

Brown Nixes Segregated Conference

Asserting the "obligation of state officials to set an example" in the human rights field, Governor Edmund G. Brown this week instructed a top aide to cancel plans to attend an interstate conference at a segregated hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.

The meeting of the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Administrators, to have been attended by state employment director Irving H. Perluss, begins on October 1. Its purpose is to enable state employment departments to exchange information with federal officials on such matters as automation and labor law restrictions.

In view of the crucial importance of the conference topics, Perluss indicated his department would acquire the information by correspondence and by attending meetings scheduled for other cities in the future.

After Perluss advised the Governor that the conference hotel practices discrimination against guests for racial reasons, Brown declared:

"I told him I do not believe California should participate in a meeting at the hotel for that reason, and he agreed with me.

"I believe that it is the obligation of state officials to set an example in this most important matter of a man's right to enjoy equal opportunities in his society, regardless of his race or religion."

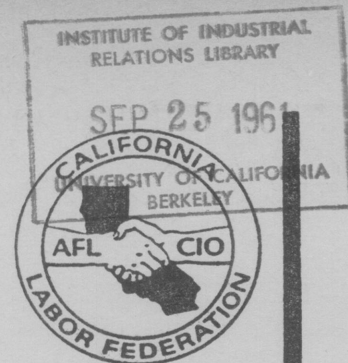
Consumer Victory on Watered Ham

A substantial consumer victory at the meat counter has been attributed to Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman by Helen Nelson, installed by Edmund G. Brown in 1959 as California's first consumer counsel.

Mrs. Nelson hailed Freeman's decision to reverse an order by Ezra Taft Benson, former agriculture secretary, permitting federally inspected hams and certain other smoked products to contain up to 10 per cent added moisture. Benson's order was issued in December, 1960.

Protest against the Benson ruling from consumer groups throughout the nation led Freeman to hold a series of public hearings on the issue in several U. S. cities.

Mrs. Nelson appeared at the Los Angeles hearing in May to protest



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Senate Approves Bracero Wage Improvements

A bitter struggle is expected in a forthcoming congressional joint conference on the Mexican National importation program following Senate action Monday to extend the law with changes designed to raise bracero wages in many parts of the nation.

The conference, scheduled to resolve differences between House and Senate action on the issue, was made necessary when Senate liberals succeeded in amending the straight two-year extension of the law approved earlier by the lower House.

By a 42 to 40 vote, the Senate endorsed an amendment proposed by Senator Eugene McCarthy (D., Minn.), which would require payment of bracero wages at a minimum rate equal to 90 per cent of the average farm wage rate in the state or nation, whichever is lower.

While a slight impact was expected to be felt in part of Southern California if the Senate formula becomes law, analysis of its meaning seemed to indicate that the overall

effect would be negligible in this state.

In California the only areas where any improvement in bracero wage levels could result from such a change in the law are Imperial Val-

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Federation and State COPE Executive Councils to Meet In San Francisco

The 36-member Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO will convene in San Francisco, September 21-22, 1961, for its regular quarterly meeting.

The two-day session has been scheduled in the Peninsula Room of the Del Webb Towne House, and will be followed by a separate meeting of the Executive Council of the California Labor Council on Political Education.

Convening for the first time since the reapportionment of Congressional and Assembly districts by the 1961 legislature, the COPE Council will be confronted by major problems in the development of a political education program for the 1962 general election campaigns.

It is recognized that the redrawing of lines for the state's 80 Assembly and 38 Congressional districts, including the creation of eight new Congressional districts, poses a task more complicated than what normally confronts labor in the average election year.

Labor History for Kids on FM

A presentation of American labor history for children will be broadcast by the Bay Area's non-profit educational radio station KPFA in a fourteen-week series of programs beginning September 15.

Based on the newest children's book on labor, "Working Men", by Sidney Lens, the program will be heard every Friday afternoon during KPFA's programs for young people between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. at 94.1 megacycles on the FM radio dial.

Told in a style that will make labor's historic struggles clear to youngsters, "Working Men" will include over forty labor songs and songs of the various periods in labor's history.

John Ohliger, who has adapted Lens' book for radio, is a member of AFL-CIO Federation of Teachers Local 1078. Formerly an assistant coordinator of labor programs at UC's Institute of Industrial Relations and educational representative for the Michigan CIO Council, Ohliger has also been a member of several UAW locals.

Lens, whose book has been published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, has written several other books and many articles on the labor movement. An active trade unionist for over thirty years, he now serves as director of a building service employees local in Chicago.

The dates and titles of the fourteen programs are as follows:

Sept. 15 — The Land of Labor (Colonial Days).

Sept. 22 — Workers, Farmers, Slaves, and the American Revolution.

Sept. 29—The First Unions.

Oct. 6—Workies, Phalanxes, and Cooperatives.

Oct. 13 — Slave Labor Leads to War.

Oct. 20—The Gilded Age (Workers and Farmers After the Civil War).

Oct. 27—The Union That Survived (The AFL).

Nov. 3—Historic Strikes.

Nov. 10—Labor's Martyrs (Joe Hill and the IWW).

Nov. 17—The Depression and the Beginning of the New Deal.

Nov. 24 — The Rival that Survived (The CIO).

Dec. 1—Labor Comes of Age.

Dec. 8—World War II and After (The New Era).

Dec. 15—The Unfinished Tasks.

A free sample copy of the current "Folio", KPFA's bi-weekly listener's guide listing details of this and other programs, can be obtained by writing to KPFA, Berkeley 4.

Inquiries regarding possible scheduling by Southern California's Pacifica radio station should be addressed to KPFA, 3729 Cahuenga Blvd., North Hollywood.

Labor's School Debate Kits Available

With the new school year underway, many local unions and councils can expect requests from high school and college students for literature giving labor's point of view on issues relating to the principal debate topics to be employed in the nation's schools during 1961-62.

Although the debates at both educational levels will deal with areas of paramount interest to organized labor, the subject scheduled for the college forensics program cannot miss being of vital concern to every AFL-CIO member in California. Debate teams in our institutions of higher learning will be confronted with the proposition:

"Resolved that labor organizations should be under the jurisdiction of anti-trust legislation."

High school students will concurrently be arguing the pros and cons of an issue which has recently commanded labor's most intensive legislative attention:

"What should be the role of the federal government in education?"

National AFL-CIO has prepared a kit of three pamphlets relevant to the high school debate topic. Similar materials are now in the process of being assembled for the college debate topic. Kits for individual students may be obtained free of charge by writing to Director Lawrence Rogin, AFL-CIO Department of Education, 815 16th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

Lie Detectors on The Job Rebuffed

Rights to vacation pay for an employee discharged due to his refusal to submit to a lie detector test were upheld in court recently in a civil suit brought by the state's Division of Labor Law Enforcement.

The decision, issued by the San Diego Municipal Court, is of far-reaching importance to every employee in the state, according to State Labor Commissioner Sigmund Arywitz.

Legislation to prohibit the use of lie detectors in employment practices was sponsored earlier this year before the state legislature by the California Labor Federation. An interim committee study of the matter has been ordered and is expected to result in legislative recommendations to the next regular session.

The vacation pay case was brought by the division against the Southern California Music Company of San Diego, which denied its liability on the grounds that the employee had not completed the designated period of work to qualify for vacation under the firm's policies.

Municipal Court Judge Eugene Daney, Jr., held that, despite this, the employee was nevertheless entitled to recover vacation pay because he had the right to refuse to submit to a lie detector test. The court reasoned that the employee remaining in employment long enough to qualify for vacation was frustrated by the company through no fault of his own. The judge's decision stated in part:

"The right of the defendant to unilaterally compel the assignors (employees) to a polygraph examination is not an unbridled license, but is circumscribed by the more overwhelming right of individuals to be secure in their right to privacy. . ."

The labor commissioner's office considers this a landmark decision in a little charted area because there have been few court cases involving the question of the right of employees to resist submitting to lie detector tests.

Brown Legislative Record Reviewed

With an eye toward next year's gubernatorial contest, State Director of Industrial Relations John F. Henning took the occasion of Labor Day recently to review major achievements under the Democratic Administration of Governor Edmund G. Brown.

The record presented by Henning is recognized as a formidable challenge to any GOP candidate against Brown.

According to Henning, California working people are "enjoying the most significant socio-economic legislation they have known since the days of Hiram Johnson."

Henning outlined the following measures adopted since Brown took office in January 1959:

Civil Rights

1. Creation of the fair employment practices law banning any employment discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.
2. Extending Civil Rights Act coverage to include prohibition against discrimination on grounds of race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin by business establishments of any kind, and increasing the penalty for violation of the Act.

Social Insurance

3. Boosting maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefits to \$55, an increase of 38 percent.
4. Provision of 13 extended weeks of unemployment benefits for major recession victims.
5. Extending the unemployment disability insurance law to agricultural workers (California is the first and only state in the union providing such coverage).

6. Increasing maximum weekly workmen's compensation benefits for temporary disability to \$70, a boost of 40 percent.
7. Increasing maximum unemployment disability weekly benefits to \$70 and adoption of an escalator clause to relate benefits to wage increases.
8. Increasing accidental death benefits for widows and dependents to \$20,500, an increase of 37 percent.
9. Compulsory workmen's compensation coverage for agricultural workers.

Labor Legislation

10. Extending minimum wage law to women and minors in agriculture.
11. Mandatory annual registration of farm labor camps.
12. Adoption of first agricultural safety orders in the nation.
13. Creation of Agricultural Labor Commission to study problems of labor-management relations in agriculture.
14. Establishment of firemen's right to join labor organizations as public policy.
15. Creation of state employees' health and welfare plan.
16. Adoption of journeyman training law for employed workers facing challenge of automation, a national "first".

Aged

17. Providing state aid for housing of elderly persons of low income.
18. Prohibition of discrimination in job hiring because of age.
19. Increase in basic old age pension from \$90 to \$100 monthly, with provisions for a built-in cost of living escalator clause.
20. Extending medical benefits to 30,000 needy older citizens not eligible for pensions.

21. Relieving 40,000 relatives of old age pensioners of compulsory contribution burden.

Needed Agencies Created

22. Creation of Economic Development Agency to attract new industries and new payrolls.
23. Creation of Governor's Advisory Commission on Housing Problems to provide first state study of total housing crisis.
24. Creation of Office of Consumer Counsel to combat retail selling frauds and unfair business practices.
25. Creation of a Master Plan for Higher Education, coordinating the development of the University of California, the state college and junior college systems.

Federal Employee Labor Relations Hearing Set

Employee-management relations in the federal service will be the subject of presidential task force hearings on September 25 in San Francisco.

The hearing, one of six being held throughout the nation, is the only such session scheduled for the West Coast. It will take place at 9:00 a.m. in Room 258 of the Post Office and Court House Building, located at 7th and Mission Streets.

Purposes of the hearings are to elicit the views of citizens and organizations regarding federal employees' right to join unions, standards for recognizing such unions, participation in grievance and appeals procedures, and related subjects.

A task force, set up by President Kennedy to explore these areas, is chaired by labor secretary Arthur J. Goldberg. Other members include defense secretary Robert S. McNamara, postmaster general J. Edward Day, budget bureau director David E. Bell, civil service commission chairman John W. Macy, Jr. (vice chairman) and presidential counsel Theodore C. Sorensen.

Chairman of the San Francisco hearing panel, comprising part of the task force's activities, will be assistant defense secretary Carlisle P. Runge.

Those wishing to appear at the hearings have been asked to advise the labor secretary in advance of their interest in the matter, the city in which they wish to appear, and the amount of time desired. Written statements may also be submitted into the record through Goldberg's office.

Large Gifts Total Fourth of Political Funds

The importance of broadening participation in labor's political education fund drives was hammered home by reports filed with the Clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives.

More than one-fourth of the money raised during last year's political campaigns was in the form of contributions of \$500 or more by individuals. Political gifts in such amounts accounted for 27.3 percent of the money raised in the 1960 elections, according to AFL-CIO COPE.

Political contributions in this range were recorded for 5,183 individuals. Of the more than \$7.8 million given to political organiza-

tions by this group, over \$5.1 million was earmarked for the Republicans while \$2.5 million benefited Democratic campaigns.

The reports indicate that 334 contributors invested at least \$5,000 each into political war chests. Of the \$2.7 million collected in this manner, 63 per cent went to Republican committees while 37 per cent was destined for Democratic groups.

"Even these figures do not tell the whole story of big money in politics," COPE commented. "The law under which expenditures must be filed does not cover spending in either presidential or Congressional primary campaigns or in state elections."

FORM 3547 REQUESTED

Senate Approves Bacero Wage Improvement

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ley and Riverside, where the prevailing wage is 85 cents an hour. With an average U. S. farm wage rate of 97 cents reported during 1960 by the Department of Agriculture, the McCarthy 90 per cent formula would require a minimum hourly wage for braceros in California of slightly over 87 cents. In other words, Mexican Nationals from one limited region of the state would be benefited by a wage increase of about two cents per hour.

The real significance of the amendment lies in its meaning to corporate farmers in states other than California. In states such as Texas and Arizona, where bracero wages are often far below the state-wide or national average, it appears possible that bracero wages might undergo an increase approaching 20 cents an hour.

Farm bloc leaders and organizations waged a relentless battle for defeat of the McCarthy amendment. As a native of Texas, a prime bracero-using state, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson evidently felt prevailed upon to lobby actively against this reform on the Senate floor, even though official support for the proposal was forthcoming from the White House.

To Californians, the implications of the amendment were greater in terms of the potential legislative picture in Sacramento than they were from the standpoint of any immediate improvement of farm wage rates in this state. A substantial increase in wage rates in other agricultural areas would make major inroads into California grower arguments as to the competitive disadvantage they would suffer if legislation or organization forced a rise in the substandard wages of the workers employed on the state's factory farms.

The fate of the amendment in conference is in doubt, although the conference members from both

Seasonal Gains Brighten State Job Outlook

Seasonal expansion in fruit and vegetable canning during August were primarily responsible for an all time high level of employment in California, paralleled by a reduction in the ranks of the unemployed, according to statistics released by state agencies this week.

The advance of civilian employment to a record 6,230,000 last month was also aided by small seasonal gains in trade and agricul-

chambers assigned to weld agreement upon a single measure are predominantly hostile to any reforms.

As matters stand, the bracero importation program is scheduled to die at the end of December unless extended in some form by Congress. Senate liberals, aided by a tight calendar between now and adjournment date, are insisting upon retention of the McCarthy bracero wage formula. Their position is buttressed primarily by parliamentary maneuvering to delay convening of the conference, coupled with a threat to filibuster the bill to death. Also at work is the possibility of a presidential veto of legislation to renew Public Law 78 in the event no appreciable reforms are included.

The power of the farm bloc found expression in another test vote after passage of the McCarthy amendment. By a 49 to 35 vote, the Senate rejected a proposal by Senator Kenneth B. Keating (R., N.Y.) requiring growers to grant domestic workers the same conditions of employment now enjoyed by Mexican Nationals.

Other McCarthy proposals incorporated into the Senate version of a renewed Public Law 78 were aimed at tightening up existing paper restrictions against braceros operating farm machinery or being employed in other than seasonal activities. These were dismissed as being of no great consequence by farm labor leaders in California.

tural field work, according to state industrial relations director John F. Henning. Total August employment, up 62,000 since July, was above a year ago by 79,000, or by more than one percent.

Unemployment fell from 455,000 in July to 419,000 in August, it was reported by state employment director Irving H. Perluss. In August 1960, some 357,000 Californians were out of a job. The unemployment rate this August was 6.3 per cent, down from the 6.9 per cent rate a month earlier.

The expansion of the state's civilian labor force to the 6,649,000 mark by August, and its deployment during the past twelve months, mirrors the continuing lag in our rate of economic growth.

While the labor force increase numbered some 141,000 more persons over the year, almost 45 per cent of this number were added to the state's jobless statistics.

Largest employment increases since August 1960 were in government, services and trade. Employment in agriculture, construction and mineral extraction continued below year-ago levels.

Manufacturing employment rose by 46,000 since July to a level comparable to that of last year. Manufacturing employment figures have stood below year-earlier totals for the past 14 months.

In addition to the sharp seasonal rise in food processing, small gains were recorded in other manufacturing groups including shipbuilding, aircraft, apparel and electrical equipment.

August marked the first time in six months that employment in aircraft has risen. Despite this gain, employment in the industry was off from a year ago by 13,000.

A slight gain recorded during August in the finance-insurance-real estate industry brought employment in that field to a record total of 295,000.