

## Ten Families Outspend COPE

Anti-labor forces clamoring for legislation to prohibit political activities by organized labor appear to be playing the "ostrich game" with the facts on political expenditures.

The national AFL-CIO COPE recently publicized figures on political expenditures in 1959. Ten families, the facts show, spent more money on politics last year than did COPE—a lot more.

According to reports filed with the Clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives, as required by law, these 10 families spent a total of \$142,989.49: the Rockefellers (\$29,000), Mellons (\$25,000), DuPonts (\$24,989.49), Whitneys (\$16,000), Olins (\$10,000), Fords (\$9,000), Pews (\$8,000), Harrimans (\$7,000), Pratts (\$7,000) and Wallaces, the Reader's Digest people (\$7,000). In contrast, COPE spent only \$89,197.07—or almost \$34,000 less.

Of the total of \$4,986,653 which was spent on politics in 1959, the Republicans shelled out \$2,841,614, the Democrats \$1,339,537, and 20 labor organizations \$263,373. Expenditures by unions amounted to just 5.3 per cent of the total. Those by Republicans equaled 57 per cent, those by Democrats 26.9 per cent.

What rich families spent last year is, of course, chicken feed com-

(Continued on Page 4)

## Federation Underscores Urgency Of State Housing Conference

The California Labor Federation announced this week that the state AFL-CIO is throwing its full weight behind a scheduled Governor's Conference on Housing in June to come up with a program that will take the state's sagging housing industry out of the "doldrums," and provide quality housing at prices which meet the needs of the state's growing population.

State AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts urged full participation of organized labor in the forthcoming conference, set for June 13-14-15 at the Statler Hilton in Los Angeles, as the state's best hope for tackling the critical housing problem developing in California.

The three-day meet will be the first of its kind ever held in the state.

Housing experts across the nation are diagnosing the ills of the housing industry as an almost complete failure to meet the needs of low and middle income families, who today fall almost completely outside the construction market under conventional VA or FHA housing programs.

The problem is magnified many times in California as one of the major population growth areas in the nation.

Estimates are that two-thirds of the state's population, with incomes of less than \$6,500 - \$7,000, are effectively priced out of today's housing.

(Continued on Page 3)

INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL  
RELATIONS LIBRARY

APR 26 1960

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
BERKELEY



THOS. L. PITTS  
Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer

# Weekly News Letter

Vol. 2—No. 13  
April 22, 1960

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

151

## 109 Candidates In State Primary Get COPE Endorsement

Approximately 600 delegates from AFL-CIO organizations throughout the state this Thursday gave labor's official endorsement to some 109 primary election candidates at the pre-primary convention of California Labor COPE held in San Francisco.

The day-long session was dominated by frequent eruptions of delegates' feelings, keyed by Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts in his welcome statement, that the time has come for organized labor to apply its "demonstrated defensive talents" in the field of political action with equal determination "on the offense."

Referring to the enactment of the Taft-Hartley Act 13 years ago, and the Landrum-Griffin bill last year, Pitts warned the delegates assembled to make labor's endorsements that "a labor movement which rises politically only on the defensive when it faces, for example, a 'right to work' measure, is exposing itself

and inviting periodical political onslaughts.

"Our enemies who have tasted blood in the Landrum-Griffin bill are today engaged in a national program directed from the executive suites of some of the nation's giant corporations to develop the 'corporation man' as a grassroots political worker for the enactment of further restrictive legislation.

"We can read the handwriting on the wall as we choose," Pitts said, adding: "Unless we are prepared to apply our demonstrated defensive talents with equal determination on the offensive in advancing labor's positive program for a liberal progressive America, we must be prepared to pay the price."

As the delegates prepared to make their endorsement recommendations (listed below by districts), the urgency of the political situation was hammered home also by California Labor COPE President Albin J. Gruhn in his opening report and address to the delegates, followed by assistant national COPE director Al Barkan, who flew in from Washington, D. C., to pinpoint the issues facing labor that are developing across the nation.

Referring to labor's setbacks in the face of what was thought to be a smashing victory in 1958, Gruhn said "the people have once again received a rude awakening from the opiate of that splendid victory at the polls."

"It was quite apparent," he added, "that even that victory was not

(Continued on Page 2)

# 109 Candidates In State Primary Get COPE Endorsement

enough to offset the legislative pressures of the hucksters of the anti-labor NAM, AMA and similar organizations on our national and local scene, who parade behind double standards to the tune of 'holier than thou'."

Gruhn warned that we must once again "take up the good fight through our political arms on the national, state and local level and give leadership to the program that will shore up our friends in Congress, in the state legislature and local government, who are up for re-election this year. We must once again convince those who faltered that labor's program is the program of the people. We must defeat those politicians, irrespective of party affiliation, who serve the selfish interests, who would stop or turn back the clock on social progress."

In a moving speech, punctuated by applause and wild approval as he ripped mask after mask off Vice President Nixon and exposed the heartless Administration of President Eisenhower, and by defeating silence as the real labor campaign issues were outlined, Al Barkan put the question to the delegates coldly and bluntly.

In one night, Barkan pointed out, the reactionaries raised \$10 million in special dinners featuring addresses by Ike and others of his kind. Referring to Nixon, he said these reactionaries have got the candidate, and "they think they have the issues to fool the people."

But more important, Barkan noted, the Chamber of Commerce and other big business-dominated groups are building the grassroots political machine to do the job on labor.

Barkan then turned and asked the delegates:

"But are we set? I wonder! Have we organized ourselves to do the job necessary? Have the central labor councils kept up the precinct organizations developed so effectively in the 'right to work' campaign against Proposition 18 in 1958? How many that did such a wonderful job in '58 are functioning politically today, and ready to go to work in this election?"

In the course of making their endorsements, delegates urged repeatedly that they be backed up by the

man hours of hard work and the organizational structure necessary for effective labor political action.

## ENDORSEMENTS

Endorsement actions reflected the recommendations of local political organizations on candidates for the House of Representatives in Congress, the State Senate and the State Assembly.

Local recommendations were reviewed by the Executive Council, which in turn recommended to the convention delegates for final endorsement action.

In some 80 Assembly districts, endorsements were made in 65, with five "no endorsements" and 10 districts being left "open" for possible later endorsement before the June 7th primary in consultation with local COPEs.

In the State Senate, out of some twenty-odd numbered districts up this year, endorsements were made in 16, with three left "open" and one "no endorsement."

Congressional endorsements numbered 28 out of the state's 30 seats in the House of Representatives. One district was left "open" and another "no endorsement."

The following lists the actual endorsements by district and party affiliation:

## California Labor COPE Candidates Endorsed by 1960 Pre-Primary Convention

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### District

1. Clem Miller (D).
2. Harold T. Johnson (D).
3. John E. Moss, Jr. (D).
4. Angelo Rolando (D).
5. John F. Shelley (D).
6. Douglas R. Page (D).
7. Jeffery Cohelan (D).
8. George P. Miller (D).
9. No Endorsement
10. Russell B. Bryan (D).
11. John J. McFall (D).
12. B. F. Sisk (D).
13. L. Boyd Finch (D).
14. Harlan Hagen (D).
15. Emery S. Petty (D).
16. Jerry Pacht (D).
17. Cecil R. King (D).
18. D. Patrick Ahern (D).
19. Chet Holifield (D).
20. Open
21. Rudd Brown (D).
22. James C. Corman (D).
23. John C. Strosky (D).
24. George B. Jones (D).

25. George A. Kasem (D).
26. James Roosevelt (D).
27. Harry R. Sheppard (D).
28. W. Earl Calhoun (D).
29. D. S. (Judge) Saund (D).
30. Walter Wencke (D).

### STATE SENATE

#### District

1. Stanley Arnold (D).
3. Carl L. Christensen (D).
5. Edwin J. Regan (D).
7. Ronald G. Cameron (D).
9. John C. Begovich (D).
11. Samuel R. Geddes (D).
13. Charles M. Geller (D).
15. William L. Beeman (D).
17. George Miller, Jr. (D).
19. Albert S. Rodda (D).
21. No Endorsement.
23. Open.
25. Fred S. Farr (D).
27. Open.
29. Alan A. Erhart (R).
31. William D. McKillop (R).
33. James J. McBride (D).
35. Open.
37. Clifford V. Dean (D).
39. John William Beard (D).

### STATE ASSEMBLY

#### District

1. David D. Wofford (D).
2. Pauline L. Davis (D).
3. Lloyd W. Lowrey (D).
4. Reginald M. Watt (D).
5. H. Roberts Quinney (D).
6. Paul J. Lunardi (D).
7. Everett A. Matzen (D).
8. W. A. "Jimmie" Hicks (D).
9. Edwin L. Z'berg (D).
10. Jerome R. Waldie (D).
11. Open.
12. Thomas E. Marnoch (D).
13. Cruz F. Portillo (D).
14. Carlos Bee (D).
15. Robert W. Crown (D).
16. Nicholas C. Petris (D).
17. Wilma B. Hackett (D).
18. William Byron Rumford (D).
19. Edward R. Fitzsimmons (D).
20. Charles W. Meyers (D).
21. Phillip Burton (D).
22. George E. Moscone (D).
23. Frank Brann (D).
24. John A. O'Connell (D).
25. Edward M. Gaffney (D).
26. No Endorsement.
27. Glenn E. Coolidge (R).
28. Open.
29. Bruce F. Allen (R).
30. Ralph M. Brown (D).
31. Gordon H. Winton, Jr. (D).
32. Bert DeLotto (D).
33. Charles B. Garrigus (D).
34. Alan G. Pattee (R).
35. Myron H. Frew (D).
36. Open.
37. Rex M. Cunningham (D).
38. Jack T. Casey (D).
39. John C. Williamson (D).
40. Edward E. Elliott (D).
41. Tom Carrell (D).
42. Tom Bane (D).

(Continued on Page 4)



# Federation Underscores Urgency Of State Housing Conference

(Continued from Page 1)

ing market under the high interest and mortgage discounting practices that prevail in VA and FHA loans, as well as conventional mortgages.

Redevelopment and urban renewal projects, inadequate as they are, frequently result in tearing down housing occupied by these low and middle income groups, with replacement units largely falling outside the reach of their income.

"Unfortunately," Pitts commented, "today's housing is being built largely and primarily to meet the needs of the financial interests, with the result that we are neither building enough housing units, nor building the kind of housing that is most needed."

"The state and the federal government must come up with programs," he added, "that will provide new sources of financing of middle income housing as well as a vastly accelerated program for urban development and renewal and construction of public housing units for low income groups."

These and other related problems will be among those which will undoubtedly draw the focus of attention at the Governor's Housing Conference.

According to Lowell Nelson, chief of the State Division of Housing, plans for the conference are well under way. A group of 34 outstanding leaders have been named to serve on the Advisory and Program Committees for the three-day meet.

Representing a wide cross-section of interests in the housing field, both from the construction and consumer end, the planning group includes Secretary-Treasurer Pitts and Bryan Deavers, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Federation President Albin J. Gruhn, who is chairman of the State Commission on Housing within the state division, is also actively involved in the conference planning.

This week 7,000 letters and informative brochures on the conference are being sent out to state legislators, representatives in Congress, city, county and labor officials, as well as allied associations and civic organizations having a vital interest in California's housing needs.

Discussion areas for the conference have been divided into four categories: private housing, public housing, urban renewal and redevelopment, and mobile housing. Some of the specific needs which will be considered include: city and state planning; building code uniformity, enforcement and revision; housing for special groups—employee, migratory labor, minority and elderly; land; costs; finance and inter-governmental agency relations.

Recently Pitts outlined the urgency of the housing problem at two meetings of labor groups in northern and southern California, in connection with the Jewish Labor Committee's announcement of expanded activities in the year ahead to promote civic interest in residential housing programs.

Pitts emphasized that housing construction for middle and low income groups holds the key also to the discrimination problem in housing.

The following are excerpts from speeches by Pitts, which underscore labor's vital interest in the success of the scheduled housing conference:

"In the area of human relations in California, there is no doubt that housing is the one, overriding and all-pervasive problem.

"Patterns of housing largely influence and perhaps dominate the total design of living of the community. The character and cost, quality and quantity, availability and accessibility, and the neighborhood arrangement of dwellings have a vital effect on the home environment of the individual and the family, on inter-personal and inter-group relations, and on the tenor of civic activity.

"Yet despite universal understanding of these facts, there is a growing deficit in the number of dwelling units built annually to house California's phenomenally expanding population. Furthermore, there is a rapid deterioration in whole areas which threatens the creation of vast new slums.

"In addition, . . . virtually universal housing segregation and discrimination prevails in California.

"Such discrimination is an indignity to the human spirit, and creates overcrowding, substandard housing,

deterioration of neighborhoods, higher costs and inferior accommodations—an incalculable, economic, social and psychological misery . . .

"The answer to this problem must be a three-fold program:

1. State legislation must be enacted in the next session of the California legislature prohibiting discrimination in the sale or rental of dwellings by anyone engaged in the housing and home building industry.
2. A bold new program of state and federal legislation is essential to a vastly increased supply of housing by fostering construction for those who need it most—persons in the low and middle income levels. To benefit the lowest income groups, it should include a great expansion of available public housing funds together with a new movement at the local community level to revive interest in public housing and to utilize such funds.
3. The present urban renewal plans should be vastly expanded and its policies should be re-oriented. . . . Community redevelopment should concentrate primarily—not on luxury housing and commercial facilities—but on the needs of the average citizen and the community as a whole. One of the foremost objectives of urban renewal must be to provide improved homes, on the redevelopment site, or elsewhere, for those displaced by such projects. Ultimately, the AFL-CIO proposals for legislation to encourage and assist development of non-profit cooperative housing, for rental or sale, may, if enacted, have the greatest impact of all on the life of the community and the economy of the state and the nation. This is of special importance to our elder citizens.

"Such cooperative housing depends on the government making available long-term, low-interest loans to the non-profit groups engaged in the home building project. Although most of these proposals require action by the federal government, the state government, too, must assume its proper responsibility in efforts to provide decent shelter for all citizens . . ."

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

## Area COPE Meet Takes Up April 27 and 28

Following on the heels of California Labor COPE's pre-primary endorsement convention, the national Committee on Political Education this week announced finalized plans for its area conference scheduled to take up on Wednesday and Thursday, April 27 and 28, at the Whitcomb Motor Hotel in San Francisco.

The conference — one of 15 being held from coast to coast to discuss COPE's activities and techniques — will draw trade union leaders from Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. the first day of the two-day meet. It is anticipated that the program will continue until approximately 5:00 p.m. of the second day.

Officers from national COPE headquarters, headed by Director James L. McDevitt, will be on hand together with COPE Area Directors

Al Green and LaMar Gulbransen and Women's Area Director Margaret Thornburgh.

The conference is directed specifically to the officers of local unions, local central bodies, building trades councils and women's activities departments. Rank-and-file trade unionists are encouraged to attend the sessions.

The meetings will lay particular stress on the participation of women in political education and action. Once again, a definite portion of the session will be directed towards wives of union members. Delegates have been urged to bring their wives to the conference.

The conference will consider in detail the procedures and problems of COPE's program involving education, communication, registration, fund raising, appraisal of candidates, campaign strategy, getting out the vote, and specific local, district and state problems.

## State PUC Ruling to Save Consumers Millions

Given scant space in the daily press last week was the announcement of a state Public Utilities Commission decision which will save users of public utilities in California many millions of dollars annually.

By a 3-2 decision, the PUC majority voted against allowing public utilities to "normalize their taxes" in connection with the rapid acceleration provisions of federal law for the depreciation of property.

Last year, in a brief filed with the PUC, the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, joined with the Railroad Brotherhoods Legislative Board in the state to support the Attorney General's position against allowing "normalization."

In the long-drawn-out case, private utility companies argued that they should be allowed to take advantage of the "fast write-off" provisions of the Internal Revenue Code (Sections 167-168) regarding the

depreciation of plants and equipment without passing these savings on to the consumers. On the other hand, they would have used these savings to build up reserves which would then be included with assets upon which rate-fixing would be based. The effect of the proposal was to "have their cake and eat it, too."

The PUC decision upheld the position assumed in the Federation's brief.

The brief argued that the Commission should reject the normalization of taxes; should reject the scheme to establish reserve funds to be used for rate-fixing purposes which would result in inflated prices to cover taxes not actually paid; and should insist that the monopoly corporations under the jurisdiction of the Commission recognize their public obligation to provide the most efficient service at lowest possible cost.

## Ten Families Outspend COPE

(Continued from Page 1)

pared with what they will dish out in the Presidential elections in 1960. It will be recalled that in 1956, 12 wealthy families spent some \$212,000 more in the political campaign that year than did 15 million trade unionists. And their contributions almost without exception were spent on candidates who were anti-labor and pro-Big Business.

Have you contributed your dollar to COPE? See your local union COPE collector TODAY.

## 109 Candidates Get COPE Endorsement

(Continued from Page 2)

43. Open.
44. Joseph M. Kennick (D).
45. George E. Brown, Jr. (D).
46. Charles P. Sohner (D).
47. Open.
48. Dor Sharpe (D).
49. Paul Egly (D).
50. Ronald Brooks Cameron (D).
51. William A. Munnell (D).
52. George A. Willson (D).
53. Fletcher R. Flynn (D).
54. Herbert E. Selwyn (D).
55. Vernon Kilpatrick (D).
56. George E. Danielson (D).
57. Open.
58. Open.
59. Thomas M. Rees (D).
60. Open.
61. Lester A. McMillan (D).
62. Augustus F. Hawkins (D).
63. Don A. Allen, Sr. (D).
64. Open.
65. Jesse M. Unruh (D).
66. Charles H. Wilson (D).
67. Clayton A. Dills (D).
68. Vincent Thomas (D).
69. Carley V. Porter (D).
70. Ora G. Knudson (D).
71. David N. Strausser (D).
72. Eugene G. Nisbet (D).
73. Phil Dreyer (D).
74. Open.
75. Richard T. Hanna (D).
76. Leverette D. House (D).
77. No Endorsement.
78. No Endorsement.
79. James R. Mills (D).
80. No Endorsement.