

POLITICAL NOTES

CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

There is plenty available now, with the exception of bumper strips. Check with your central labor bodies and local political action organizations. They have been adequately supplied, and every local union's cooperation is necessary to get it out to the voters.

Endorsement pamphlets and labor slate cards, for maximum effectiveness, should go out about a week before the election. By the time this News Letter reaches affiliates, California Labor COPE's endorsement pamphlet, with fourteen area variations, should either have been received or will arrive within the next day or so. The COPE office in San Francisco should be contacted immediately if orders have not been received or if anything has gone wrong.

REGISTRATION HONORS

Top honors in registration should go to the hundreds of hard-working Mexican-Americans of the Community Service Organization. Since the first of the year their registrations have accounted for 136,000 in many key areas of the state—35,000 before the primary and 101,000 subsequent to the primary for the general election drive.

The forces CSO has put into the
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Prop. No. 1 - Trap for Liberals!

A warning that Prop. No. 1—the multibillion dollar “special interest plum”—is a trap for “liberals” has been issued in an article published in the magazine “Liberal Democrat” for the month of October.

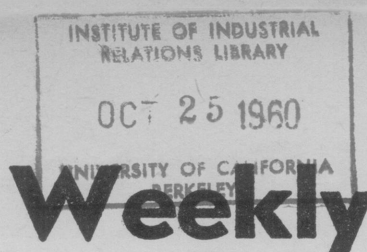
State Senator George Miller, Jr., co-chairman of the Statewide Committee for Sound Water Development and against Prop. No. 1 with Los Angeles AFL-CIO leader W. J. Bassett, is author of the article. Miller is known among Democratic “liberals” as the founder of the “issues-minded” Democratic party club movement back in 1953.

According to the state Senator, Prop. No. 1 is “one of those seemingly complex economic issues which most liberals avoid like a plague.”

Miller said that the feeling seems to be that such questions aren't as important or as vital as civil rights or foreign policy, but he warned: “Liberals suffering from this type of blind spot fail to realize that such issues—and especially Prop. 1—set the stage for the development of economic and political



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer



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Registration Analysis Shows Depth of Demo Gain --Challenge To Get-Out-The-Vote

An analysis of voter registration for the November 8 general election issued this Monday by the California Labor Council on Political Education, shows that Democrats have picked up strength in 22 of the state's 30 Congressional districts since the general election in 1958.

Thos. L. Pitts, state AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer and chairman of the California Labor Committee for Kennedy-Johnson, announced that a 33-page registration analysis has been sent to local labor political action bodies and central labor councils in the state.

The depth of the Democratic gain, he said, indicates the potential for Democratic victories where the candidate campaigns on program principles.

In only five Congressional districts did the Republicans gain in strength relative to the Democrats, and in four of these the districts

are held by Democrats with commanding Democratic registration leads.

In the remaining three Congressional districts, Democrats and Republicans alike boosted their registration over 1958 by the same percentage figures, thus maintaining their relative positions.

(See tabulation of Congressional districts on page 2, showing the change in strength for Republicans and Democrats in all 30 of the state's Congressional districts.)

The state COPE registration analysis contains a breakdown for the state's 80 Assembly districts and the 20 state Senatorial districts up this year, as well as the Congressional districts.

For each district, registration for the November 8 election is broken down by parties, and given both in actual and percentage figures.

New registrations since the June primary are also stated in each district by parties with percentage figures to show the distribution of the new registrations.

Because registration increases since the primary can be misleading, Pitts said that a third set of figures have been developed to show the relative increase or decrease in strength of the parties since the last general election in 1958.

The analysis of the 20 state Senatorial districts up this year shows the Democrats picking up strength in 19 and the Republicans in one.

Out of the 80 Assembly districts,

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Prop. No. 1 - Trap for Liberals!

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make a mockery out of these concepts long cherished by organized labor and liberals.

Miller outlined four basic reasons why Prop. No. 1 should be defeated:

- (1) It violates liberal policies on water-power development.
- (2) It is based on unsound and incomplete engineering.
- (3) It is a legal and financial monstrosity.
- (4) Sound alternatives are available.

Pitts Underscores Liberal Issue

Underscoring Senator Miller's challenge to "liberals," state AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts this Monday charged: "Prop. No. 1 will deliver the Feather River Project into the hands of the Southern Pacific." The state AFL-CIO leader documented his charges with the following facts:

"Based on heavy Southern Pacific land company purchases of Western Pacific shares, the Southern Pacific last week applied to the Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to swallow up the Western Pacific Railroad and its Feather River route.

"This puts Southern Pacific, the 'octopus' of the famous Frank Norris book, at both ends of the Prop. 1 waterline.

"Southern Pacific will now become a direct beneficiary of \$35,000,000 of state money already appropriated to allocate tracks around the Oroville Dam site, as well as reaping Feather River freight charges.

"At the other end of the line, Southern Pacific sits on approximately 150,000 acres along the projected aqueduct route in the lower San Joaquin Valley. But more than that, it owns 1,380,000 acres of desert and grazing lands, largely located in southern California's desert regions where rich speculators expect to hit a water bonanza at taxpayers' expense."

Pitts added:

"Here is boldly revealed the true intent of Prop. 1. No wonder Southern Pacific is a heavy contributor

to the water bond campaign—and the railroad has many other ways to pour money into the 'yes' side without even revealing the source.

"Southern Pacific shows up the Prop. 1 'water hoax' in all its brazen crassness. What deceit against the people of California lies behind Prop. 1!"

Small Farmers Speak Out

K. B. Quinn, Master of the 45,000-member California State Grange, joined in assailing the state water scheme this Tuesday as an "unfeasible and unnecessary subsidization of corporate farm interests."

Quinn addressed more than 3,000 delegates to the 88th annual convention of the Grange in Ukiah.

The small-farmer head charged that "the prospect of subsidizing millions of acres on the western side of Kings and Kern counties to the benefit of corporate farm interests is shameful!"

Registration Analysis Shows Depth of Demo Gain

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Republicans added to their strength in 15, while the Democrats picked up strength relative to the Republicans in 64. In two Assembly districts the relative positions of the two parties were maintained.

Pitts interpreted the findings as a clear indication of a Democratic trend in registration, but one that could be almost completely lost at the polls because of failure to vote.

In the primary elections, the Democratic turnout was substantially less than the Republican turnout in almost all districts, Pitts pointed out.

"A Kennedy victory in California," the AFL-CIO leader said, "is dependent upon a successful 'get out the vote' drive in the presidential contest and all of the districts where labor has endorsed candidates for Congress, the state Senate and Assembly."

CALIFORNIA'S 30 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

(Party Increase or Decrease in Registration Strength Since the 1958 General Election)

District No.	AFL-CIO Endorsed Candidate	Percent Increase or Decrease	
		Democrats	Republicans
1	Clem Miller (D)	9.9%	7.9%
2	Harold T. Johnson (D)	8.4%	7.1%
3	John E. Moss, Jr. (D)	15.7%	17.8%
4	Phillips S. Davies (D)	1.9%	-1.3%
5	John F. Shelley (D)	-2.2%	-4.6%
6	Douglas R. Page (D)	10.4%	10.3%
7	Jeffery Cohelan (D)	-1.1%	-3.1%
8	George P. Miller (D)	6.8%	5.4%
9	John D. Kaster (D)	16.2%	10.6%
10	Russell B. Bryan (D)	20.5%	18.3%
11	John McFall (D)	6.6%	7.6%
12	B. F. Sisk (D)	6.2%	6.2%
13	L. Boyd Finch (D)	19.8%	17.1%
14	Harlan Hagen (D)	8.9%	9.3%
15	No Endorsement	6.4%	-3.8%
16	Jerry Pacht (D)	10.9%	4.0%
17	Cecil R. King (D)	11.1%	11.9%
18	D. Patrick Ahern (D)	3.1%	3.2%
19	Chet Holifield (D)	6.3%	4.7%
20	Open	4.8%	3.5%
21	Rudd Brown (D)	14.7%	10.7%
22	James C. Corman (D)	17.8%	11.5%
23	Open	5.5%	5.5%
24	No Endorsement	.9%	-.9%
25	George A. Kasem (D)	14.6%	10.0%
26	James Roosevelt (D)	4.2%	-3.6%
27	Harry R. Sheppard (D)	15.3%	12.1%
28	Max E. Woods (D)	38.1%	33.0%
29	D. S. (Judge) Saund (D)	14.6%	14.6%
30	Walter Wencke (D)	15.7%	11.6%

Pitts Urges Employment Agency Fee Ceiling

Regulation of the fees charged job applicants by private employment agencies to eliminate present usurious practices was urged before the Assembly Committee on Governmental Efficiency and Economy recently in a statement by Secretary-Treasurer Thomas L. Pitts of the the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Present state law places no limitation whatsoever upon fees collected from job applicants by such agencies.

The Federation's testimony before the Committee's October 5 hearing in Los Angeles analyzed in detail the experience of 62 members of Office Employees International Union Local No. 29 who were placed on jobs by Oakland agencies during the past three months.

The placement fees extracted from these office workers ranged from a low of 20 percent to a high of over 58 percent of the first month's salary on jobs lasting at least 90 days. They averaged almost \$99.00, or one-third of the average first month's salary.

The chaotic pattern of fees charged appeared to have little relationship to the service rendered or the quality of the job placement. One worker referred to a \$348 a month job was burdened by a fee of \$176 while another paid \$102 for a \$450 job.

Fees ranging from 21 per cent to 51 per cent were extracted from 12 workers placed with the same company. Two jobs at the opposite extremes of this group demonstrated the arbitrary nature of fee schedules. A 21 per cent charge was levied on a \$331 job, while the 51 per cent rate was applied to a \$348 job.

Even within a given salary range, there was little correlation in the fees assessed. The two top-paying jobs out of the 62 were used to illustrate the point in Pitt's statement. Paying \$450 and \$425 per month, they involved fees of 23 per cent and 40 per cent respectively. Two other jobs paying \$240 and \$230 monthly carried with them 22 per cent and 58 per cent fees.

Labor Commissioner Sigmund Arywitz advised the committee that jobs paying higher salaries than those normally received by office workers are gouged at even higher rates. He cited Division of Labor

Law Enforcement findings of rates as high as 120 per cent of the first month's salary.

In declaring the Federation's firm opposition to continued lack of fee limitation, Pitt's declared:

"Employers are already availed of a free and tax-supported employment service through which to recruit their labor force. This service was established on the concept that the employee should not have to pay for a job.

"Beyond that, the procurement of personnel is clearly the employer's own responsibility in the same sense as it is his function to procure his own materials and other services.

"If an employer chooses not to handle personnel recruitment through his own personnel, that is his own affair, except insofar as it might infringe upon his contractual obligations under a collective bargaining agreement.

Pitts added:

"Nor have we any quarrel with the existence of private employment agencies. Our objections stem from the deliberate shifting of the financial responsibility for such recruitment from the shoulders of the employer, who is often a multi-million dollar corporation, to those of the unemployed worker, who is often wondering where his next month's rent is coming from."

The legislators were also advised that a number of states and municipalities have already taken action to safeguard against further excesses being inflicted upon defenseless workers desperately in need of employment.

Pitts cited part of the testimony of the president of the San Francisco Chapter of the California Employment Agencies' Association as irrefutable proof of the need for legislative restraints upon these agencies.

The S. F. Agency Association president said:

"We certainly regret that there are unethical and avaricious operators in our field, as there are in every field of endeavor, and we fully recognize the need for licensing and regulation of certain practices."

The Federation also advocated legislation providing that any fees involved to the applicant be clearly stated in advertisements.

Sears Consumer Boycott Continues

The consumer boycott against Sears Roebuck & Co. is continuing in full force, it was announced this week by the San Francisco Labor Council in the face of the giant retail chain's efforts "to put out the fire that resulted from its own actions."

The boycott that started when the Company fired 262 for standing on the basic union principle of respecting picket lines has entered a new stage, according to the Council.

Under pressure of "nationwide resentment," Sears has put back to work almost all of the 262 who were fired. But even in the "retreat," the Council said, "Sears wrote a new record of contract violations.

"After depriving these people of their livelihood for nearly four months, Sears ignored their union rights, downgraded them, cut their pay."

The Council added:

"Most of the 262 have suffered financially; their job rights have been impaired. Many must wait out prolonged arbitration proceedings to learn the final cost; even more, Sears has threatened to fight any unfavorable decision through the courts."

The Company, it was noted, has reached settlements with some of the unions who were involved. "In every case, Sears refused to relax its unwillingness to include union security clauses—the only practical guarantee that there would be no further emasculation of its employees' rights," the Council has declared.

Quoting the national AFL-CIO's firm stand that no member of organized labor or their friends should "patronize Sears, Roebuck stores, until management ceases to interfere with the self-organization of employees, and until it demonstrates good-faith acceptance of union security clauses in its contracts," the Council has concluded:

"In San Francisco, the labor movement is committed to continue its fight until the last fired employee is re-hired and made whole. With customary San Francisco militancy and with renewed insistence on morality in labor relations, we intend to continue this boycott. We

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FORM 3547 REQUESTED

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Institute of Industrial Relations
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University of California
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ORGANIZATION
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POLITICAL NOTES

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field are now working with equal diligence to get out the vote. Here's a group that is making politicians take note. There is no fanfare in the CSO operation—just quiet, hard work in the direction of achieving CSO's goal of full citizenship involvement of Mexican-Americans.

California Labor COPE is proud to have worked very closely with the CSO, the NAACP and other community groups in non-partisan registration activities this year.

THE FIFTH DEBATE?

It isn't surprising that Vice President Nixon won't accept the challenge of a fifth debate with Senator Kennedy. Frequent TV appearances are rough on actors.

THE RECORD COUNTS

The distribution by labor groups in the state of more than one million copies of the Kennedy-Nixon Voting Record is having a sobering impact on the California campaign. The efforts of Vice President Nixon in the direction of image creation pale against his record of political puppetry for the special interests. Kennedy's record of clear-cut performance gives real substance to the moral purpose of his campaign in every field of legislation and human concern.

When Kennedy speaks the hopes and aspirations of the working man and woman, he commands attention:

"The only basic issue in this 1960 presidential campaign is whether our government will fall into the conservative rut of dying without daring, or whether we will move ahead in the liberal spirit of daring and doing. . . .

"Our foreign policy can strike through to the heart of the world only as it reflects a deep passion for social idealism. . . . That is why Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt had such a vast impact on the world. . . ."

Grange Head and Catholic Prelate Rip Farm Labor Feudalism

A double barreled blast at the medieval labor practices of our corporate agriculture was delivered by two eminent and respected state and national leaders during the last week.

In a speech opening the 3,000-delegate convention of the California Grange in Ukiah, State Grange Master J. B. Quinn charged that the current farm labor strife is "an indirect result of greed on the part of large landholders."

Delegates to the Grange's 88th annual convention, representing 45,000 small farmers in California, applauded the top official's call for an end to the corporate farm system which Quinn termed "a reversion to feudal Europe of 100 years ago." This system, he declared, has caused "ruthless exploitation of humans."

The State Grange Master noted that farm labor difficulties would virtually disappear if agricultural producers availed themselves of a decent price for their commodity by uniting in the same manner as has been done by all other sectors of the food industry.

He noted that this could be done through licensing or some other limitation system, frequently employed in other lines of business, "to prevent the unnecessary entry of gigantic operations into agriculture."

Sears Consumer Boycott Continues

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confirm and pledge our support to the national goals established in its August statement by our parent body.

"Across our nation the answers are the same. Every legitimate means must be used to achieve the objectives so effectively expressed by the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO."

Grange Master Quinn pointed to the "unlimited expansion of all farm products, with little heed to supply and demand" initiated by the large landholders. He observed that this deliberate practice has depressed farm markets and forced family farmers into using cheap labor in order to keep from going into the red.

Monsignor Urges Unionization

An equally vigorous position was taken a few days earlier in San Francisco by Chicago's Very Reverend William J. Quinn who is executive secretary of the Bishops Committee for Migrant Workers.

Calling for a militant campaign to give farm workers full economic and political citizenship, Monsignor Quinn called for their unionization in order to correct the discrepancy between their 80 cents an hour average wage and the \$2.29 average enjoyed by factory workers in America.

To terminate the "gangrenous social evil" which has rendered farm workers "voiceless, faceless and demoralized," Monsignor Quinn also urged the gradual elimination of the entire bracero importation program. This program annually makes almost 500,000 temporarily imported Mexican workers available, primarily to the large growers. The Monsignor noted that one reason the growers prefer Mexican workers is that "they don't have to bother with children or worry about education."

The spokesman for the Bishops Committee, which is headed by Albert Cardinal Meyer of Chicago, also advocated the elimination of lengthy migration from one job to another through the provision of wages which would hold these workers in one area. He saw decent wage rates in agriculture as the obvious key to provision of a domestic labor force large enough to wholly eliminate the need for the bracero program.

Monsignor Quinn declared that the migration of agricultural workers has largely eliminated their political influence. He stated, "There are no votes in this business—except on the growers' side."