state AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer warned that publishers henceforth would increasingly submit bids on a completed text purchase basis.

"The position of the publishing firms in question," Pitts said, "is a sham and a disgrace. This is just the opening bulge for the publishers to move in. We have heard of conspiracy before and we may hear of it again."

Also at stake in last week's Board decision is the efficiency of the state printing plant as it affects other printing costs of the state government.

**Although Pitts secured Board approval of a condition in the contracts with the private firms that the textbooks be printed and bound in California, it is estimated that the state printing plant might have to lay off some 400 workers during the next four years.**

Assistant Finance Director Collins informed the Board members that a workload reduction in the state plant will mean higher overhead costs, and consequently higher costs to state agencies using the plant, including the Department of Education for the printing of textbooks.

In the wake of the State Education Board's decision, Governor Edmund G. Brown is being pressed for a special session call to overcome the ruling.

Edwin L. Z'berg, a Democrat, requested Brown to allow introduction of a constitutional amendment which would require that all state textbooks be printed in the state printing plant in Sacramento.

## Union Community

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munity services projects and activities cited in the survey questionnaire include:

Blood banks, visits and cards for sick members, chest X-Rays for members, programs for retired workers, aiding Scout activities, promoting projects of local social agencies, and counselling union members' families who face health and welfare problems, among others.

## I.A.C. HEARINGS

The State Industrial Accident Commission has scheduled a series of four hearings in various parts of the state on proposed changes in the schedule for rating permanent disabilities under workmen's compensation and on recent changes in the rules of practice and procedure of the Commission.

The schedule is as follows:

—Tuesday, April 19, 1960, Room 115, State Building, Los Angeles, 10 a.m.

—Thursday, April 21, 1960, 1521 Fourth Ave., San Diego, 10 a.m.

—Tuesday, April 26, 1960, Room 507, 631 "J" St., Sacramento, 10 a.m.

—Thursday, April 28, 1960, Room 2196, 455 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, 10 a.m.

Persons and groups interested are invited to present statements, orally or in writing. Copies of the proposed changes may be obtained from the Industrial Accident Commission.

## Federation Urges

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dence should be obtained "without giving the employer all the information . . . which some employers may desire for purposes other than proof of naturalization."

Pitts noted that if, in any case, a law should require a copy of the exact text of naturalization papers, with all the necessary information that would lend itself to discriminatory practices, then action should be made to secure appropriate legislation to amend such laws.

Strong support for an effective preemployment guide was also voiced by Max Mont, representing the California Committee for Fair Practices.

Pitts advised the FEP Commission that the California Labor Federation is an active member group of the Fair Practices Committee and urged full consideration of the committee's stand.

Enactment of the FEPC law by the legislature last year was the culmination of over six years of coordinated efforts of labor and civil rights groups under the Committee for Fair Practices.

# FORAND BILL APPROACHES CRUCIAL TEST

Andrew J. Biemiller, director of the AFL-CIO Department of Legislation, has alerted state labor organizations across the nation that the Forand bill (H.R. 4700) to provide medical care for social security recipients, will soon be facing its first crucial test with action scheduled by the House Ways and Means Committee within a week to ten days.

Local organizations are being urged to step up campaigns launched during the past few months to encourage the writing of trade union member letters to Congressmen asking that everything possible be done to secure enactment of the Forand Bill.

As of this date, over 250,000 copies of a leaflet "Can You Afford To Be 65?" have been sent out locally in this state in connection with the letter-writing campaign, according to state AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thomas L. Pitts.

In a stepped-up phase of the campaign, the AFL-CIO Department of Social Security has prepared a new leaflet designed to answer questions which may have arisen concerning the Forand bill. Entitled "Nine Good Reasons For The Forand Bill," it is printed in full below.

The leaflet can easily be reproduced by mimeograph or other process to get copies in the hands of members as quickly as possible.

## NINE GOOD REASONS FOR THE FORAND BILL

(H. R. 4700)

**1. Most older persons would benefit from the Forand bill, which would pay the costs of 60 days of hospital care, additional skilled nursing care, and surgical benefits.**

A. Thirteen million men and women would get lifetime protection — all those eligible for old-age benefits under social security. The railroad unions want Railroad Retirement beneficiaries to be included too.

B. Old people not entitled to old-age benefits, if they have to turn to public assistance, would be helped indirectly. Since a smaller number would be forced to seek such aid, each one could be given more adequate assistance from the limited funds available to welfare agencies.

**2. Young people would also gain.**

A. Their aged parents would be protected at once—they and their families would have similar protection on

retirement or if the wage-earner dies leaving young children.

B. The most any employed person would have to contribute in the early years would be \$1 a month or 23c a week ( $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent of earnings up to \$4,800). For farmers and other self-employed people, the maximum contribution would be 35c a week.

**3. Few persons over age 65 have or can afford good health insurance protection through any other means.**

A. Only 2 out of 5 have any such protection according to the latest government figures.

B. Much of that is inadequate. It can be cancelled; it has lifetime ceilings; it is very costly.

C. The best-known policies cost \$6.50 or \$8.50 a month per person and pay only part, perhaps not even half, of hospital costs for up to only 31 days.

**4. Claims that voluntary insurance will grow rapidly are unscientific propaganda.**

A. No figures have been released to support assertions that special policies for the aged are selling well.

B. Claims that a much higher proportion of older people will be covered in five years have no substance. They (1) include almost worthless plans; (2) add alleged gains since 1957, still unproved; (3) disregard serious obstacles to continued purchase and growth.

**5. The Forand bill would strengthen welfare agencies, hospitals and Blue Cross.**

A. It would relieve them of the high-cost load of the aged. Many hospitals have large and growing deficits. Blue Cross keeps raising rates, partly because it includes retired people without charging them more than the community rate. As a result, Blue Cross is increasingly threatened by competition from commercial insurance.

B. Public welfare agencies now spend \$300 million a year for health care for the aged. In many communities a large part of old-age assistance costs are for medical care, which is an ever-growing burden.

C. A dependable system of financing health cost of the aged, such as would be provided through the social security system, would help these community agencies to improve and extend their services. High-quality, skilled nursing homes would be assured of revenues. A speedy return to independence and home care could be stressed.

**6. The cost would be moderate.**

A. The cost would be only about \$1 billion the first year, according to the Secretary of Health, Education, and

Welfare. The higher estimate used by the insurance industry and its doctor allies reflects the expensive practices of commercial insurance and is highly exaggerated, as a government report shows (Hospitalization Insurance for OASDI Beneficiaries, page 85).

**7. The new benefits can be financed on a sound basis, through the social security payroll tax, but without endangering present cash benefits.** Even the long range cost estimate of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is only  $\frac{4}{5}$  of 1 per cent of taxable payrolls. Insurance through the social security system is the best insurance buy available, and people who have retired would not have to pay anything.

**8. The Forand bill follows our established patterns for paying the costs of health care.**

A. It does not involve "political medicine" or "socialized medicine" as some officials of medical societies claim. They used similar unfounded slogans against medical care for dependents of servicemen, workmen's compensation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans, disability benefits, federal grants to local health agencies, and many other worthy programs.

B. The well-known and conservative Washington Post supports the Forand bill approach in an editorial of February 20, 1960, which says in part:

"That the American Medical Association would offer its usual doctrinaire opposition to this proposal was as much to be expected as a bill from a doctor after a visit to his office. Senator McNamara has observed that the AMA had 'nothing to offer but tired abuse.' This is not, by the wildest flight of the most neurotic fancy, 'socialized medicine' or 'political medicine.' It is simply a system, if the AMA could but calm its nerves enough to realize it, which, like Blue Cross or Group Hospitalization or any other insurance program, would enable a patient to go to the doctor and the hospital of his choice and pay the bills resulting from the care he needs in old age. It would help doctors, hospitals and medicine in general. And it would enable American men and women to retire in their old age with more security and self-respect."

C. The bill would protect the public from excessive charges by the small minority of doctors, hospitals and nursing homes who let business motives dominate their medical activities.

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## CITY COUNCIL JOINS FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE DRIVE

The City of Eureka has officially adopted a resolution supporting the Kennedy-Roosevelt minimum wage bill now before Congress, designed to increase the present federal minimum wage from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per hour, and extend coverage to the wage earners now exempt from the minimum protections of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

Action was taken by the northern city last month under stimulus of effective campaigning by labor groups in the area.

The council resolution makes specific reference to broadening coverage of the federal law to some 20 million wage earners falling outside of its scope under present broad exemption provisions.

## Feather River Project Association Shows True Colors

The Feather River Project Association, purportedly an organization formed to promote the state water program, has taken a firm stand that it will support only those projects which contemplate multi-million dollar give-aways.

The association recently threatened to stall water developments in California if any attempts are made to tighten up the acreage limitations provisions in the federal San Luis Project legislation presently before Congress.

In a "San Luis Resolution" adopted by the Board of Directors of the association, it is urged that H.R. 7155 (Sisk Bill) be approved with section 7, which specifically exempts from federal reclamation law state water deliveries which would utilize federally subsidized facilities of the San Luis damsite.

Without section 7 (thus applying reclamation law), the promotion group is demanding that the San Luis bill be killed.

In the event that Congress should adopt the San Luis Bill without the escapement provision in section 7, the association position is that the state should proceed to construct the San Luis reservoir and other

"Government action is required," the council said, "to eliminate labor conditions that do not provide a minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency and general well being of wage earners."

The higher level of consumer purchasing power that would result from the passage of the amendments before Congress, the council added, would be "beneficial to the local economy as well as to the national economy."

Copies of the resolution were ordered transmitted by the city clerk to Representatives Clem Miller of the First Congressional District, and to U. S. Senators Clair Engle and Thomas H. Kuchel.

joint use facilities as part of the state project, with the right of the federal government, as may be agreed upon, to provide the necessary storage capacity therein to serve its so-called federal San Luis area.

Although the added cost to the state would amount to some \$50 million, the association apparently believes that multi-million dollar give-aways to large landholders who dominate the lower end of the Valley would be well worth the added \$50 million burden imposed on the state's financial structure.

"It is essential to the state water development program," according to the Feather River Project Association, "that state laws apply to its service" areas. The state has no laws comparable to the protections against monopoly and speculation in federal reclamation law.

## Guide For Small Union Reports Issued

The U. S. Department of Labor has announced the issuance of a guide to help union officers fill out the short financial report form required by the Landrum-Griffin Act.

The form explained in the guide was developed by the Labor Department under provisions of the law which allow the Secretary of Labor to prescribe a short form for those organizations which find it burdensome or unduly expensive to fill out the longer financial report under the new law.

In order to qualify for the short form, a labor organization must have had less than \$20,000 in gross receipts during the fiscal year, must not be in trusteeship, and must also indicate that, because of its size, filing the detailed form would add substantially to its operating expenses or to the burdens of its officers holding their regular jobs.

According to Mitchell, nearly 70 per cent of the labor organizations in the country will be able to use the short form, but these organizations represent only about 25 per cent of the union membership in the United States.

It was announced this week that the explanatory booklets are being mailed out to all international and national unions as well as to each local organization which filed an organization information report (L. M.1) with the Department of Labor.

A second booklet, a guide to filling out the longer and more detailed financial report form required by the Landrum-Griffin Act, will be available before the middle of March, the U. S. Department of Labor announces.

## Forand Bill Approaches Crucial Test

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9. Persons most familiar with social security operations and the health needs of the aged support the approach of the Forand bill.

A. Among them are the American

Public Welfare Association, American Nurses' Association, and the National Association of Social Workers; also two men who have headed the Social Security Administration: Arthur Altmeyer and Charles I. Schottland.