

Mitchell and Braceros

Returning from Washington after meeting with Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell last Wednesday and Thursday, state AFL-CIO leaders expressed cautious optimism that Mitchell may stand up against grower pressures to force government recruitment of strike-breakers to smash AWOC's organizing drive. A satisfactory session with Mitchell was reported both by Federation Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts and AWOC Director Norman Smith.

The key issue continues to revolve around the definition of a labor dispute under the Secretary of Labor's rules and regulations for administration of the prohibition in the Wagner-Peyser Act against Farm Placement Service referrals of domestics where a labor dispute is in progress. If Mitchell reverses present interpretations being applied by the State Department of Employment, which have recognized AWOC picket lines and strike actions, then the door will be open for wholesale importation of braceros as strikebreakers.

Word was received from Mitchell's office this Thursday that the Secretary of Labor has scheduled public hearings in Washington

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Federation Scholarship Winners Named

Four girls and two boys were named as winners last Friday in the Tenth Annual High School Scholarship competition sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Winners of the six \$500 awards are: Jo-Ann Scull, Redlands Senior High School, Redlands, San Bernardino County; Robert O. Loveless, Polytechnic High School, Sun Valley, Los Angeles County; Myrna C. Wothers, El Cajon Valley High School, El Cajon, San Diego County; Marilyn Lee Davis, Sanger Union High School, Sanger, Fresno County; Cecilia Black, Capuchino High School, San Bruno, San Mateo County; Edmund Ray Manwell, Marysville Union High School, Marysville, Yuba County.

Three of the six scholarships were made available this year under the Federation program by the following cooperating organizations: Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council; California Legislative Board of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; Painters District Council 36 of Los Angeles.

In announcing the results, Thos.



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Weekly News Letter

Vol. 2—No. 24
July 8, 1960

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO



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Congress Recesses For Political Conventions: Major Bills Left Behind

In an unanticipated move last week, Congress recessed for the political conventions to reconvene in August amid political speculation concerning partisan wrangling likely to follow over key welfare bills whose fate was left hanging in the balance.

Involved are these major bills — health care for the aged, federal aid to education, minimum wage protections, housing legislation and many other items high on the priority list of AFL-CIO-liberal forces.

Political speculation centered on the prospect of an almost unprecedented "confrontation" of party Presidential nominees upon reconvening of Congress. Vice President Nixon, sure to be the GOP candidate, is presiding officer of the Senate, and the three Democratic Senators being advanced as Presidential candidates are John F.

Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Stuart Symington.

The last time Congress held a session between nominating conventions and election was in 1948, when President Truman called an August special session on what he labelled "turnip day" to push his demand for anti-inflation legislation.

The three-week "turnip day" session rejected Truman's proposals and adjourned after completing action on a Republican alternative plan, but Truman, as Democratic nominee, used the record as part of his campaign, labelling the GOP-controlled legislature the "do-nothing, no-good 80th Congress."

The Democratic decision to recess Congress for the conventions came as mounting protests began to beat against the six-member bipartisan coalition that has been exploiting control of the House Rules Committee to delay or kill legislation almost certain to pass if it could be forced to the floor. The following is a run-down on the major bills pending:

Aged Health Care—The House-passed Social Security liberalization measure carrying totally inadequate medical care provisions based on a "pauper's oath" is still pending before the Senate Finance Committee. Two days of hearings were completed just prior to adjournment, with the Eisenhower Administration urging amendment of the House-passed bill with its own previously rejected proposals, the AMA urging Senate approval of the inadequate House provisions, and proponents of a Forand-type bill backing a new proposal by Senator Clinton Anderson.

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POLITICAL ACTION CHECK LIST

Local AFL-CIO organizations in the state were warned recently that the June primary election results not only assured Vice President Dick Nixon the Republican nomination, but also that, unless labor does "a lot better job in registering its membership and getting out the vote in November, Nixon may carry California."

California Labor COPE Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts said in a letter to local organizations.

"We have enough time to do the work necessary to prevent this and at the same time provide the registration base for support of our district endorsements, only if we **begin immediately.**"

Local organizations were urged to take the following steps:

1. Get as many officers and members of your local union as possible deputized as voter registrars by your county clerk.

2. Check your membership rolls to see which members are not registered, and set up a system for getting to those who are not registered voters now.

3. **Contact your local COPE office to assist with the overall registration program in your area.** COPE in your area will be happy to help you get your people deputized as registrars. You will be much more effective if you act through your COPE organization, instead of trying to operate alone.

4. Set up a system for collecting voluntary COPE contributions from your members.

5. Affiliate with your local COPE structure and the State COPE so that a good solid job can be done.

A check list of aids to local unions for the 1960 general election registration drive of voters was also forwarded to each local organization. Included was an order blank for general political education leaflets, available for distribution to union memberships with regular mailings during the summer months and early part of the general election campaign.

Pitts also announced the avail-

Comprehensive Housing Program On Discrimination Advanced

The Governor's statewide housing conference held last month in Los Angeles received a comprehensive set of recommendations from its special panel on minority problems aimed at coming to grips with widespread discrimination practices in the state.

The significant feature of the recommendations was the stress placed on programs for the financing of low and middle income housing.

Irrespective of necessary laws and policies designed to remove discrimination practices, it is recognized that there can be no solution to minority problems without state and federal programs geared to increasing the supply of housing for moderate and lower income families.

The following are the recommendations advanced by the minority group workshop:

1. The present California Fair Housing Law (Hawkins Act), which prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color or national origin in publicly assisted housing, should be extended to cover all housing and all phases of the housing industry. Such a law should establish administrative machinery to investigate allegations of discrimination in the rental, sale, and financing of housing similar to the functions of the Fair Employment Practices Commission. A housing commission should have the power of the subpoena, should be able to conduct open hearings, and should be empowered to take court action against persons determined to be violators of the law. One important function of such a commission would be to work for voluntary compliance with the law, hence provisions should be made for an extensive research and educational program.

2. Legislation should be enacted requiring the revocation or suspension by the state of the licenses of persons persistently practicing discrimination in the housing industry. Such discrimination, which should include the promotion of "panic selling" by deliberately stimulating racial fears in a neighborhood, should be defined as unethical practice for pro-

ability of registration posters, both in large and small sizes.

The check list of aids to local unions may be obtained on request by writing California Labor COPE, 995 Market Street, San Francisco, for the local organizations which may have misplaced it.

professional members of the housing industry.

3. In the interim before such legislation, the Real Estate Commissioner should work with local real estate boards to obtain voluntary admission to membership of brokers without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin, and to obtain provisions in the board's code of ethics specifically condemning racial discrimination in the rental or sale of real property.

4. An appropriate state agency should begin now to conduct research into the problems of housing for minority group individuals. (Including present housing conditions, availability of rental and sale housing on the market, financing, costs, etc.)

5. The State of California should establish a program of financing to meet the desperate shortage of lower cost sale and rental housing. To this end, the experience of the State of New York in providing such financing should be thoroughly investigated.

6. Due to the scarcity of home financing for members of racial and ethnic minorities, it is recommended that the appropriate state agency investigate ways of extending financing to these groups with representatives of lending institutions. The experience of the Voluntary Home Mortgage Credit Program of the Federal Government should be investigated and a more adequate program devised for California.

7. The Division of Housing should actively seek cooperation of the housing industry to eliminate discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion or national ancestry. To this end, we recommend the following program be put into effect:

- a) a conference of the leaders of the housing industry (renters, brokers, builders, lenders) to draw up a broad plan of action to end discrimination;
- b) establishment of an ongoing industry committee to implement the plan;
- c) adoption of codes of ethics—proscribing discrimination practices and promoting democratic practices—by the professional and industry associations;
- d) designation of committees for voluntary policing of these codes;
- e) joint action for the pooling of industry resources to provide additional housing (for sale and rent) accessible to all on an open occupancy basis;
- f) cooperation with other community groups in a planned program of public information to promote understanding of democratic housing

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Congress Recesses For Political Conventions: Major Bills Left Behind

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Minimum Wage Measure — In a final assault on welfare legislation preceding the recessing of Congress, a conservative coalition of House Republicans and Southern Democrats teamed up to kill labor-backed compromise minimum wage legislation in favor of a watered-down version substantially weaker than the inadequate Administration proposals.

The coalition rejected the House Labor Committee's sharply scaled down Roosevelt bill in favor of the Ayers-Kitchen bill, denounced by the AFL-CIO as "completely unacceptable" and a "political fraud."

The fraud perpetrated by the Republican-Dixiecrat coalition was compounded by a technical error in the adoption of the substitute measure which actually would disqualify millions upon millions of workers presently protected by the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Apart from the so-called technical

"March on Political Conventions"

A nationwide move to impress both political parties on behalf of civil rights, called by A. Philip Randolph and Rev. Martin Luther King, is drawing active labor support.

The Alameda Central Labor Council last week voted support action on the recommendation of Council President, Russell Crowell, who is one of several trade unionists on the arrangements committee for the Bay area. Others are: Tom Anderson, Bill Becker, C. L. Dellums, and Herman Griffin.

The Randolph-King movement is called the "March on the Conventions Movement for Freedom Now" and is built around a call on both the Democrats and the Republicans to repudiate the segregationists in their ranks. It will feature a mass rally in Los Angeles and a walk to the convention hall.

Arrangements are also under way for a similar demonstration in Chicago at the time of the Republican convention.

Randolph is head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and a vice president of the AFL-CIO. Rev. King is chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and leader of the now famous Montgomery bus boycott.

error, the effect of the substitute action was to knock out a proposed increase in the minimum wage to \$1.25 an hour, in a series of step-ups, and substitute a flat \$1.15 an hour.

The further effect was to leave uncovered even by the \$1.15 figures, workers who for years have been completely unprotected by the federal law.

The Ayers-Kitchen bill would add a potential of 1.4 million workers to the 24 million previously covered, but would grant these newly covered workers of major retail chain stores a minimum of only \$1 an hour, thus creating two classes of protection.

The substitute would also deny newly covered workers any protection in overtime. There would be no maximum work week at the conclusion of which overtime pay rates would be required.

Prior to the compromise action, labor had already compromised to the utmost in an effort to help produce an acceptable minimum wage law this year. It had reluctantly accepted reductions cutting by more than half the extension of coverage under the original Roosevelt bill and postponing the effective date of the \$1.25 minimum.

Besides establishing a \$1.25 minimum, the original Roosevelt bill extended coverage to 7.8 million workers not now covered.

Housing Legislation — The conservative House Rules Committee at adjournment was still holding up housing legislation approved by the parent House Banking and Currency Committee, despite the watered-down character of the measure without any really adequate provisions for stimulating the construction of housing for low and middle income groups who are priced out of today's housing market.

A Senate-passed measure also falls far short of meeting the nation's housing needs. At best, it can be expected that Congress will enact an omnibus housing bill which caters more to the interests of financiers than the needs of low and moderate income families.

School Aid — Still another measure to provide watered-down federal aid for school construction has been stymied by the House Rules Committee in refusing to send a House-passed school bill to Senate-House conference.

The Congressional recess will undoubtedly have the effect of diminishing the power thus far exercised by the House Rules Committee, but the type of compromise measures that can be enacted in the face of an Ike veto of any responsible liberal legislation, remains the big question. Only one thing is certain — whatever the outcome of the post-convention session, there will be plenty of fuel provided for presidential campaign issues.

Farm Labor Front

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for the 21st and 22nd of July on the subject of the applicable regulations. The announcement of these hearings after meeting with representatives of both growers and labor, indicates clearly that the whole issue is still very much alive, and that organized labor throughout the state must continue its active support of the farm workers' organizing drive by communicating their views to Secretary Mitchell.

U. S. Senate Hearings

On a related front, the U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor, headed by liberal New Jersey Senator Harrison A. Williams, has arrived in California for field trips in the Valley this weekend, preceded by public hearings in Fresno on Friday, July 8, and followed by another set of hearings in Sacramento on Monday, July 11. The visit was scheduled for later in the month or the early part of August, but the recessing of Congress for the political conventions caused a quick change in schedules of the Williams subcommittee.

The hearings are a welcome relief from the "panic button" demands for repressive action being urged by anti-union grower associations. The Williams committee agenda revolves around proposed legislation looking forward to long-term solutions to the plight of agricultural workers and their families. The committee has before it bills which would extend the minimum wage and child labor protections of the Fair Labor Standards Act to agricultural labor, provide for the interstate regulation of contractors of migrant agricultural workers, grant federal financial assistance to improve educational opportunities for the children of migrants, and provide financial assistance for the provision of housing and related facilities for farm workers and their families. Representatives of agricultural workers' organizations, the state AFL-CIO, and independent groups demanding action on behalf of farm workers will be on hand to testify before the Williams committee. Federation Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts is scheduled to appear before the committee on Monday, July 11, in Sacramento.

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Housing Program on Discrimination Advanced

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practices and to clear up misinformation and misapprehension.

8. Appropriate state agencies should work with local community agencies to bring awareness of, and stimulate solutions for, problems in housing faced by members of minorities. (Including local welfare departments, police departments, public housing authorities, urban renewal agencies, etc.) Too often local governments have not taken effective action to give adequate protection or service to members of minorities. (As in police protection if difficulties arise when a minority family moves into a neighborhood.)

9. The state should enact enabling legislation, similar to that introduced at the last session of the California legislature, to encourage local communities to establish Commissions on Human Relations.

10. California should request the issuance of a Presidential Executive Order requiring that assistance of any kind granted by any federal agency to a housing business enterprise shall be contingent on evidence of an affirmative policy of non-discrimination and open occupancy by the latter (such a policy to apply to assistance in the form of guaranteed federal mortgage insurance, slum clearance funds, tax assistance, urban renewal support, etc.).

11. California should request issuance of a Presidential Executive Order requiring local and state governmental agencies to enforce a policy of non-discrimination and open occupancy as a condition for receiving any form of federal housing assistance.

12. California should support enactment of legislation by Congress providing that funds it appropriates for housing aid shall be available to only those private enterprises and public agencies implementing a policy of non-discrimination and open occupancy where such funds are utilized.

13. These three recommendations for federal action should be sent to both major political parties prior to their forthcoming national conventions with the request that they be incorporated in the platforms of those parties.

14. The community urban renewal programs (conservation, rehabilitation, and redevelopment) and other federal, state, and local housing programs should

be reoriented to emphasize increasing the supply of housing for moderate and lower income persons. Unless this social purpose is accomplished, such programs are not serving the community by meeting the housing problems of greatest need.

15. No urban renewal, or other federal or state construction resulting in governmental displacement of individuals and families, should be authorized to any jurisdiction which is not covered by a law specifically barring discrimination in housing.

16. A more effective plan for the rehousing of the dislocated should be developed. If it cannot be shown that each individual and family will have an adequate home, the area is not ready for any governmental displacement.

17. If housing is not available for all displaced people, new housing should be constructed before relocation begins.

18. The state enabling action on Urban Renewal should provide that no community program should result in a cut in the number of housing units available in the community.

19. New housing in a redevelopment area should be made available on a pri-

ority basis to persons dislocated and every attempt should be made to provide housing of comparable rents to that torn down.

20. Slum clearance does not come under the proper functioning of governmental agencies (such as the Division of Highways) other than urban renewal agencies and such governmental projects as freeway development or the location of government buildings should not attempt to clear blighted areas.

21. Conservation and rehabilitation phases of urban renewal programs should be given more emphasis in order to prevent new slums, to minimize the dislocation of human beings, and to keep housing costs down. The upgrading of apartment houses should be given special consideration in such projects.

22. Government agencies should encourage and welcome greater participation in the planning and decision making stages of urban renewal programs (conservation, rehabilitation and redevelopment) by the home owners of the area under consideration. Urban renewal boards should contain a wider range of citizen representation other than members of the housing industry.

Federation Scholarship Winners Named

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ciate Professor of Economics, University of San Francisco; Arthur M. Ross, Ph.D., Director, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California; Curtis C. Aller, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics, San Francisco State College, who substituted for Leon F. Lee, Ph.D., Director, Institute of Industrial Relations, San Jose State College, because of illness.

The identity of students participating in the contest was not known to the judges.

Under the rules of the Federation scholarship program, winners may apply the \$500 award at any college or university of their choice, including a junior college as well as a four-year accredited institution. Absolutely no restrictions are placed

on the future course of study undertaken by these scholarship winners.

The scholarship awards carry with them an expense-free invitation to each winner to attend the 1960 convention of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, to be held in Sacramento, August 15-19.

Formal presentation of the scholarship awards will be made by Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts at the convention. Each winner will be given the opportunity to briefly address the convention delegates in acceptance of the awards.

Announcements of the 1960 competition were mailed in January, 1960. Some 597 students filed applications from high schools throughout the state.