

Voter Registration Deadline Approaching

The registration deadline for the November elections is September 16.

In reminding local organizations of the approaching deadline, California Labor COPE Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts this week sent out the second in a series of leaflets being distributed by cooperating locals to union members as a reminder of the importance of registration.

The leaflet notes that:

- Thirty-nine members of the present Congress were elected with margins of two percent or less.

- One Congressman was elected last winter by a majority of only 4/10ths of one percent.

- Wealthy people turn out a larger proportion of their vote than the labor union people.

Copies of this leaflet and other political action materials may be obtained by contacting California Labor COPE at 995 Market Street, Room 810, San Francisco.

Pitts noted that voter registration among trade union members at the present time, with the deadline a month away, is running far below registration during the 1958 campaign against the so-called "right to work" proposition.

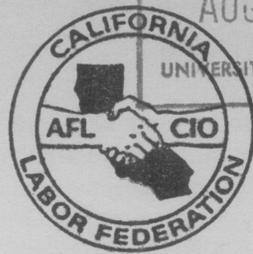
STATE REPUBLICANS VOTE TO SMASH FARM WORKER DRIVE

The Republican party of California, meeting in Sacramento over the weekend, threw its weight behind the efforts of corporate farm interests to smash the drive of farm workers seeking to improve their miserable conditions of life and labor.

In its platform on agriculture, the Republicans adopted a farm labor plank which brings the organizational rights of agricultural workers up to the beginning of the 19th century, and then invokes the 20th century concept of totalitarian strong-arm government to establish "positive protection" by law "to prevent perishable crop losses resulting from what the Republicans call "harassment by organizations pursuing unfair organizing methods and improper labor objectives."

With these words, the Republicans passed judgment on the current AFL-CIO organizing drive to help farm workers.

Approval of the reactionary plank



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Convention Delegates Receive Executive Council Policy Recommendations

The executive council of the California Labor Federation, meeting this Thursday in Sacramento on the eve of the state AFL-CIO convention, adopted a detailed set of policy proposals for submission to convention delegates.

The 3rd merged convention of the state AFL-CIO begins Monday, August 15, in the Memorial Auditorium of the capital city, and will continue through the week until all business has been completed.

The policy recommendations of the 36-member executive council includes a blueprint for legislative action by the 1961 session of the California legislature when it convenes in January.

In addition to comprehensive programs for liberalization of unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation, and disability insur-

ance the executive council is recommending:

1. Enactment of a state Fair Labor Standards Act for all workers with a statutory minimum of at least \$1.25 per hour, including agriculture.

2. Repeal of the anti-labor state Jurisdictional Strike Act and establishment of machinery for implementing organizational and collective bargaining rights in intra-state commerce.

3. Establishment of a comprehensive medical care program for the aged, financed by a one percent payroll tax on employers under the unemployment disability insurance program, if Congress does not pass a satisfactory Forand-type measure this year.

4. Action by Governor Brown to develop state housing programs for the low and middle income groups for submission to the 1961 legislature.

5. Comprehensive legislative action to eliminate racial discrimination in housing and all other aspects of community life.

6. Legislation extending the state FEP Act to prohibit discrimination against older workers.

7. Revitalizing the drive launched under former Governor Warren for enactment of a prepaid State health care program.

This partial list of state legisla-

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tive recommendations highlights the executive council's policy proposals contained in a booklet to be issued to each delegate of the convention.

In addition, there are more than 250 separate resolutions submitted by affiliated organizations for consideration of convention delegates.

As we go to press, the executive council is meeting this Friday to develop its recommendations on 15 propositions which will be on the November ballot, including the proposed \$1.75 billion water bond program (Proposition No. 1), and a proposal to reapportion the State Senate (Proposition No. 15).

The following summarizes the recommendation of the executive council on the various subject matter classifications:

FULL EMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMY

(a) As the culmination of the near-stagnant rate of economic growth during the Eisenhower years, another recession inspired by tight money and penny-pinching "budget-balancing" policies appears to be in the making for 1961 on the basis of key economic indicators, such as a 5.5 per cent June rate of unemployment, the decline of the real purchasing power of weekly wages, depressed economic activity in crucial areas of the economy, administered pricing practices, and the impact of short-sighted application of automated processes.

(b) To achieve full employment and a rate of economic growth of about 5 per cent annually for the nation, organized labor stresses the need for reversal of tight money policies, assertion of federal initiative in getting urgently needed programs off the ground, and a more equitable sharing in the fruits of our rising productivity.

(c) In view of the deep deterioration of public service facilities as a result of the complacency encouraged by the Eisenhower Administration's attempt to elevate private gain to the position of our foremost national value, organized labor calls for a national soul-searching and rededication of a national goal of a more balanced development of our resources utilizing the principles of sound municipal, metropolitan and regional planning.

TAXATION

(a) The new Administration and Con-

gress taking office in January 1961 must reverse the trend toward increasingly disproportionate and burdensome federal taxes borne by American workers by closing the many loopholes permitting wealthy individuals and corporations to escape their fair share of taxes.

(b) The reorientation of California's regressive tax structure, which at present places the main burden of taxation upon the lower income groups through its reliance principally upon sales and other consumer levies, constitutes a major target of California labor's legislative program.

LABOR LEGISLATION

(a) The restoration of a semblance of bargaining equality for working people, to assure a healthy balance in the distribution of the fruits of America's advancing productivity, requires the repeal of both the Taft-Hartley and the Landrum-Griffin Acts and their replacement by legislation based on the principles contained in the Wagner Act, together with the enactment of an anti-corruption measure designed to prevent corruption in labor-management relations without undermining the bona fide functions of unions.

(b) The application of the principles of democratic determination of collective bargaining representation demands repeal of California's so-called Jurisdictional Strike Act and the enactment of a measure establishing the procedure for the implementation of organizational and collective bargaining rights in intra-state commerce.

(c) The basis for denial to millions of workers of even the most modest wage and hour protections under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act in present day America is beyond labor's conception. We reaffirm our dedication to extending coverage to the more than 20 million working people now excluded, to raising the minimum wage level to \$1.25 an hour, and to updating the Fair Labor Standards Act's 40-hour work week provision so that all workers enjoy a standard seven-hour day and 35-hour week.

(d) A state Fair Labor Standards Act providing a minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour for all workers in California is a top priority requiring positive action from the state legislature in 1961.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(a) Based on the experience of the 1958 recession, followed by continuing

high rates of unemployment and economists' predictions now of another recession in 1961, it is urgent that Congress act to establish minimum federal standards which will ensure operation of this social insurance program to accomplish its basic purpose.

(b) In keeping with the responsibility assumed by California in establishing an unemployment insurance program under the tax incentive provisions of the federal Social Security law, irrespective of the needs for improved federal standards, we call upon the 1961 session of the legislature convening in January to correct major deficiencies in the California program by the passage of legislation which would:

(1) Increase, within a liberalized benefits schedule, the maximum weekly benefit payment from \$55 to \$70.

(2) Provide additional benefits for dependents at the rate of \$5 per week for the first dependent and \$2.50 for each additional dependent within a maximum total dependency allowance of \$20.

(3) Provide for the payment of the one-week "waiting period" on a retroactive basis to workers who are unemployed for more than one week.

(4) Establish a maximum 39-week duration period within the basic benefit structure on a permanent basis without regard to the level of unemployment.

(5) Extend full coverage to all wage and salary workers presently denied protection, including agricultural and domestic workers, employees of non-profit organizations, and of city, county and state government.

(6) Abolish "merit rating" or "experience rating" as a system of financing unemployment compensation alien to the concept of a social insurance program.

UNEMPLOYMENT DISABILITY INSURANCE

(a) As recommended for unemployment insurance, the maximum weekly benefit should be increased to \$70, with additional benefits for dependents at the rate of \$5 per week for the first dependent, and \$2.50 per week for each additional dependent, limited by a \$20 maximum for dependency benefits.

(b) The waiting period for all disability spells lasting more than one week should be compensated on a retroactive basis, and completely eliminated in the case of accidents.

(c) Full disability insurance coverage should be extended to all wage and salary workers presently excluded, including agricultural and domestic work-

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ers and employees of non-profit organizations, and of city, county and state government.

(d) Unemployment disability insurance should be extended to any injury or illness caused by or rising in connection with pregnancy.

(e) In the alternative that Congress does not act on the urgent need to provide health care for the aged as a matter of right, based on the social insurance principle within the federal Old Age and Survivors and Disability Insurance program, the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO will press for the establishment of such a program at the 1961 session of the California legislature under the state disability insurance program by the establishment of a separate fund financed by a one per cent tax on covered employer payrolls, for the provision of comprehensive health care for persons over 65 who have retired from covered employment, such health care to cover both in-patient and out-patient medical care.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

(a) The most serious gap in the California workmen's compensation program, the lack of rehabilitation training benefits must be closed by the 1961 session of the state legislature by amendment of the state program to provide for the rehabilitation of injured workers unable to return to their former jobs, with provision for full payment of disability benefits during the period of rehabilitation, in addition to all other benefits now provided by law, to be financed by a 10 per cent allocation of employer workmen's compensation premiums into a rehabilitation fund.

(b) The wage-loss compensation standard established in the California workmen's compensation program since 1914 should be permitted to operate through the range of incomes of injured workers without the present rigid limits of \$52.50 and \$65 on the maximum weekly benefit amount for permanent and temporary disabilities respectively, subject only to the requirement that such weekly benefit payments not exceed an amount of \$150 per week to prevent the exhaustion of workmen's compensation funds by high-salaried executives.

(c) In addition to the basic weekly benefit amount, provision should be made in the workmen's compensation program for the payment of dependency benefits at the rate of \$5.00 per week for the first dependent, and \$2.50 for each additional dependent, subject to a maximum of \$20 on total dependency benefits.

(d) The seven-day waiting period should be compensated on a retro-active basis whenever the disabling injury extends beyond the duration of the waiting period.

(e) In cases when industrial injury causes death, indemnity benefits should be paid to the dependent spouse until death or remarriage, with additional benefits for other dependents, thus eliminating the arbitrary character of the present limitation placed on the duration of death benefit payments.

(f) To accomplish full coverage under workmen's compensation, provision must be made for mandatory extension of protection to domestic servants.

(g) Vast liberalization of the life payments for permanent disability rating deserves the full consideration of the state legislature.

(h) Full freedom of choice of doctors should be permitted under workmen's compensation.

(i) In order to prevent profiteering on the injuries of workers, the procedures for established Workmen's Compensation Insurance premium rates should be revised so that the minimum rates established by the insurance commissioner are based on more than the loss experience of the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

AGRICULTURAL LABOR

(a) The near-feudalistic condition of American farm labor, covering the entire scope of social and economic conditions ranging from wages to education and housing, has been brought about by dual standards of public policy and a national moral callousness toward an important segment of our labor force. Masquerading in the garments of family farmerism, the corporation farm interests have perpetrated a hoax upon the American people resulting in the exemption of farm workers from standard socio-economic legislation together with the creation of government-sponsored wage-cutting and strikebreaking sources of imported workers.

(b) Organized labor hails the recent brilliant successes of AFL-CIO's Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in its campaign to organize agricultural labor. The solidarity of the farm workers themselves, as demonstrated so dramatically during their successful effort to maintain the wages and conditions negotiated by AWOC in California's crop harvest thus far must now be met by a similar display of support from the main body of California labor if the grower offensive now being mounted is to be repulsed.

(c) Although the achievement of collective bargaining rights nailed down into contractual form is by far the most important single measure of prevention against the human misery caused by the miserable conditions forced upon agricultural workers, organized labor will intensify its efforts to obtain effective action in order to secure for farm labor the benefits of standard socio-economic legislation as well as the drastic reform and gradual abolition of the foreign labor importation program.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(a) The abysmal void facing our 16 million senior citizens as a result of the conclusive failure of voluntary programs to meet their compelling health care needs can be only be filled through the enactment of a Forand-type program of prepaid health care under the Social Security System with financing provided through a payroll tax shared equally by employers and employees.

(b) The extremely unrealistic income levels of OASDI beneficiaries demand extensive improvements in benefit and coverage provisions, as well as adjustment of severe inequities, through inequities, through increasing the contributory wage base from \$4,800 to \$6,000 annually along with a rise in the employer and employee contribution rate as necessary.

(c) California labor, recognizing the basic shortcomings of voluntary medical care programs, reaffirms its support nationally for comprehensive prepaid medical care legislation, and dedicates itself on the state level to revitalizing the drive launched under former Governor Warren for a state health care program.

SOCIAL WELFARE

(a) Organized labor calls for comprehensive improvements in our public assistance programs coupled with elimination of residence requirements and the easing of restrictions regarding the source of need as factors in eligibility.

(b) The labor movement in California pledges full utilization of its resources to defeat the barbarous and unconscionable threats to child welfare posed by the recently accelerated efforts to discredit and weaken the Aid to Needy Children program.

CIVIL RIGHTS

(a) The weakness of the Eisenhower Administration and the over-riding importance of equality of opportunity for all Americans demands from organized labor our most concerted effort yet to win the fully American way of life for ALL our people, and to eliminate the high moral, social, economic and politi-

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cal price which the nation is being forced to pay at home and abroad for the continued toleration of widespread practices of discrimination, segregation, disfranchisement and other denials of civil rights to minority groups.

(b) Organized labor demands state and federal action to prevent the continued subversion of American ideals regarding the family home and the undermining of the community's economic and spiritual health through any discrimination in California against minorities in the field of housing.

HOUSING

(a) The continuing decline in housing activity, in the face of mounting shortages caused by population growth and banker-oriented monetary policies of the Eisenhower Administration, which have excluded the bulk of low and middle income families from the housing market, threatens the moral fibre and the economy of the nation.

(b) Organized labor warns against the threat of a serious recession in 1961 unless an emergency housing measure is immediately enacted by Congress along with an omnibus long-range federal housing program to assure meeting the nation's housing requirements by 1975 through construction of 2.3 million dwelling units annually, including: (1) housing on terms realistically designed to bring up to 700,000 more moderate income families into the market annually; (2) at least 200,000 low cost public housing units on either a rental or ownership basis; and (3) a variety of other programs indispensable to comprehensive programming to meet the nation's housing needs.

(c) California labor calls upon Governor Edmund G. Brown to seize upon the climate for action created by his recently-held statewide conference on housing, and to immediately convene a special state housing commission, representative of state and community housing experts, the homebuilding industry, organized labor, and other consumer interests and representatives of the general public, for the specific purpose of developing coordinated state programs to be submitted to the 1961 session of the legislature, with emphasis placed on the needs of low and moderate income families.

EDUCATION

(a) The dismayed discrepancies between our public school system's short-

comings in terms of quantity and quality of facilities and teaching staff, further compounding solution of the impatient problems confronting America and the rest of the world, can be overcome only through the enactment of a comprehensive federal aid to education measure calling for school construction, improvement of teacher salaries, and scholarship opportunities as broad in conception as were contained in the G. I. Bill of Rights.

(b) While pressing for the enactment of an adequate federal aid to education program, and the application of the ability to pay principle to state and local taxes, organized labor will continue in the mainstream of active support of our state school system with practical methods of financing California's schools as well as other programs designed to maintain the highest standards of education.

(c) Public exposure of the hypocritical character of the 1958 "right to work" campaign and the climate that produced the Landrum-Griffin Act have re-emphasized the growing importance to workers of sustained labor education activities aimed at effectuating our economic and social programs and cooperation with other consumer-oriented organizations toward combating the causes and effects of administered inflation.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

While supporting every practical effort to eliminate atomic weapons testing and production, together with reduction of armaments under effective inspection, California labor recognizes the necessity for maintaining adequate military resources to deter the Soviet menace and any potential aggressor nation, and the fullest implementation at home and abroad of the finest elements in the American heritage of liberty and equality of opportunity as the only certain route to peace, prosperity and freedom for all the world's people.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

California labor reaffirms its support for maximum and integrated development of the state's water and power resources in accordance with firm policies which assure the most economic and financially feasible method of developing a limited resource, which will secure and protect the rights of workers, and which ensure the widest possible distribution of such development.

Union Label Week Set for September 5-11

An all-out public relations effort by the AFL-CIO organizations from coast-to-coast, stressing the importance of the buying power of union families and the benefits that accrue from patronizing goods and services identified by the Union Label, Shop Card and Service Button, will highlight the 1960 celebration of AFL-CIO Union Label Week during the period of September 5 through 11.

Calling upon all AFL-CIO national and international unions, state and city central bodies, Union Label and Service Trades Councils and Women's Auxiliaries to make special efforts to observe the publicize this annual event, Joseph Lewis, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO Union Label and Service Trades Department, pointed out that this observance was officially designated by the last conventions of the department and its parent body, the AFL-CIO.

As in the past, it is expected that 1960 will see a host of special events being staged throughout America. Many organizations are making plans for parades, picnics, banquets, rallies, exhibits, store window displays and many other promotional activities. Within the next few weeks, the national department will launch its nationwide publicity campaign to herald the event. Many promotional aids, along with sample proclamations and radio and TV announcements will be distributed for local use.

"The period of September 5 through 11," Lewis declared, "affords our trade union movement an excellent opportunity to effectively demonstrate its unity and determination. The observance of Union Label Week will focus the spotlight on the thousands of American communities where members of AFL-CIO unions possess a tremendous weapon in the form of their union-won purchasing power. Used to patronize only those goods and services which bear Union Label, Shop Card and Service Button, this great purchasing power can deter and defeat attempts by reactionary forces to restrict the freedom of the American trade union movement."

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subcommittee headed by moderate Republican, John A. Busterud, Assemblyman from San Francisco.

The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, submitted a lengthy statement on platform recommendations to the Republican convention covering, in addition to the farm labor issue: full employment and economic growth; labor legislation generally; employment and social security legislation; and civil rights.

In each area of recommendations, the Federation made representation before the appropriate subcommittee appointed to develop the platform planks.

In its recommendation on farm labor, the Federation urged the grower-dominated platform subcommittee on agriculture to back up Republican Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell's refusal to supply strikebreakers to corporate farmers fighting the human aspirations of farm workers.

Pointing out that Mitchell has labeled the plight of farm workers "a social and economic scandal, challenging the moral fibre of the nation," the Federation urged the platform subcommittee to shun "repressive actions" against farm workers, and "recognize their present uprising against years of accumulated neglect and dual standards of public policy."

Specifically, the Federation urged extension of basic labor laws and other socio-economic legislation of recent decades to farm workers so that the present revolt could be channelled into proper organizational form without endangering perishable crops.

The platform developed, instead, merely noted that the agricultural worker has the 19th century "right and privilege . . . to voluntarily organize" and then proceeds to call for 20th century legislation not to implement the rights, but to preserve crops against the current organizing effort, thus labelling these efforts as "harassment by organization pursuing organizing meth-

On the floor of the convention, ods and improper labor objectives."

Nick Verrees, Republican nominee from the 5th Congressional District in San Francisco, banged his head against a stone wall when he tried to amend the vicious farm labor statement.

The liberal-minded Republican offered an amendment to provide protection against the loss of crops and at the same time protect the organizational rights of farm workers "by extending to agriculture the provisions of the national Labor-Management Relations Act." The amendment was turned down with a thunderous "No" vote, and an audible two "ayes."

The "grand old" party has traditionally prided itself for championing the rights of the individuals. But in the case of agricultural workers, the party declared itself more concerned about preserving the dollar value of the crops.

In the agricultural platform subcommittee and also before the full platform committee, Republican nominee Vince Munroe Townsend, Jr. from the 63rd Assembly District in Los Angeles was the only person who fought to reverse the anti-labor character of the agricultural platform plank.

The only success achieved by Townsend was in persuading the Republicans to go on record for a national minimum wage for farm workers without categorically rejecting or opposing the possibility of a state minimum wage.

In other features of the agricultural plank, the Republicans (1) applauded the current efforts of the big growers to recruit strikebreakers, both domestics and Mexican Nationals, through their associations, and (2) supported the extension of "bracero" importation without any revision to protect the prior rights of employment of domestics and their wages and working conditions.

The Republicans, in their agricultural plank, actually ignored the improvements in the plight of farm workers being made by the present organizing drive, and instead recognized "the vast improvements ac-

complished by California agricultural employers in maintaining good housing for their workers . . ." The party urged continued "vigilance in maintaining good housing standards where housing is required and when it is needed."

GENERAL LABOR PLANK

In sharp contrast with this position regarding farm workers, Republicans enunciated the following general principles "for guides in shaping government's legitimate role in the labor-management field."

1. We support the free labor movement and recognize that organized labor has been a prime force in raising the dignity and economic status of the working man to the present high levels.

2. We believe that the most effective mechanism for achieving the proper distribution of the fruits of production in an industrial economy with a minimum of strife is collective bargaining.

3. We believe that the proper role of government in labor disputes is to ensure that collective bargaining is carried on in an atmosphere of fairness and that where necessary, government should provide ground rules to govern this process. It should also offer mediation and conciliation services to aid in reaching agreement by peaceful means, but it should not intervene directly in labor disputes, except in cases of genuine national or state emergency. When such intervention is necessary, it should be rendered on an impartial basis, and not in support of the special interests of either management or labor.

Regarding "progressive and workable programs" for wage earners, the Republicans announced support of legislation in the following areas:

1. Full Employment—continuous "study of the means of achieving full employment consistent with the continued stability and rapid growth of the economy." It was proposed in this regard that "labor, management and government undertake private studies of ways and means in which those workers who are temporarily unemployed because of job displacement or technological

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advance may be given needed re-training and other assistance.

2. Social Security — urged federal government studies “of proposals to amend the Social Security laws to lower the age of voluntary retirement of both men and women to below the present retirement age of 65 and 62 with compensating reductions in benefits, and to liberalize the provisions which permit retired persons to engage in work without loss of social security benefits.

3. Minimum Wages— supported an increase in the federal minimum wage “above the present \$1 level and a broad extension of coverage to additional workers.”

4. Social Insurance — urged “further improvements of our workmen’s compensation, unemployment insurance and disability insurance laws, and the further extension of their benefits.”

5. Manpower Resources — urged “continued development of our manpower resources and skills and training programs to aid elderly workers, women, young people, and the physically handicapped.”

6. Job Opportunities — supported efforts to improve “job opportunities including the removal of discrimination based on sex, national origin, religion or age,” and support of the “principle of equal pay for equal work.”

7. Labor Disputes — urged “creation of a State Labor Relations Board to protect both labor and management against unfair practices, and to enforce revised laws against crippling jurisdictional disputes.” The Republicans said that such a body “would provide additional protection to both labor and business in those areas of labor-management relations which fall outside the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board.”

8. Freedom of Contract — reaffirmed “the position of the Republican National convention that employers and unions have the right to enter freely into agreements providing for the union shop and other forms of union security.”

9. Democracy in Unions — supported “the right of union members to full participation in the affairs of their union.”

In a civil rights statement developed by a subcommittee headed by Assemblyman Milton Marks from San Francisco, the Republicans commended its National convention for adopting a “strong, realistic and affirmative platform on civil rights,” and said that the party in California “believes that the platform is a sound covenant to all the people of our state, and pledges to work diligently and cooperatively for its implementation.”

The remainder of the platform on civil rights consisted of a broad statement of “basic principles and objectives,” covering the broad field of discrimination, and pledging “determination to work for the furtherance of these basic principles.”