

Labor Scholarship Winners Named

Five boys have been named as winners in the Eleventh Annual High School Scholarship competition sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Winners of the five \$500 awards offered by the State AFL-CIO organization are: Martin Burkert, Abraham Lincoln High School, San Francisco; William A. Soldwisch, Pasadena High School, Pasadena; Walter C. Ficklin, III, Madera Union High School, Madera; Alan Baron, C. K. McClatchy Senior High School, Sacramento; Michael William Baugh, Notre Dame High School, Tarzana.

In announcing the results, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the state AFL-CIO organization, said that the five winners were selected from the 450 students who participated in the 1961 competition. The contest was open to all graduating seniors in California high schools, both public and private.

Students were graded on an examination testing their knowledge of industrial relations history and practices in the United States.

The examination was held on Friday, May 19, 1961, in each high school where applications were filed.

The committee of judges which selected the winners was composed of three professional educators: Frederick A. Breier, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics, University of San Francisco; Benjamin Aaron, L.L.B., Director, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California at Los Angeles; and Leon F. Lee, Ph.D., Department of Industrial Relations, San Jose State College.

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Omnibus Housing Bill Reaches Kennedy's Desk

Despite the strongest display of Senate Republican unity achieved this year, Congress Wednesday adopted one of the most far-reaching housing bills enacted in the nation's history.

For housing program supporters, the solidity of the measure was assured by the heart-warming words of reactionary Senator Homer Capehart (R., Ind.) after its approval by a joint committee seeking to resolve the differences between earlier House and Senate versions:

"We took the worst of both bills."

The growing harmony within the Senate GOP camp was apparent in the 47 to 42 vote killing a motion to send the proposal back to the



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Fed Executive Council Rips Shipowners in Maritime Strike

A blistering condemnation of the shipowners' refusal to bargain in good faith, and their consequent precipitation of the nationwide maritime strike, topped the opening day actions of the June 29-30 executive council meeting of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO at the Hotel del Coronado in Coronado, California.

In a statement calling for the support of the striking maritime unions by all AFL-CIO members in the state, the top governing body of the Federation interpreted the shipowners' position "as an effort to reduce . . . American conditions to those which prevail on American-owned ships being operated under foreign flags."

The executive council called upon President Kennedy to take action against such "runaway ships" utilizing foreign flags to undercut wages and working conditions.

It also urged the nation's chief executive to help settle the strike through normal collective bargaining processes rather than through reliance upon Taft-Hartley injunctions.

The full text of the executive council statement, which also calls for Congressional review of subsidies to shipowners, appears on page 2 of this issue of News Letter.

Long Beach Convention Site

The selection of Long Beach as the convention city for the August 1962 convention of the California Labor Federation was also decided upon during the first day of the council's meeting.

Thos. L. Pitts, executive secretary of the Federation, submitted to the 36-man body a detailed preliminary report on the 1961 general session of the California legislature. The entire text of Pitts' report and analysis will be published in a future issue of News Letter.

Working Women's Problems

In a separate action, the body endorsed a conference on the problems of working women sponsored by the Women's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor scheduled for September 8-9, 1961 in Los Angeles.

The purposes of this conference have been announced as follows:

1. Placing before the conferees the latest available information on factors relating to the world of women's work;

2. Gaining additional facts from the participants based on their experience;

3. Reviewing and assessing the present status of women workers as reflected in legislation and practices regarding minimum wages, equal pay, hours and other working conditions;

4. Investigating changes occurring in the world of work today, particularly the technological developments which appear to require fewer but more highly skilled workers;

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Statement of Fed Executive Council On Maritime Strike

The full text of the statement unanimously adopted by the executive council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, during its June 29 session in Coronado is as follows:

"The executive council of the California Labor Federation has reviewed the facts of the dispute leading to the current maritime strike, and extends its full support to the efforts of the unions involved to obtain a satisfactory solution to the outstanding issues.

"These issues strike at the heart of organized labor's concern for collective bargaining as a means of securing equitable conditions of employment in the 13-day-old strike.

"We condemn the refusal of the shipowners to sit down with the unions involved and bargain in good faith. We condemn specifically this attitude which has prevailed among the shipowners on the Pacific Coast, who, instead of bargaining with any of the unions on strike, appear content with invoking the arm of government as a means of denying seagoing personnel decent wages and working conditions.

"It should be noted particularly that many of the same shipowners involved in this dispute are operating 'runaway ships' under foreign flags in order to undermine the standards of wages and working conditions established over the years through collective bargaining.

"The persistent attitude of the shipowners in their refusal to bargain can only be interpreted as an effort to reduce these American conditions to the level of those which prevail on American-owned ships being operated under foreign flags.

"As a representative body of the labor movement in California, we believe that it is our obligation to call this anti-union attitude to the attention of the entire body of the AFL-CIO workers in the state for their active support of the striking unions.

"President Kennedy, on a number of occasions, has expressed his deep concern regarding the manner in which foreign flags are being flown on American-owned vessels to avoid paying the wage scale of the U. S. Merchant Marine.

"In this connection, we urge immediate action by the President to help put an end to these foreign flag

AFL-CIO Demands Bracero Program Overhaul

National AFL-CIO has appealed strongly to the U. S. Senate that unless it provides for substantial reform of the government's Mexican farm worker importation program, coupled with provision for its "final termination," the program should be permitted to expire this year.

Labor's position, asserted before a Senate agricultural subcommittee, was buttressed by a Kennedy Administration spokesman who raised the prospect of a Presidential veto of Public Law 78 unless reforms are adopted. A simple two-year extension of the law, without any reforms, was approved by the House recently.

Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg and AFL-CIO legislative representative Walter Mason also urged enactment of a bill sponsored by Senator Eugene J. McCarthy (D., Minn.) and 15 other solons.

Under the McCarthy proposal, the labor secretary would be empowered to limit the amount of Mexican Nationals available to an individual employer to the number required to assure effective competition for American workers.

The McCarthy bill would compel growers to offer job conditions to domestics similar to those now guaranteed braceros under a bilateral treaty. Braceros would be banned as machine operators in work which was not temporary or seasonal in nature.

The bill would also force payment of wages to braceros at least equal to the statewide or national average received by domestic workers for hourly paid farm work, whichever is lower, with a maximum yearly increase of ten cents an hour.

The AFL-CIO, Mason declared, favors amendments which would prohibit the employment of Mexican Nationals in connection with any crop in surplus supply.

operations. We urge the President also to place the full weight of his office behind the efforts of the maritime unions to settle the strike through collective bargaining, rather than relying on the injunction processes of the Taft-Hartley Act.

"Finally, we call upon Congress to review and revise the ship subsidy program adopted in 1936 to the end that this archaic program may be brought up to date for both the security of the nation and the establishment of standards of subsidies on a basis equitable to the public and all parties involved in the operation of our Merchant Marine."

Mason also underscored the importance of amending the McCarthy bill to "prohibit the employment of Mexican Nationals as strikebreakers."

Even the temporary extension of the Mexican program without these amendments, he added, "would be unconscionable."

Goldberg indicated that President Kennedy, Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman and himself "firmly and vigorously" support the McCarthy proposal.

In issuing his warning, Goldberg declared that the Administration opposes any extension of the importation program "unless it is appropriately amended to provide sorely needed protection for our own workers."

American farm workers must have "protection against the rampant competition for available jobs" from "an almost inexhaustible reservoir of foreign workers," Goldberg stated.

Fed Executive

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5. Analyzing woman's dual role as homemaker and mother, with particular emphasis on the developing need for adequate day care facilities for children of working mothers.

6. Developing guides to the role that organizations at the state and local levels can play in meeting the needs of women workers through legislative improvements, support of local work and training projects, and improved information to the general public.

Don't Patronize Peter Paul

The Federation's "We Don't Patronize" list was expanded by the executive council to include the Peter Paul Candy Company.

Among the products of this firm are such well known items as Mounds, Almond Joy and Walnettos.

The Peter Paul Candy Company has a plant operating under a company union in Oakland, California, as well as in Connecticut, Texas and Ohio.

Omnibus Housing Bill Reaches Kennedy's Desk

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in the Senate and 229 to 176 in the House.

As it awaits Kennedy's signature, the omnibus housing bill contains the provisions summarized below:

Middle Income Housing

Although both houses rejected Kennedy's request for a maximum 40-year FHA mortgage payment period, they raised the present 30-year maximum to 35 years and permitted 40-year arrangements in hardship cases.

The present \$22,500 ceiling on 1-family FHA home mortgages was boosted to \$25,000.

Further stimulation to construction of middle-income housing is expected from easing of down payment schedules. The new schedule will call for a total down payment based on 3 per cent of the first \$15,000 valuation, 10 per cent of the next \$5,000 and 25 per cent of amounts exceeding \$20,000.

Present down payment schedules

Labor Scholarship

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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.

In the absence of a California Labor Federation convention this year, arrangements for formal presentation of the awards will be made locally in the respective areas of the winners.

Two of the five scholarships are made available in cooperation with the following affiliates of the Federation: one offered by the Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council; one by the California Legislative Board of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

Announcements of the 1961 competition were mailed in January, 1961. Some 730 students filed applications from high schools throughout the state, the largest number in the history of the 11-year old competition.

are based on 3 per cent of the first \$13,500, 10 per cent of the next \$4,500 and 30 per cent of any amount in excess of \$18,000.

Federal housing officials are also authorized to reduce the present 1/2 per cent premium on FHA-insured mortgages to 1/4 per cent. The purpose of this insurance premium is to guard against losses caused by extensive mortgage defaults.

Low-Income Housing

Low cost sales housing is another prime feature of this legislation. This new program, aimed at greatly expanding the supply of new homes available for purchase by low-income families, would permit 35-year mortgages. As in the case of the \$4,000 to \$6,000 middle-income group loans, 40-year terms would also be extended to hardship cases.

Mortgage insurance ranging as high as \$15,000 would be made available to low income groups with a down payment ceiling of \$450. Such a down payment on a \$15,000 home would be inclusive of closing costs, such as initial insurance payments and legal fees.

Low cost rental housing is also slated for a shot in the arm from authorization of FHA-insured loans to non-profit corporations for low-rent apartment construction at interest rates as low as 3 3/8 per cent.

Construction of 100,000 units of low-rent public housing is also approved by the measure.

To make the new low-income housing programs more attractive to private lenders, present repayment by debentures in the event of defaults is broadened to include the option of cash reimbursement.

The special assistance fund of the Federal National Mortgage Association, invoked when necessary to purchase federally insured mortgages, will receive an additional \$1.5 billion. This is twice the amount recommended by President Kennedy.

Other Features

Urban renewal grants in the amount of \$2 billion are authorized, as is a four-year college housing loan program totaling \$1.2 billion.

Housing for the elderly won approval of as much as \$75 million in direct loans, while farm housing is scheduled for \$200 million.

Local governments are to be availed of a \$500 million low-interest loan fund for building badly needed community facilities.

Loans up to \$50 million are to be extended to local governments for acquisition and repair of city transit systems.

Gus Hawkins Testimonial Dinner in Los Angeles

In a "tribute to courage," an expected 600 persons will honor Assemblyman Augustus F. Hawkins (D., 62d Assembly District, Los Angeles) for his 26 years of civic and legislative leadership at a testimonial dinner on Friday evening, July 28, at the Los Angeles Furnishings Mart.

"As 'Dean of the Assembly' — his 26 years in the legislature make him the oldest assemblyman in length of service — Gus Hawkins has provided a shining record of firm and far-sighted leadership," declared Attorney Sherman W. Smith, general chairman of the testimonial dinner committee. "He has not only been the author and supporter of measures to advance the cause of civil rights but also social welfare and all other public concerns."

Prominent community leaders are sponsoring the event, including: Glenn M. Anderson, Lieutenant Governor; Stanley Mosk, Attorney General of California; Hon. William Munnell, chairman, Democratic State Central Committee, Southern Section; Don Rose, chairman, L. A. County Democratic Central Committee; Tom Carvey, president, California Democratic Council; Carmen Warschaw, chairman, Women's Division, Democratic Party; W. J. Bassett, secretary-treasurer, L. A. County Federation of Labor; and Congressman James Roosevelt.

Tickets are available at the dinner committee offices located at 4413 South Broadway, Suite 209A, Los Angeles, phone AD 4-4419.

Studies of mass transportation problems will be expedited by urban renewal grants totaling \$25 million.

Community purchases of open space for parks and other purposes will be speeded by \$50 million in federal grants.

The omnibus bill provides for home rehabilitation loans ranging up to \$10,000 with maximum 20-year maturities. Current home repair loan insurance is limited to \$3,500 and 5-year duration.

Finally, the dollar limitation upon FHA's insuring authority is eliminated under this measure.

Shortly after its approval of the omnibus housing bill, Congress passed a bill extending the life of the housing program affecting World War II and Korean veterans to July 25, 1967 and January 31, 1975 respectively. This program has been further liberalized for veterans with active service during wartime.

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

Consumer Bilking Via Deceptive Packaging

The unscrupulous cheating of American consumers through deception and dishonesty was condemned unanimously by over 500 governmental weights and measurements officials attending a meeting called by the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C.

The resolution adopted by the conference urged advertisers, manufacturers and packers to meet both their moral and legal obligations in their labeling practices.

After studying industry practices, the National Conference on Weights and Measures concluded that the advertising and labeling of consumer goods has become "less straightforward, more confusing and increasingly deceptive."

The conference warned the public that consumers were being cheated through a variety of methods:

1. By using visually deceptive packages, a container holding five inches of consumable merchandise is stuffed with three inches of paper, cardboard or cotton stuffing to give an illusion of almost double its actual contents.

2. By outright short-weighting practices such as placing only 15 ounces of merchandise in a container advertised as weighing "one pound."

3. By using misleading terms such as "jumbo" or "economy" to denote size while, at the same time, placing the legally required statement of net weight or volume on an obscure portion of the carton.

Aged Housing Among 17 Ballot Props. for 1962

Of the 17 propositions to be placed before the voters in the 1962 general election by action of the California legislature, perhaps the most important is a \$100 million bond issue to provide rental housing for aged or physically handicapped persons in low income categories.

As proposed under SCA 10, the bonds would be used for construction, acquisition or development of low rent housing projects through loans to public agencies or private corporations.

In addition to the 17 propositions approved for voter action by the legislature, other proposals can be placed before the electorate at the 1962 budget session by initiative petition on the part of the voters.

The other 16 proposed constitutional amendments opened up by action of the legislature are as follows:

SCA 20—Increases from \$5,000 to \$10,000 the value of property a war veteran's widow may own before losing her tax exemption eligibility.

SCA 24—Permits the use of state credit to assist veterans' widows to purchase homes or farms.

ACA 72—Permits workmen's compensation award collection by the state where the deceased left no heirs.

SCA 38—Permits sale of tidelands by cities, providing the legislature concurs.

ACA 7—Makes possible creation

of tax appeals boards in counties with populations exceeding 400,000.

ACA 70—Permits tax exemption for veterans owning housing built under the National Housing Act.

ACA 40—Creates a general obligation bond proceeds fund and abolishes funds transferred into it.

SCA 32—Repeals 100-acre limitation on property exempt from taxes for private colleges and universities.

SCA 9—Enlarges scope of the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Appeals Board in reviewing Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control decisions.

ACA 24—Extends welfare tax exemptions to leased properties.

ACA 4—Requires assessment of farms on the basis of agricultural value only.

SCA 12—Requires assessment of property in historical landmark areas only on the basis of its value for such purposes.

ACA 48—Simplifies ballot in Los Angeles County by permitting automatic election of unopposed candidates for superior judge.

ACA 11—Deletes obsolete election provisions of the state constitution.

ACA 14—Provides for technical changes in the constitution.

ACA 21—Permits a 10-day recess during the legislature's regular session, and reduces from 30 to 20 days the time lag between a bill's introduction and its first hearing.