

ENDORSEMENT PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE

All labor organizations in the state have received sample copies of the primary elections pamphlet carrying the official AFL-CIO labor endorsements of the California Labor Council on Political Education.

The mailing of the pamphlet to local organizations was accompanied by an order blank for obtaining copies in sufficient quantity for distribution to every trade union family.

Pamphlet orders pouring into the office of California Labor COPE in San Francisco are being filled immediately so that local distributions can be made in ample time for the June 7 primary.

The pamphlet is designed so that it may be sent out as a "self-mailer" or enclosed in a standard business envelope with other union announcements, or supplemental endorsements at the local level for municipal and county offices.

This year's endorsement pamphlet features a breakdown of endorsements by geographical areas with the recommendations listed under each area for Congress, the state Senate and state Assembly.

The pamphlet also carries the endorsement of the California Labor Federation of the three state-

(Continued on Page 2)

Consumer Convention Draws Labor Support

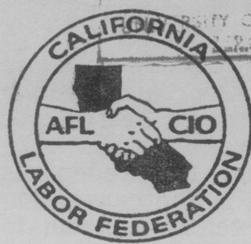
Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, this week called for broad labor participation in the first annual convention of the California Consumers Association to be held at the Hotel Californian in Fresno, June 18-19, 1960.

The convention will mark a major event in the efforts of consumers to organize themselves against the widespread abuses which have reached the proportions of a national scandal in recent months.

State AFL-CIO organizations throughout the state were mailed the official convention call of the Consumers' Association, which was launched last July with the active participation of the California Labor Federation and a cross-section of other organizations and individuals representative of the consuming public.

In a covering letter with the mailing of the convention call, Pitts advised trade unionists:

"We cannot in good faith devote our energies to gaining an honest return for a day's labor and then



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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151

House Okays San Luis Project, Monopolists Get Set Back

Monopoly forces supporting the California water program received a sharp set back this Wednesday when the House of Representatives voted approval of the San Luis Project for joint federal-state construction, but only after deleting the controversial Section 7 designed to exempt giant landholdings in the Valley from the 160-acre limitation of federal reclamation law.

The action was a smashing if partial victory for liberal forces, led by organized labor and small farm groups, pressing for urgent water development without giving in to the dictates of special interests.

The deletion of section 7 in the San Luis bill closed the most obvious loophole, but left others available to the monopolists for legal exploitation.

Political observers of the House action in Washington are pointing out that conforming the deletion of

Section 7 to a San Luis bill passed by the U.S. Senate last year, clearly places the burden on Governor Brown to clean up his state program as the quickest way of getting water development going in California.

The state \$1.75 billion water bond program has no protection against monopoly and speculation, and runs a big risk of being voted down by the people in November.

The San Luis Project is a key unit in the California water program, as all water transported south through the main San Joaquin Valley-Los Angeles Aqueduct would utilize the federally-subsidized facility. By deleting Section 7, both the House and the Senate served notice on the monopolists that the federal government was not available for use as a tool to accomplish their goals.

It remains to be seen now whether Governor Brown will allow them to use the state, observers are noting.

Wednesday's action followed long delaying tactics of the large landholders, with the backing of the state Feather River Project Association, to hold up the key San Luis unit in a fight to retain Section 7. The California Labor Federation, with the active backing of the national AFL-CIO legislative representatives in Washington, worked closely with liberal forces in the House to push the bill through Congress.

In heated debate, meeting as a

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 3)

Consumer Convention Draws Labor Support

(Continued from Page 1)

ing of goods and services they buy, and a common concern with the policies and practices of government and private organizations that have a substantial effect in the value the consumers receive for their money," the call declares.

It is essential to the consumers of California, the convention call adds, "that individuals and representatives of organizations together realize their common interest and work together to advance them."

Listed among the intents and purposes of the Association are the following:

1. To assist in uniting and coordinating the activities of California consumers in the protection of their legitimate interests and of the general welfare.

2. To work in cooperation with the state's Consumer Counsel in the office of the Governor toward the establishment of an effective consumer program in the state.

3. To provide, on its own initiative, educational and consultative services to those individuals and organizations desiring them, to advance consumer interests before the state legislature and public and private bodies, and to engage in research and reporting activities in order to keep Association members and the general public informed of problems and developments in the consumer protection field.

Specifically listed as concerns of the Association are "protections against excessive consumer credit rates, dishonest advertising, inadequate food and drug laws, inferior standards in the production of consumer goods, and pricing policies which militate against the welfare of the consumer."

Concern for consumer protection was also expressed in the convention call in such fields as housing, transportation, health insurance, and in the achievement of more effective consumer representation on public or quasi-public bodies.

The convention is open to the general public on the first day upon payment of a convention registration fee of \$5.00.

Participation in the decisions of the convention, however, including the adoption of a constitution and convention policy resolutions, will be restricted to members in the Association.

Membership in the Association

may be obtained by individuals and organizations in accordance with a specified contributions schedule listed in the convention call.

Both application for credentials and membership at the convention site will be accepted from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, June 17, and from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, at the Hotel Californian.

Resolutions submitted by individuals or organizations affiliated with the Association should be sent to the secretary-treasurer of the Association not later than Friday, June 10, 1960.

The convention has invited among its guests outstanding speakers from within and without the state, including Consumer Counsel Helen Nelson, Senators Thomas Kuchel and Clair Engle, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Attorney General Stanley Mosk, Senator Paul H. Douglas and Colston Warren of the National Consumers Union.

ENDORSEMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

wide propositions which will appear on the June 7 primary ballot. A vote "Yes" recommendation is urged on the following:

Proposition No. 1. Veterans' Farm and Home Bonds—authorizes the issue and sale of \$400 million in state bonds to provide funds to be used by the State Department of Veterans Affairs in assisting California war veterans to acquire farms and homes.

Proposition No. 2. School Bonds Directs the issuance and sale of \$300 million in state bonds to provide loans and grants to school districts, for (a) school sites, construction and equipment, and (b) housing and equipment for education of physically handicapped and mentally retarded minors.

Proposition No. 3. State Indebtedness—Provides that laws authorizing state indebtedness or a bond issue may be voted upon at a direct primary instead of a general election if two-thirds of each house of the legislature so directs. Provides that members of the legislature required to meet with the State Allocation Board shall have equal rights and duties with non-legislative members in the allocation and apportionment of funds for school construction and related purposes.

Labor Support of 'Sit-Ins' Spreading

The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, this Monday, urged the citizens of Los Angeles to join with organized labor and other community groups in using their economic power to give support to the "sit-ins" and non-violent protest demonstrations against civil rights violations sweeping the southern states.

Joining with the Committee of Racial Equality, the Jewish Labor Committee, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the L.A. Federation called for a "consumer boycott against those business which practice discrimination in their southern outlets."

Focus of the Los Angeles action was on bringing community groups together "in a nationwide picketing demonstration on May 21."

Similar action has been taken by labor organizations in other parts of the state. Last week the Alameda Central Labor Council called upon its local organizations to give economic support to the civil rights demonstrations.

The Los Angeles AFL-CIO group backed up its action with the following statement outlining the issue:

"The sit-ins and non-violent protest demonstrations sweeping the South today have stirred the imagination, evoked the sympathy and won the admiration of men of goodwill everywhere.

"These demonstrations have swelled into a great and dedicated movement—expressing the deeply-felt impulse of the individual to make a direct and public affirmation of his human dignity against the daily humiliation of racial segregation, imposed by inhuman practice and unconstitutional law. The youth of the South in great numbers—both Negro and white—have shown their determined devotion to this movement.

"The protests are now directed against discrimination in restaurants and other places of public accommodation. They focus attention particularly on the injustice and bitter irony of the policy of soliciting the patronage of Negroes for other departments of business establishments while segregating and exclud-

(Continued on Page 4)

Skill Development Key to State Economic Growth

More than 1000 representatives of industry, labor, government and the general public assembled in San Francisco for the California Conference on Apprenticeship were told that the skill potential of the California labor force offers an advantage which holds the key to the state's economic growth in competing with states that offer a short run competitive advantage in a low wage structure and lower living standards.

The opening session of the three-day meeting heard labor keynote speaker Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the state AFL-CIO, say "it is important that we capture the total efficiency potential of the state's labor force not only because we are told there is a secular trend in the advancement of skill requirements, but equally because the greatest attraction California and the west generally holds out to industry is exactly this efficiency potential . . ."

It was noted that this higher potential stems from the fact that the California labor force, on the average, has a two-year higher level of formal education than the nation as a whole.

Warning against complacency that this advantage will be automatically exploited, Pitts alluded to the necessary existence of a favorable framework of labor-management relations, and "the will to put these relationships to the test in a critical area where failure could spell a critical blow to the entire structure of labor-management relations."

While noting that problems of skill development transcend in importance any particular procedure for the development of skills, Pitts said that where the apprenticeship approach is not suitable "we must be flexible enough to modify our training approaches to secure our goals."

It was emphasized, however, that apprenticeship programs have not been carried to the limit of the advantage which apprenticeship offers as a flexible vehicle for the training of craftsmen.

Commenting on apprenticeship statistics developed by the State Division of Apprenticeship Standards, the keynote speaker warned that we are not training enough journeymen

to offset even the number of skilled workers leaving the labor force through death or retirement — let alone to meet the increasing demand for additional skilled workers.

The importance to the employer of having an adequate supply of full-fledged journeymen, he said, goes without saying.

Then, pointing to the importance that the unions and the trades be able to supply these journeymen, Pitts added:

"Where the need for any particular skill is urgent, if there are not enough journeymen to fill the need, it is logical that the use of non-journeymen is going to increase out of proportion to the employment of journeymen."

"Over a period of years, in an expanding economy, this could mean a serious loss in the overall skill content of a particular trade. Unions which have built their organizations around this skill content run the risk of destroying the very base of their organizations."

Pitts cautioned that "in an age of rapid technological development, security in the scarcity of journeymen is a fallacy."

The need was expressed for "some kind of a continuing inventory of the trades and crafts, as they exist today, broken down by skill requirements, to make sure that we are keeping our apprenticeship training programs abreast with the times."

Particular emphasis was placed on the joint apprenticeship committees continuing to come to grips with the "pattern of skill dilution in the trades, and, as necessary, adapt apprenticeship programs on a sound basis to meet the requirements of technological change, rather than tolerating violations of apprenticeship standards, where standards have not conformed or met the basic requirements of these technological changes."

It is also noted that the expansion of apprenticeship programs and their adaption to meet the changing skill requirements of our economy require more and more attention be given to the problem of communicating the change in requirements to those who make up the potential trainees.

"It is most important," Pitts declared, "that we reach the coun-

House Okays San Luis Project

(Continued from Page 1)

committee of the whole, the House deleted Section 7 on a teller's roll call vote of 139 to 122, after overcoming a set-back on a preliminary vote. The bill was then sent to the House of Representatives which stamped its approval on the section's deletion by a vote of 210 to 181.

Final passage of the San Luis Project Authorization Bill came on a voice vote, after the monopolists failed in their last ditch effort to hold up the project by re-referral of the bill to committee.

Senate approval in reconciling other differences in the bill was quickly obtained, and the San Luis measure is now on Ike's desk for signature.

selors, upon whom school children are frequently dependent for guidance in their preparation for entering the labor market."

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Improving the lines of communication was stressed as especially important to "minority groups in the encouragement of skill development for the fulfillment of the promise that Fair Employment legislation holds out to the minority-group individual."

On the problem of eradicating "every vestige of discrimination" in the apprenticeship programs, it was noted that "the skill requirements of the state or nation do not permit further toleration of the viewpoint that we can continue with such wasteful practices in the utilization of our most precious resource of all — the human being."

Commending the action of the conference in establishing a special section on discrimination problems, Pitts commented:

"The implicit commitment of every participant in this conference is their willingness to cooperate in a mass movement to provide our state with the skill requirements that it must have to compete nationally and maintain a prospering level of economic activity."

He added:

"If we think this can be accomplished without the eradication of discriminatory practices, then, we are playing an ostrich game with the facts and only deluding ourselves."

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

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Institute of Industrial Relations
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Major Collective Bargaining Victory In Cherry Harvest

Successful conclusion of negotiations with growers representing 60% of California's cherry production was hailed as an outstanding milestone in AFL-CIO's campaign to organize corporate agriculture by Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee director Norman Smith in Stockton.

Smith stated that informal individual agreements calling for a minimum harvest price of \$1.10 per 16-quart bucket had been complied with by virtually all growers in the early season which began late in April. Around 3,500 workers were involved in the early harvest.

The main harvest, now getting underway and expected to last until about June 10, will reach a peak employment of 6500 to 7000 workers.

The AWOC director warned that the battle in the cherry industry marked in recent weeks by about 20 short strikes lasting four days at the most, was by no means over. An industry association has announced proposed main harvest prices ranging from 90c to \$1.25 a bucket. Indicating cherry harvest workers were completely united in their determination to maintain the \$1.10 minimum, he expressed confidence that no retreat would take place.

During the recent negotiations, the growers recognized that establishment of standard piece rates throughout the industry would expand and stabilize their labor force by eliminating the need for workers moving from one orchard to another in search of a decent price.

"In fact," Smith declared, "the early harvest confirmed the validity of this approach. AWOC itself

did a thorough job of organizing the workers to assure growers of an orderly and successful harvest."

Labor leaders interpreted the new attempt to turn back the clock by a segment of the industry as having been inspired by pressure from the leadership of anti-labor farm groups in the state.

They pointed out that the growers had been successful in negotiating a cannery price of 16c a pound. In view of the heavy harvest anticipated this year, the outlook for a profitable season is bright.

Aside from increasing the price for "good and average picking" to \$1.10 a bucket, compared to last year's 90c, another condition won by AWOC dealt with the method of "rounding off" buckets. The new method means an average of about 20 pounds of cherries per bucket as compared to as high as 24 pounds previously.

Another gain was agreement on an "escalator clause" to adjust piece work rates upwards in situations where rough picking and tall timber were involved.

"In a number of strike situations, the hold-out growers sought settlement on a basis where strike leaders would not be rehired. The solid stand of both AWOC and unorganized workers in this issue brought about the re-employment of union leaders in all instances.

Following the successful breakthrough in cherries, Smith announced, "AWOC is now in the process of making similar plans regarding the apricot industry as a follow-up to the successful breakthrough in cherries."

Labor Support of 'Sit-Ins' Spreading

(Continued from Page 2)

ing them in the eating facilities of those very establishments.

"The individual participants in the movement have displayed great personal courage and self-discipline in the face of extreme abuse and violence. The arbitrary police measures, hastily enacted and vengeful laws, and economic and social sanctions which have met their efforts, have caused grave anxiety among all those—whether in the North or in the South—who are concerned with preserving freedom of expression and human decency.

"Despite reprisals, the non-violent protest movement has already achieved successes in breaking the pattern of segregation. Instances of desegregation, of eating facilities, while few in number, have occurred smoothly and without incident.

"In California, discrimination and segregation in accommodations, facilities or services in business establishments are prohibited by law. Citizens of this state, therefore, have a particular understanding of, and sympathy with, the aspirations of those seeking equality of treatment in public accommodations.

"Here in Los Angeles, civic organizations have sought to give public voice and concrete support to the non-violent protest movement. Even as we continue to work for better human relations in our own community and state, and as we support the world-wide fight for human freedom against Communist and Fascist oppression, we declare our sympathy for the demonstrations against racial discrimination, segregation and bigotry in the South."