

Union Label Week, September 4-10

The active cooperation of AFL-CIO affiliated bodies to help make this year's observance of Union Label Week a banner event in the annals of promoting and publicizing the union label, shop card and service button was urged this week by Joseph Lewis, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label and Service Trades Department of the AFL-CIO.

By action of the 1959 convention of the AFL-CIO, held in San Francisco, the week of September 4-10, 1961 has been set aside as Union Label Week.

The purpose of Union Label Week is to help all who toil by encouraging members of unions to spend their union-earned wages on products and services which are the handiwork of the crafts and skills and services of other union members. The union label, shop card, and service button are among the best guides for consumers in buying the best of American products and services available.

The Union Label and Service Trades Department is now in the process of preparing informational

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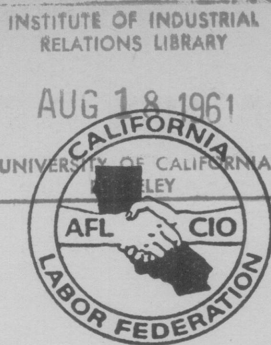
Women's Eight-Hour Law Faces New Threat

A number of powerful "defense-manufacturing" firms, under the guise of an emotional appeal to patriotism for defense production, are beating the drums for a special session of the state legislature to permit the working of women beyond the state eight-hour law maximum.

Threatening discrimination in the employment of women, these defense manufacturers are pressing for the extension of the California Defense Production Act of 1950 which allows the State Division of Industrial Welfare to issue defense-industry permits overriding the Labor Code eight-hour per day work limit in manufacturing and various other industries. At the 1961 session, the legislature rejected a bill sponsored by Assemblyman Harold K. Levering (R. Los Angeles) to extend the defense production permit system beyond its September 15, 1961 automatic expiration date.

Despite continuing labor surpluses in defense-industry labor markets, employers are demanding special privilege to work women longer hours, backed by discrimination threats, rather than arranging appropriate work shifts to meet production schedules.

The emotional appeal advanced



THOS L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Weekly News Letter

Vol. 3—No. 29
August 11, 1961

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO



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Pitts to Tour State With Legislative Report

Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO announced this week that he will travel to various parts of the state in the month ahead to report to local labor movements on the recently concluded 1961 general session of the California legislature.

The state AFL-CIO executive officer said that arrangements for informal talks with local labor leaders will be made in cooperation with central labor councils or groups of such councils as geography and union membership composition may necessitate.

According to Pitts, the state tour will be aimed solely at better acquainting union leadership with the legislative process, as well as with the accomplishments and failures of the session in terms of

labor's broad legislative program developed by convention action.

"I feel that the printed words of reports leave a great deal to be desired in communicating to local movements what really goes on in Sacramento," Pitts said in explanation of his decision to make the unprecedented tour.

"The legislative function," he declared, "is a continuing process involving one of the basic purposes of our state AFL-CIO movement. We are permanently involved in Sacramento because legislation vitally affects our functioning as economic organizations, regulates our relationship with employers, and profoundly influences the welfare of working men and women both as producers and consumers of wealth in this free society.

"For this reason, as a movement, we cannot go off half-cocked in any fixed direction because of particular successes or failures in any one session. This would be suicide for our non-partisan movement and

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Cope Fund-Raising Film

A 27-minute sound film for use in COPE voluntary fund-raising and educational programs is now available from the California Labor Council on Political Education, 995 Market Street, San Francisco 3.

Produced by national COPE, the film depicts the vital importance of labor unity in political action, using illustrations on legislative problems. It is narrated by Guy Nunn.

There is no charge for the use of this film. Arrangements for its scheduling by affiliates should be made as quickly as possible with the state COPE office.

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Pitts to Tour State

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destructive of our proven tradition of rewarding the friends of the workman and opposing his enemies.

"But," he added, "we have a major educational job to carry out internally. Our never-ending struggle to improve the conditions of life and labor of the working man requires sober analysis of legislative developments, a great deal of patience, education and dedication to purpose. Our achievements legislatively may fluctuate session by session, interspersed with setbacks at times, but real progress in the accomplishment of our purpose will be measured by the efforts we exert to establish a broad base of legislative knowledge within the movement backed by informed political action.

"This will be my guiding philosophy as I carry the story of the 1961 session to our local movements and leadership. My purpose is to supplement the printed word of my recent preliminary report on the session and my final report currently in the process of preparation to be contained in the Sacramento Story for 1961.

"Legislation is an immensely human process affecting social relationships, and cannot be understood apart from the kind of human relationships and social philosophies that prevail on the legislative scene. I feel that the printed word fails to convey the whole story without the opportunity to supplement it with informal discussion of the session."

Recognizing that local labor groups are anxious to be informed about the performance of their legislative representatives, Pitts said:

"I will carry with me a preliminary tabulation of floor roll call votes in both houses of the legislature on measures which reflect the broad scope of labor interests and activities. Here again, however, the record vote is not always an accurate or foolproof method of judging individual performances. Frequently, the fate of legislation and important decisions shaping the content of anything that reaches the floor are made at various levels of the operation of the legislative process where individual performance is not part of the public record.

"As far as individual legislators

Cooperation Urged to Implement Retraining Bill

Apprenticeship Standards Chief Charles F. Hanna, in the latest issue of the state Apprenticeship Newsletter, has requested the "support, understanding and cooperation" of all interested parties so that the new state retraining bill may be successfully implemented.

The measure, AB 2171 (Hawkins), is designed to promote on-the-job training programs to (1) keep journeymen in apprenticeable occupations abreast of technological advancements, and (2) develop labor-management programs in non-apprenticeable occupations for workers entering the labor force for the first time or those entering new occupations because of displacement by automation.

Hanna explained the challenge as follows:

"The progress of the Journeyman and Other Training-on-the-Job Bill (AB 2171) through the legislature focused the attention of labor and management and others on the general problem of 'skills of the work force'. When the bill was finally passed by the Senate unanimously, it had gained broad support. There had been a number of changes made in order to clarify

are concerned, I want to be sure that local movements have full knowledge of the individual legislator's total performance."

Pitts' tour is recognized as an effort to establish a solid base for intensive, as well as informed, political action by labor in the next election.

As secretary-treasurer of the state COPE organization, Pitts recently announced the appointment of Fred Smith as his full-time political action assistant to help strengthen the COPE structure in California.

Labor political action is organized from the ground up, based on the functioning of local COPE's, established at the central labor council level, and working in cooperation with the state and national COPE.

Pitts' primary objective in the appointment of Smith is to assist local movements build up their own political action bodies as essential to labor's effective functioning on the legislative front within the framework of the democratic procedures which govern the labor movement.

the intent and purpose of the bill and to give assurance to those who had doubts that it would and could accomplish the purposes for which it is intended.

"This legislation is a pioneer effort. Subsequent to the introduction of this bill in the California legislature, there was introduced in the Congress H.R. 7373, which is national legislation intended for the purpose of promoting and developing on-the-job training programs. In California, until A.B. 2171 was introduced and adopted, every piece of legislation other than the Apprenticeship Act provided for only classroom trade school type training and retraining. Nationally, no laws other than the G.I. bills and apprenticeship laws had ever been adopted by the state or federal governments for development and support for on-the-job training programs.

"Much good can and will result from the proper administration of this voluntary legislation, with the Division of Apprenticeship Standards providing assistance where requested and within the limitations of the bill, which will go into effect October 1, 1961. During the interim, meetings and conferences will be held with interested persons in order to secure the broadest possible thinking and ideas on carrying out this program. Just as in apprenticeship, we believe there will not be any one specific, set pattern, but probably there will be many and varied patterns developed in order to meet the needs of local groups who wish to develop these types of training programs.

"We are confident that these on-the-job training programs can and will be successful. Our years of experience under the G. I. bills have demonstrated what can be done. We know, too, that on-the-job training goes on all around us all the time and that a large majority of employed workers have learned what they know about their work on the job. It is true that much of this experience is informal, not planned or organized. We feel that because of the accelerated pace of new developments in industry and the many changes taking place, organized on-the-job training together with appropriate classroom instruction is the more efficient and eco-

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Hard Core Unemployment Getting Harder

The latest official report issued by the U.S. Department of Labor shows that, despite optimistic talk of economic recovery, the amount of so-called hard-core (long-term) unemployment is on the increase again.

With the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment in July at 6.9 percent—up from 6.8 percent the month before—the Department said long term unemployment increased last month by 59,000 to 1,634,000. Unemployment is classified as “long term” or “hard core” when it lasts fifteen weeks and longer. Two-thirds of the hard core unemployed have been out of work at least a half a year.

Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg has been making the Administration keenly aware of the fact that the so-called economic recovery is not touching many idle workers. In mid-July there was a total of 5,140,000 unemployed in the United States.

Out of some 150 major labor markets, there are still 88 with more than six percent unemployment—or areas of “substantial” unemployment.

Another disturbing factor in the latest employment report is that the number of employed persons dropped in July by 207,000 to 68,409,000.

This is unusual, because ordinarily at this time of the year a drop in agricultural employment is made up by an increase in the non-farm employment.

Farm jobs fell in July by 218,000, while the non-farm jobs rose by 11,000, the smallest June-July increase since World War II. An increase of about 500,000 in this period is normal.

Commenting on this, Seymour Wolfbein, the Labor Department's chief manpower evaluator, said:

“Something must have happened on the industrial front that we cannot determine yet. When we get the detailed payroll information, we will probably be able to tell what happened.”

In the meantime, the so-called economic recovery is leaving a lot to be desired. Nevertheless, big business leaders and financial interests are already yelping for a return to “tight money” to curb “inflationary pressures”.

Broader Use of Surplus Food Program Urged

The California Labor Federation this week urged local trade union movements, through their Community Services activities, to press for broader utilization of the federal surplus foods distribution program to aid families on public assistance and those carrying the brunt of long-term unemployment.

In a letter to central labor councils enclosing a summary of how the program works, state AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts said that the surplus food program has been liberalized to the point where it should be much more attractive to counties.

He noted that some 25 California counties are now participating in the program, but pointed out that **the counties containing the great bulk of the state's population in principal metropolitan areas remain outside the program.**

In urging that local movements give serious consideration to initiating use of the surplus foods in counties where the program has not been in operation, the state AFL-CIO leader called attention to a recent policy position taken by the AFL-CIO executive council:

“We recognize that the trade union has a responsibility to the unemployed non-dues paying member as to the employed dues paying member. To discharge this responsibility, the local community services committee must develop . . . a comprehensive program of effective service so that no unemployed member of his family will go without food, clothing, shelter and medical care.”

Pitts noted that the surplus food program is an important channel available to the labor movement to implement this AFL-CIO policy.

Law Faces New Threat

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cated to the committee that he was not fully convinced of any need for continuing the law.

The automatic September 15 expiration date on the permit system means that there cannot be any further consideration of the matter until the 1963 general session, unless it is put on special session call by the Governor. During the 1961 session, following Senate defeat of the Levering bill, the Governor's office rejected a flurry of activity to revive the defeated measure.

The outline of the program's benefits and procedures sent to central labor bodies listed eleven food items available for distribution.

It was noted that although these foods are made available to counties free of charge by the federal government, “the principal obstacle to participation on the part of counties has been the requirement that they provide the necessary distribution facilities and personnel.”

Pitts said two major developments suggest that this roadblock could be overcome:

1. The growing pool of the permanently unemployed is straining private and public welfare agency resources and is creating a climate more favorable to harnessing this program.

2. The expanded list of available commodities has broadened the program's appeal to the welfare agencies as well as to the potential recipients.

As a means of offsetting possible local opposition, labor bodies were urged to work with other community and civic organizations in helping initiate efforts to establish the program in their counties.

The main guidelines established for the program's operation in California were also listed:

1. Eligibility may be extended by county welfare departments to recipients of public or private assistance programs and to other needy persons such as the unemployed and part-time employed.

2. Private welfare agencies' resources can also be utilized to distribute these commodities.

3. Counties are assessed handling and service charges for delivery of commodities at the maximum rate of \$1.00 per case and 75c per 50 lb. sack of grain products.

4. Distribution must take place no more frequently than twice a month.

5. Monthly income governing eligibility for low income families not on public assistance ranges from \$115 for a single person up to \$371 for a family of ten.

6. Agencies accepting commodities for needy persons are not permitted to reduce their present assistance standards as a result.

7. Safeguards are provided to prevent discriminatory administration of the program or its use for political purposes.

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Union Label Week

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kits to be sent to AFL-CIO state and central labor bodies, chartered union label and service trades councils, and AFL-CIO Auxiliaries to help them in planning for Union Label Week. Thousands of colorful Union Label Week posters are being printed and will be available for distribution.

Sample radio and television spot announcements will be mailed to organizations participating in Union Label Week functions with outlines detailing the importance of this type of publicity.

The California Labor Federation, through the Union Label Committee of its executive council, is prepared to assist all affiliates in obtaining necessary information and materials to carry the purpose of Union Label Week to the entire membership of the AFL-CIO in California.

According to Thos. L. Pitts, State AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer, "the success of the Union Label week will depend largely upon local organizations securing proper materials for distribution to their membership and cooperating in the official activities of local union label councils where they are functioning."

Where local activities have not been planned, contact should be made with the national Union Label and Service Trades Department to obtain available information and materials.

Pitts noted that every local organization should immediately see to it that the Union Label and Service Trades Department's new bulletin reproducing the various union labels obtainable on goods and services is posted in union offices, shops and wherever they can be called to the attention of the membership. These bulletins and other pamphlets may be obtained free of charge by writing the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO, 815 16th Street N.W., Washington

Farm Labor Housing Study Begun

The launching of a comprehensive study of the family housing needs of California's agricultural workers was announced this week by Director of Industrial Relations John F. Henning, who said that the study will be conducted by the Division of Housing under a grant from the Rosenberg Foundation.

Noting that the study marks the first time in memory when such a grant has been given a public agency, Henning said that the purpose of the study is to assess the condition and extent of housing available to farm worker families, and recommend remedial legislation including possible proposals for financing low-cost family housing.

The study was requested by the 1961 session of the legislature, but without the appropriation of any funds. Henning's department sought out private sources and secured the Rosenberg Foundation grant.

Simultaneously it was announced by Housing Chief Lowell Nelson that he has appointed Oliver McMillan, former labor reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle and documentary producer for KRON-TV, to coordinate the study and write the report.

According to Nelson, family housing for farm workers is disappearing in the face of growing dependence by farmers on the single worker. This is an outgrowth of the increasing reliance on the importation of cheap labor from Mexico.

Nelson said the survey will investigate the substandard shanty towns which lie hidden away in the state's agricultural counties and along the outskirts of farm centers.

MIGRANT CLINICS

In another farm labor problem area, two health clinics for migrant

6, D.C. A limited supply will be available soon in the Federation office at 995 Market Street, Room 810, San Francisco 3, California.

workers and their families have been opened in western Merced county during the past month, operating under a contract between the county and the state Department of Public Health.

State funds in the amount of \$14,000 were budgeted for the clinics from limited funds made available to California counties by action of the 1961 legislature, which adopted a pilot health care program based on recommendations of the so-called "Jessup Report."

The two clinics are slated to hold evening hours in the County Fire Station in Dos Palos, Tuesdays, and in the County Building at Los Banos on Thursdays. Diagnosis, treatment, shots, prenatal and postnatal care will be provided. Patients will be screened for admission into county hospitals, and a well-baby clinic will be held.

While physicians from Dos Palos will staff the clinic in their city, it is reported that the Los Banos setup has run into a snag because of the withdrawal by local physicians of their offer to work in the clinic.

Dr. A. Frank Biewer, Merced county health officer in charge of the clinics, has indicated to county supervisors that the Los Banos doctors oppose the clinics as an encroachment on private medical care. Doctors were to be paid at the rate of \$25 per hour.

Cooperation Urged

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nomical way of getting the job done.

"Although there was some opposition to the bill, many of the objections were withdrawn with the various amendments. We certainly respect the rights of the opponents to oppose, and we trust that there are no animosities. Now that this bill is enacted, we sincerely solicit the support, understanding and cooperation of all to make it effective so that together we can do a job that needs to be done . . ."