

IWC Presses for Farm Wage Board Report

The Industrial Welfare Commission of California, meeting in San Francisco last Monday, November 26, set December 13th as the final meeting date for its Agricultural Wage Board to report recommendations on minimum wages and conditions to the state commission.

The Agricultural Wage Board was appointed by the Commission in January as a necessary legal step to extend a state minimum wage and other minimum conditions by order of the Commission to women and minors in agriculture.

Grower members of the equally divided employer-employee Board, however, have stymied action. The Board's chairman, U. C. Dean of Agriculture Daniel G. Aldrich, Jr., to date, has failed to take a position on crucial issues where employer interests have refused to make any recommendations on the equally divided Board consisting of 17 members.

Aldrich was named chairman of the Board in January over the strong opposition of the California

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Sale of Public Policy for Cash?

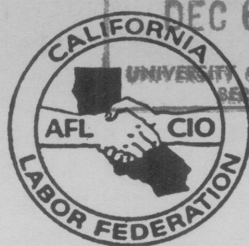
Will the Ike Administration, in its closing days, sell the nation's historic policy against monopoly and speculation under reclamation law for cash on the line?

This is the issue that has come to a head on the Kings River, where the federal government has built Pine Flat Dam, and the Ike Administration since 1953 has been on the verge of negotiating a so-called "lump sum" repayment contract with the Kings River water users to relieve monopoly land holders from taxpayer protections in the so-called 160-acre limitation.

Such a contract was negotiated by former Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay with the monopoly interests, but strong protests by organized labor, liberal Senators and other public spirited individuals stopped the signing of the contract a few years ago.

Now another lump sum contract offering the means of escapement from reclamation law by putting

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THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Weekly News Letter

Vol. 2—No. 45
Dec. 2, 1960

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

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ECONOMIC GROWTH CONFERENCE TO DRAW TRADE UNIONISTS STATEWIDE

The Federation's labor education conference on "American Labor and Economic Growth," scheduled to begin Monday, December 5th at the Hilton Inn, San Francisco, is expected to draw more than a hundred labor union leaders from throughout the state.

Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, released the attendance estimates this Wednesday, based on advance registrations.

The four-day labor education meet on America's number one domestic issue, with international ramifications, will continue through Thursday, December 8th, followed

by a two-day statewide labor press conference.

(Both conferences are being sponsored in cooperation with the Institutes of Industrial Relations of the University of California in Berkeley and Los Angeles.)

Pitts said that the conference registration desk at the Hilton Inn, located at the entrance of San Francisco's International Airport, will open Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. The conference is restricted to trade unionists.

As announced previously, the state AFL-CIO leader said that an outstanding group of economists and experts have been obtained from in and outside the state and labor movement to staff the education sessions.

All sessions will provide opportunity for discussion groups on major subject areas covered. The following is an outline of the conference program and session leaders:

Monday, December 5

Morning Session: 9 a.m. "Main Issues in Economic Growth," Leon H. Keyserling, President, Conference on Economic Progress and former chairman of the President's Council on Economic Advisors under Truman:

What is the present position of the economy regarding growth and full employment? What is present public policy on growth and full employment? What will be the impact of technological change on the labor force? What are the true

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PITTS NOTES NEED OF SUPPORT FOR CBS-TV

Evidence mounted this week that intense pressure from corporate agriculture is being leveled against CBS-TV for having dared to tackle the farm labor issue in its "Harvest of Shame" program last week. In response, state AFL-CIO leader Thos. L. Pitts issued the following statement:

"CBS-TV should be congratulated for its objectivity and dedication to justice in televising a public service program such as 'Harvest of Shame' last week.

"The American public has the deepest stake in the continuation and expansion of honest reporting by the mass media of communication on such vital issues of the day.

"The nation must not stand idly by watching as an act of courageous reporting is met by a campaign of intimidation on the part of a wealthy and powerful pressure group representing a handful of land barons.

"I urge everyone who saw the program to communicate their support for public service programs of this type of David Lowe, CBS-TV, 485 Madison Ave., New York."

(Details of public reaction to this CBS Reports program appear on page 4 of this week's Newsletter.)

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Labor Federation because of his close working relationships and associations with grower interests.

Hauled before the Commission this Monday for a progress report, Aldrich told the Commissioners he had finally come to a decision on his own position and that he was presently preparing reports covering 1) the areas of agreement in principle reached by the Board on minimum conditions other than wages and hours, 2) separate reports of employer and employee members on the disputed issues, including wages and hours, and 3) his own statement of position as an individual. The Commission set the meeting date for the Board on December 13th in San Francisco for the approval of these reports and their submission to the Commission.

The Commission, in turn, said it would meet on December 14-15, at which time it would set the public hearing dates on the issuance of an agricultural wage order.

Without a report from the wage board, the Commission is unable to proceed with setting hearing dates.

Grower groups purposely have been trying to hold up the wage board report, going even as far as to recommend that the Board hold a new series of hearings throughout the state to obtain "factual information" on wages and hours of women and minors in farm work.

The Commission itself, prior to the establishment of the wage board in January, had held a year of hearings in various parts of the state.

The December 14-15 meeting of the Commission will also be devoted to setting up the criteria for revision of the state's working woman's expenditure budget used by the Commission in setting minimum wages. This revision of the budget is considered a preliminary step to the re-opening of all wage orders next year.

The Commissioners heard a Division of Labor Statistics and Research report that cost of living increases in the budget since it was issued in 1950 alone, apart from revision of its components, would justify a minimum wage of \$1.28 per hour.

Sale of Public Policy for Cash?

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cash on the line has been negotiated with the Kings River water groups and is on Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton's desk, awaiting his signature. Widespread fear exists that Seaton may sign this one on behalf of the Ike Administration as a parting gift of friendship from a big business dominated administration.

The deal would mean millions and millions of dollars of enrichment for a few big land holders who are benefiting from the construction of Pine Flat Dam at the taxpayers' expense.

Pine Flat Dam was built by the Corps of Army Engineers to avoid reclamation law, but Congress instructed the Bureau of Reclamation to apply the law anyway. The Bureau, however, failed to get the contracts for repayment before construction, and through Ike's Administration giant landholders have been trying to subvert Congress' application of the 160-acre limitation through administrative action in contract negotiations.

The whole deal would have serious repercussions on the San Luis project authorized last year by Congress. Congress there, too, at the insistence of labor, removed an exemption from reclamation law for water deliveries by the state benefiting from a federal subsidy.

The State of California and the Department of the Interior, however, are reported to be negotiating a similar contract for the San Luis project which would allow the state to deliver the water free of reclamation law and protections against monopoly and speculation. The gimmick being considered here is that the state would pay for its share of the project out of bond money voted under Proposition No. 1, and by doing so as the project is constructed, California's "concurrent" payment would free the state of adhering to the 160-acre limitation.

It's really the same deal promoted on the Kings River, where the final contract is on Seaton's desk. If Seaton signs it, it would be a go-ahead signal to the state in its scheming regarding the San Luis project.

RLEA Pledges Civil Rights Action

Chiefs of the nation's rail unions, affiliated with the Railway Labor Executives Association, last week pledged themselves to a four-point action program in support of equal rights for all citizens.

The union leaders said firmly:

"In today's close-knit world, in which many formerly colonial peoples are on the march to new national sovereignty and independence, it is clear that the prestige of the United States abroad depends to a great degree upon developments in this country. A major factor in shaping the thinking of these new nations toward the Free World and democratic ideals will be the treatment of American citizens of minority groups, particularly those having ancestral origin in the land of the new nations.

"In our country's struggle to expand and improve the democratic way of life in the world, we must retain our old friends and make new friends.

"All men of good will must believe and promote the position that all men are created equal and are entitled to the same rights and liberties under God."

The four-point action program pledged by the association is as follows:

1. The Railway Labor Executives' Association will press with vigor to secure equal rights for all workers in the railroad industry including employment in all crafts and promotions in accordance with their ability.

2. The Association will press to secure the full benefits of union organization for all such workers without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin.

3. The Railway Labor Executives' Association asks all its affiliates to take prompt and decisive action in their separate organizations to bring into effect the purpose of this resolution, and

4. The Association endorses the policy resolutions on civil rights and civil liberties adopted by the AFL-CIO at its third Constitutional Convention during the month of September 1959.

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causes of inflation? Do present tax policies contribute to economic growth? Are present monetary and fiscal policies conducive to growth? What is the present relationship between wages and profits? Are we wasting our natural resources?

Afternoon Session: 2 p.m. "Public and Private Investment." Robert A. Gordon, Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley:

What is the present relationship between public and private investment? How necessary is planned obsolescence? What is being neglected in the public sector? What balance should we strike between public and private investment? What economic and social values should we respect?

Tuesday, December 6

Morning Session: 9 a.m. "Prescription for Growth." Stanley H. Ruttenberg, Director of Research, AFL-CIO, Washington, D.C.:

How do we balance economic growth with social needs? What can we do about the underprivileged American? How do we reconcile public need and private profit? How can the American economy meet the Soviet economic challenge?

Afternoon Session: 2 p.m. "Economic Growth and Economic Security." Earl F. Cheit, visiting Associate Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley:

Is economic security compatible with economic growth? What is the effect of economic security on purchasing power? What should be our aims in caring for the aged? What are the next steps in health insurance? How adequate are our social welfare services?

Wednesday, December 7

Morning Session: 9 a.m. "Economic Growth and Collective Bargaining." James Stern, Economist, United Automobile Workers, Detroit:

What will be the effect of changing economic patterns on the labor movement? Is collective bargaining becoming exhausted? Where will the new trade unionists come from, and what will they want? What are the new ideas in collective bargaining?

Afternoon Session: 2 p.m. "Economic Growth and Consumer Protections." Mildred Brady, Editor, *Consumer Reports*, Consumers Union, New York:

Why is there an upsurge of interest in consumer protection? Is an alliance with the organized consumer the next step for labor? What is happening to consumer standards? Is consumer protection compatible with economic advance?

Thursday, December 8

Morning Session: 9 a.m. Part I, "Private Investments and the National Economy." James Longstreet, Professor of Finance, University of California, Berkeley:

How powerful are the private investors? What are their goals, and what are they doing? Does business anticipate the market, or does the market anticipate business? How important are the institutional investors? What are the best sources of advice?

Part II, "Pattern of Health, Welfare, and Pension Fund Investments." Carroll J. Lynch, Resident Partner, Martin E. Segal Company:

What is the present pattern of these trade union investments? Which unions are investing, and for what purpose? What return do they get on their investments?

Afternoon Session: 2 p.m. "Trade Union Investments and Social Purpose." Harry Pollard, Labor Economist, San Francisco:

What is the role of social purpose in trade union investments? What economic services should investments provide? What new areas should unions invest in? What standards and safeguards should they employ?

Panel and floor discussion: Longstreet, Lynch, Richard Liebes, Research Director, Building Service Union, San Francisco, and Dan Johnston, Economic Consultant, Los Angeles.

Sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, both in the morning and afternoon, will be broken by coffee breaks, followed by three discussion sessions in the areas covered by the main speaker.

Director McDevitt Praises Local COPEs

National COPE Director James L. McDevitt has acclaimed the fine work of all state and local COPE's which played such a large part in the election of John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, who were endorsed for President and Vice-President, respectively, by the AFL-CIO:

"I am not saying that labor won the election, but I do say without fear of contradiction that if it had not been for the year 'round educational and fund-raising campaigns of our COPE units throughout the country and their registration and get-out-the-vote drives, which were coordinated with the AFL-CIO register-and-vote campaign, the election would have been lost," McDevitt said. "That is obvious from a study of the election returns in areas where AFL-CIO members vote."

"I wish I could thank each COPE worker individually, but since that is quite impossible, of course, I want to take this opportunity to say a hearty 'Well done!' to every man and woman who labored so hard and so faithfully throughout 1960—and especially during the fall political campaign itself—for the grand work they did."

"And now let's keep moving forward. The next Congressional elections are two years away, but the time to start to win them is now. That means TODAY."

Labor Press Program

FRIDAY, Dec. 9th—

Morning Session, 9:30 a.m.: "Labor and the 1960 Election." Irving Bernstein, Associate Director, Institute of Industrial Relations, UCLA. Followed by panel discussion.

Afternoon Session, 2 p.m.: "The Public Press, The Labor Press and the 1960 Election." Charles Houlten, Professor of Journalism, University of California. Followed by panel discussion.

Evening banquet, 8 p.m.: "Freedom of Speech in Communication."

SATURDAY, Dec. 10th—

Morning Session, 9:30 p.m.: "The Labor Press and the Public Schools," a panel discussion: Dr. Ralph Richardson, member of L. A. City Board of Education and Professor of Speech, UCLA; Henry Zivetz, Executive Secretary, L. A. County Federation of Teachers; Jack London, Assistant Professor of Adult Education, University of California.

Adjournment—12 noon.

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

Ed Murrow's CBS-TV Farm Labor Story Arouses Public

"My God, man! What can I do to help? This thing is a crime against conscience. I'm no union booster but you guys are doing what needs to be done to help these people."

The speaker was a businessman from a small town in one of California's most wealthy agricultural areas.

At the other end of the phone was Louis Krainock, public information officer of AFL-CIO Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, who had appeared briefly the evening before addressing a farm workers' union meeting on an hour-long nationwide telecast of Edward Murrow's CBS Reports last Friday.

Produced by David Lowe, and narrated by Murrow, "Harvest of Shame" evoked angry expressions of shock and indignation on a scale unprecedented in this nation since the appearance of John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" in the 1930s.

Telephone calls poured into AWOC's office from far and near as the sturdy wall of public indifference began to crumble under the impact of visual portrayal of the social and economic lot of American farm workers in 1960.

"I'm sick," was the telephoned message of an electronics engineer from Mill Valley.

A social worker called in, "To those of us who know something already of farm workers' conditions, it was still shocking."

From Texas, an agricultural worker asked AWOC director Norman Smith, "When are you moving into our area? We sure need you."

A lawyer from Oakland got on the wire to tell a union representative, "The program was a real contribution to public understanding of a complex problem. My God! Are you sure that it wasn't exaggerated?"

A Stockton waitress said, "This program will do a lot of good toward getting legislation to help agricultural workers and to let the public know what kind of lives and conditions they have."

The farm editor of one of the West Coast's leading metropolitan newspapers had this to say:

"It was a good program to show some of the problems these workers face. It was a step in the right direction."

A film editor told AWOC, "It was a beautiful job for the objective at which it was aimed—the general public. It was just about perfect."

These are only a few samples of the many telephoned reactions received thus far by AWOC. There were others such as that of a California farm worker who had labored many years in East Coast and southern agriculture:

"That program showed an awful lot, but I know of much worse that could have been shown."

Along these same lines was the response of a San Francisco physician:

"The program failed to show the real misery and the depth of that misery among agricultural workers. It barely scratched the surface. A real job needs to be done to show America the facts."

Long-distance telephonic interviews of people who watched the CBS-TV show were broadcast by radio station KIST in Pittsburg, California. Listeners reported that all of those interviewed highly approved of the telecast and displayed great sympathy for the farm workers.

With respect to one sequence on the TV program dealing with an impoverished family forced to sleep along the roadside, a wom-

Housing Bias Hurts Millions

A new study of the Fund for the Republic shows that 27 million Americans are, in varying degrees, the victims of discrimination in housing.

A book entitled "Residence and Race" published by the fund after a three-year inquiry showed the worst sufferers to be the nation's 19 million Negro, Filipino, Japanese and Chinese citizens. Others suffering discrimination included five million Jews, 2.5 million Mexican-Americans and 1.0 million Puerto Ricans.

The study urged the mobilization of all who suffer discrimination to effect changes in the law; the creation of community situations in which groups work together to solve common problems; expansion of the housing supply, especially in the lower price levels, and a series of other steps designed to end prejudice.

an was asked whether it wasn't possible that migrants considered themselves to be on one perpetual vacation. She told the KIST interviewer:

"You are wrong, buddy. I've been there and I know. I believe that program should be shown again and that there should be more discussion of this in order to bring the problems out before the people."

To prevent this from happening, and to keep the networks from any further exposure of these conditions, corporate agriculture was engaged head-on in an effort to impress CBS-TV with the error of its ways. (In regard to the growers' pressure campaign against CBS-TV, see the comments by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts, on page 1 of this issue of the Newsletter.)