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# Weekly News Letter

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## Nationals Barred But 13 Pickets Jailed

Elements of enlightenment and reaction were mixed last week into one swirling current that has engulfed a strike-bound celery shed and field in Oxnard, owned by Lester Katsuda.

The April 18 arrest of 13 pickets representing United Packinghouse Workers-Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee on the pretext of "trespassing" recalled the backward labor relations attitudes of employers and the police prevalent in the 1930s. The union pickets have been released on bail, and individual jury trials have been requested.

The bright side of the picture was a precedent-making decision dealing with the employment of Japanese and Mexican Nationals whom Katsuda had been using to break the strike.

AWOC Director Norman Smith stated, "For the first time in four strikes, Mexican Nationals have been removed from behind the picket lines of UPWA. In three previous job actions braceros were used

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## FED URGES SOCIAL SECURITY ACTION FOR STATE EMPLOYEES

Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, this Tuesday called upon an Assembly Interim Committee to take necessary steps which will permit state employees to benefit from the advantages of coordinating their state retirement system with the federal social security program.

The coordination of the state retirement system with social security was the subject of special hearings of the Assembly Interim Committee on State Civil Service and State Personnel, headed by Assemblyman Charles W. Meyers, in the northern city of Napa this week.

In a wire to the committee, Pitts urged action to correct the great injustice to state employees performed last year by the legislature when state employees were effectively denied their federally granted privilege to obtain social security coordination by dividing amongst themselves into two groups—those

## FREE LABOR BOYCOTT OF SOUTH AFRICAN EXPORTS SET FOR MAY 1

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has set May 1 for the start of free labor's world wide boycott of South African goods.

The California Labor Federation is urging full cooperation of AFL-CIO unions in the state as a demonstration of their firm belief in the brotherhood of man, and that "an injury to one is an injury to all."

Called to express abhorrence of South Africa's "apartheid" racial policies, the boycott was voted by the last ICFTU World Congress and was approved by the Executive Council of the national AFL-CIO earlier in February. It is planned that the boycott will continue for at least two months.

In addition to labor's support of the boycott against South African consumer goods, the AFL-CIO is calling upon the U. S. Government to cut off its purchases of South African gold, one of that strife-torn country's major products.

Notice has been served on the South African government that U. S. labor is determined to continue the boycott, "unless it is prepared to change its inhuman racial policies."

Internationally, boycotts have already been instituted by the labor movements of several countries, including those of Great Britain, the Scandinavian countries, Germany and other African nations and countries in the West Indies.

South Africa's major consumer products are wines, spirits, fresh fruits and fish, and a wide variety of canned goods, including jams, fruits, fish, meats and vegetables.

In a manifesto announcing the start of the boycott, the ICFTU denounced the police murders of unarmed South Africans demonstrating against stringent laws based on racial discrimination, government policies which "make Africans third-class citizens in their native land," and the complete denial of all political and trade union rights.

"Let the free trade unionists of the world take the lead in a mighty movement of protest against the brutal oppression of the great majority of South Africans by a handful of racial fanatics," the ICFTU asked.

who want and those who do not want social security integration.

With the support of the California Labor Federation, and AFL-CIO public employees unions in the state, the State Employees Retirement System Board sponsored legislation providing for a liberal coordination formula and the right of state employees to exercise their division privilege. At the insistence of the California State Employees Association, on passage of the bill, however, a provision was inserted requiring a system-wide referendum vote on the question of whether or not state employees should be allowed to "divide" for the liberal, coordinated benefits.

In a hotly disputed referendum election last year, amid charges of fraud and deception by AFL-CIO public employees unions, the CSEA defeated the referendum vote on the question of "division."

The bitterness among the 32,000

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# Fed Urges Social Security Action for State Employees

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state employees who voted for coordination has been compounded by the expiration in the meantime, of the retroactive coverage provisions in the federal social security law which have heretofore been available to public employees.

The text of Pitts' wire to the Assembly committee read in part as follows:

"Consistent with the position maintained before the legislature at recent general sessions, we urge your committee to sponsor legislation at the 1961 session which will provide for coordination on the same formula contained in AB 2062, passed last year, but without the emasculating provision in that bill which denied to state employees desiring coordination the federally granted privilege to divide for this purpose without first requiring a system-wide referendum.

"The great injustice of that provision is now fully apparent in the explosive division that has flared in the state service since the referendum last year, and the resultant adverse effect on state employee morale.

"Valuable time has been lost because of the expiration of the retroactive coverage provisions available to public employees in the federal social security law.

"The AFL-CIO is working diligently in Washington, D.C., to provide for the necessary extension of these retroactive provisions. In the meantime, we believe your committee has an obligation to state employees to correct last year's wrong, and to prepare for the introduction of legislation at the next session which will give every state employee the opportunity to benefit from the advantage of coordination as he or she may choose in accordance with the federal privilege provision already in the law.

"We urge also that your committee take immediate action to communicate your support of retroactive extension to the California delegation in Congress."

# PITTS -- KIMBALL OPENING SPEAKERS AT APPRENTICESHIP CONFERENCE

Thos. L. Pitts, state AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer, and Dan A. Kimball, president of Aerojet-General Corporation, will share honors as opening session speakers on May 18 at the California Conference on Apprenticeship to be held at the Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco, it was announced recently by Webb Green and Fred A. Schmitz, chairman and co-chairman of the conference planning committee.

The conference will continue through May 20, with representatives of labor, management and government from all points in the state meeting in workshop and forum sessions to plan ways to provide the skilled workers that California will need in the challenging decade of the '60's.

"Representatives of industry, labor and government have long felt the need for such a conference," declared Green, "and this will undoubtedly be one of the most dy-

namic and productive meetings of the kind ever held."

Among nine workshops to be held on the second day of the conference is a day-long session on "legislation affecting apprenticeship." Another workshop drawing particular attention is one which will deal with the problem of discrimination in the placement of minority-group individuals in apprenticeship programs.

Recommendations from the conference are expected to have an important impact upon apprenticeship training in California, which currently leads the nation with more than 21,000 apprentices in more than 100 skilled trades.

Sponsors of the conference are the California Apprenticeship Council and the 600 local and statewide joint apprenticeship committees. The California Labor Federation has extended full support to the conference, including financial support voted at its last Executive Council meeting.

# Housing Construction Still Sliding

Evidence keeps mounting that housing construction in 1960 will fall far below even the inadequate levels of 1959.

Some 97,000 units started in March, as announced by the U. S. Department of Commerce, represent a 20 per cent drop below the number of starts a year ago in March.

Seasonally adjusted to allow for normal ups and downs in the construction industry, the number of privately owned dwellings begun last month represented a seasonally adjusted rate of 1,115,000, as compared with 1,403,000 for the same month a year ago.

The seasonally adjusted annual rate of starts for the entire first quarter of this year amounted to 1,148,700 dwelling units, a 17 per cent drop below the comparable 1959 period.

The adverse developments continue to underscore the need for legislation for providing additional homes for the nation's moderate income families.

This need was highlighted at the 29th Annual Meeting of the Nation-

al Housing Conference in Washington, D.C. recently. Delegates to the conference heard speaker after speaker charge that the Administration's "tight money" policy was playing a major role in slowing down housing starts and pricing new homes out of the reach of the typical American family.

Boris Shishkin, secretary of the AFL-CIO Housing Committee, called for formulation of a new national policy to bring moderate income families into the market, "by lowering the interest rate, by expanding the repayment period, or both."

The average family, Shishkin said, is "deliberately and artificially" being pushed out of the housing market by the Administration's tight money policy. He called for at least 35 million new homes between now and 1975 to replace substandard dwellings and to meet the population explosion.

Housing experts agree, Shishkin pointed out, that an annual rate of 2.3 million private units must be constructed each year—more than double the present low rate.

# Brown Administration Takes Action To Protect Consumers

Governor Edmund G. Brown and his State Consumer Counsel, Helen E. Nelson, have taken positive action on two fronts to protect the interests of California consumers.

The Governor, "increasingly concerned about the skyrocketing costs of natural gas to consumers," called a conference on the problem to be held in Sacramento in June.

At the same time, State Consumer Counsel Helen Ewing Nelson, sharply criticized standards limiting the amount of pesticide chemical residues permitted to remain on foods.

"I have been especially concerned about the failure of the Federal Power Commission to regulate producer prices on natural gas in any way at all," Governor Brown said.

He pointed out that the State's natural gas needs are filled by "one monopoly supplier, the El Paso Natural Gas Company, which has been increasing rates far faster than I can see any justification for."

He said not only has El Paso failed to get FPC approval of three raises in the last two years, there haven't even been any hearings set on the raises.

He listed the raises as \$13,550,000 on January 1, 1958, "more than two years ago, believe it or not," \$27,231,000 on August 1, 1959, and

\$23,000,000 to go into effect next August.

"We haven't even been able to protest a total of more than \$63 million in increases, much less get a decision," Governor Brown said.

Mrs. Nelson urged quick adoption of a State Department of Agriculture proposal to enforce the same standards on pesticide chemical residues on foods now required by the Federal government.

She said she was in complete accord with the department's idea that tolerances on pesticide residues "should be zero," except where a greater tolerance is specifically provided.

She warned that tolerances higher than zero should be permitted only after adequate tests, which she urged be continued to determine the adequacy of both State and Federal standards.

Mrs. Nelson pointed out that scientists recognize that some of the physiological effects of pesticide chemicals in foods do not make themselves known for many years.

Strict standards for such residues, she said, would be an "important advance in consumer protection." She spoke at a Department of Agriculture hearing called to permit farmers and food processors to be heard on the proposed new standards.

## Fed Award Given Handicapped Essay Winner

An expense-free trip to Washington, D. C., has been awarded by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, to Miss Patricia Hiehle of Culver City, as California's first place winner in the National Essay Contest recently conducted by the President's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped.

The theme of the contest was "Jobs for the Handicapped... Passports to Dignity." This was the 12th year of the National Contest, which saw as many as 1,700 entries in contests conducted by cooperating state committees.

In California, the National Essay Contest was conducted in cooperation with Governor Brown's Committee for Employment of the

Handicapped within the State Department of Employment.

The expense-free trip awarded by the Federation, includes first class air travel, plus \$100 in general expenses to Miss Hiehle to attend the annual meeting of the President's Handicapped Committee. Awards will be made at that time to national winners by the President.

Through arrangements with the national AFL-CIO, various state organizations in other states, for the first time this year, are similarly financing the Washington, D. C., trip of other state winners. Miss Hiehle will depart for the nation's capitol from Los Angeles on May 4, accompanied by her father, Mr. Michael E. Hiehle.

## Conference Schedules

Two conferences, sponsored by the Institute of Industrial Relations of the University of California — one north and one south — have been set to review developments of interest to many labor organizations.

A northern conference scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, 1960, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco will be devoted to "current trends in collective bargaining."

A southern conference, set for May 20 and 21, at the Doric Surf-rider Inn in Santa Monica, will review "new developments and problems in negotiated welfare plans."

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to break the strikes, despite the provisions of law forbidding such use.

"It is notable," said Smith, "that in the Katsuda strike, Japanese Nationals, who were used as strike breakers from April 4 to April 19, have finally been removed."

Smith pointed out that the U. S. Immigration Service finally bowed to the law, reportedly under pressure from Labor Secretary Mitchell's office. The Service's Los Angeles director, who is scheduled to become Executive Secretary of the Northern California Grower's Association, was asked by UPWA to disqualify himself in the case. The director agreed to permit another regional director to make the final determination regarding removal of Japanese Nationals employed under Public Law 414.

The strikers used sit-down tactics in the field and were successful to a great degree in enlisting the sympathy of the braceros and Japanese.

"This is a victory for and a vindication of the workers," Smith declared. "It is high time the law was upheld, and the rights of domestics sustained. We hope that in the future determinations on obeying the law and pulling out Nationals can be made in something under two weeks. The voice of agricultural workers in defense of their own rights is finally being heard."

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## HAGGERTY DINNER PLANS ADVANCING

The C. J. "Neil" Haggerty Testimonial Dinners for the benefit of the Earl Warren Legal Center, scheduled for San Francisco and Los Angeles on May 19 and 23 respectively, are having broad support from labor union organizations throughout the state.

Dinner Committee Chairman Thos. L. Pitts announced this week that three organizations are among the first to buy 10 or more tickets to the \$100 a plate fund-raising events, which entitles them to a name plaque situated in a permanent Hall of Founders of the Legal Center, acknowledging the contributions of the organizations.

The three organizations consist of: The Sailors' Union of the Pacific, Operating Engineers Local 12, Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Joint Board of International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Although all contributions obtained from the two dinners will be earmarked as a California labor contribution, organizations contributing by the purchase of 10 or more tickets will be given separate recog-

nition with a permanent name plaque in the Hall of Founders.

Letters advising local organizations of the fund-raising dinners recently were sent out statewide with an application form for ticket orders.

Pitts said that as the orders for 10 or more contributions are being received the names of the contributors are being immediately forwarded to the Legal Center office at the University of California to assure appropriate recognition in the Hall of Founders when construction of the Legal Center commences.

As the first labor representative on the University of California's Board of Regents, appointed by Chief Justice Warren when he was Governor of California, Haggerty has expressed a keen interest in tying his testimonial dinners to the Center's fund-raising drive.

The Center itself will provide facilities, among others, for conferences on many legal problems affecting the operation of labor unions.

## 'Standby' Authority Given McClellan Unit

A compromise move made last week rang down the curtain on the McClellan Special Senate Committee, transferring its records and investigative authority to the Senate Government Operations Committee on a "standby" basis, and affirming the Senate Labor Committee's exclusive authority to oversee administration of the Landrum-Griffin Act.

The compromise action was approved by voice vote in the Senate after Senator McClellan dropped S. Res. 294, which would have given his special committee a twelve-months lease on life to continue investigations of so-called improprieties in the labor-management field.

California labor, following Presi-

dent George Meany's lead, poured wires to Senators Kuchel and Engle urging defeat of S. Res. 294.

McClellan earlier had sought to have the special committee's records and total authority absorbed by his own Government Operations Committee, and asked for a "watchdog" role over L-G, despite the fact that the Labor Committee had won previous Rules Committee approval for a staff increase to supervise procedures under the new labor law.

Standby authority was given the Government Operations Committee in the compromise measure approved on the insistence of McClellan that such authority was needed "if some emergency arises."

## Seven Year Sunkist Fight Won

Signing of the first contracts covering five Ventura County Sunkist affiliates in the lemon packing industry has been announced by Norman Smith, Director of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, which is conducting a joint campaign in behalf of the United Packinghouse Workers and the National Agricultural Workers to unionize field and shed workers.

The new contracts provide wage scales ranging from \$1.35 to \$1.80 an hour; employer-paid hospitalization and medical insurance; overtime after 8 hours in one day or 40 hours in a week; seniority rights; time and a half for Sunday and holiday work; and paid vacations after one year.

"These agreements," Smith said, "constitute a major break-through toward organizing the 25,000 workers employed in the citrus industry. They end a seven-year marathon of company stalling since 1953, when the 500 workers in these plants voted union. They establish the highest wages and best working conditions in any citrus plant in the nation."

Smith, who took part in the negotiations along with representatives of the United Packinghouse Workers, commended UPWA for persisting over the seven-year period of litigation before the NLRB and the Federal Courts in its determination to win contracts in an industry which never before, except for a short period during World War II, had bargained collectively with any of its employees.

"The 132 affiliates of Sunkist," said Smith, "are the General Motors and the U. S. Steel of corporate agriculture in California. Now that a beachhead of union organization has been established in the Sunkist empire, AWOC will push to expand its membership throughout the citrus industry."