

U.S. Jobless Rate Still 6.1 Percent

The U.S. Department of Labor reported this week that unemployment in December, 1961 rose seasonally by 100,000 to 4.1 million, leaving the seasonally adjusted rate of joblessness at 6.1 percent—the same adjusted rate recorded in November.

Employment in mid-December, the Department announced, fell to 66.5 million from more than 67.3 million in mid-November. Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg pointed out that nearly all of the decline of about 900,000 came in agricultural employment.

The new figures confirmed AFL-CIO fears that the pace of economic recovery is still insufficient to make a substantial dent in the ranks of the unemployed. Hopes that increased production in the third quarter of 1961 would reduce unemployment to close to 5 percent have not materialized. The October jobless rate was 6.7 percent, and for the last two months it has been stuck at 6.1 percent.

Long-term unemployment continues at an alarming rate.

The Department reported an in-

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Bracero Pay Boost in Imperial Valley

In a strong move to enforce prior rights of employment for domestic workers, federal officials last week increased wage rates to be paid braceros imported from Mexico to work in the Imperial Valley lettuce fields.

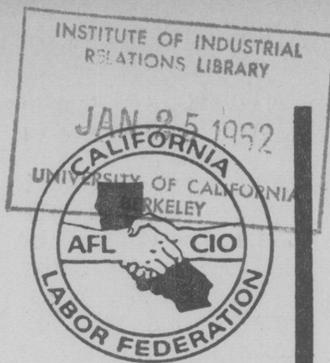
The U.S. Department of Labor ordered that lettuce growers pay their bracero crews a piece rate for field harvesting of 24 cents a carton, or its equivalent.

As an alternative to the 24-cent rate, the Department said that growers could pay 20 cents, with time and a half for work beyond eight hours a day and on Sundays, plus eight holidays, and guarantee a specified hourly wage for three harvesting jobs.

Infuriated growers, recognizing the new order as a threat to their heretofore inexhaustible supply of cheap bracero labor, immediately denounced the increase as "un-American."

The 24 cents a carton rate is far above what the growers have paid before, and three cents more than the farmers agreed they could afford.

Mike Schultz, president of the Imperial Valley Lettuce Growers Association in El Centro, is reported to have exploded:



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

Published by California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO



Weekly News Letter

January 12, 1962
Vol. 3—No. 51

Governor's Statewide Celebration Plans Draw Labor Support

Plans advanced by Governor Edmund G. Brown to celebrate California's new status when it becomes the nation's most populous state on December 21, 1962 have received the support of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Labor's backing of the celebration proposal was wired to the Governor by state AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts following Brown's announcement on TV last Saturday in a "state of the state" message predicting that California will catch up with New York in population a year ahead of schedule.

The Governor said that California's population will overtake New York's on December 21, and that by

January 1, 1963, the state will have 17,347,000 persons, 12,000 more than New York.

In recognition of the historical event, the Governor proposed that the entire state begin now to "plan the biggest party the state has ever seen." He announced that he would appoint a statewide committee of prominent Californians in business and industry, government and labor, and the arts and professions to plan the celebration.

The December 21, 1962 target date for California's taking the lead is based on revised population estimates of the state Department of Finance.

"On that date in 1962," the Governor said, "the balance of the most powerful nation in the world will shift from the Atlantic to the Pacific," adding:

"California, with its dynamic growth, its vigor and vision, will take its rightful position at the top."

Brown, however, cautioned the public on the "vast implications" of the event. "More than ever," he said, "California will be in the world's spotlight as the testing ground for American freedom and enterprise. Our voice in Washington will carry new authority. Our responsibilities will increase many-fold."

Pitts' wire to Brown, while endorsing the celebration idea, placed emphasis on planning an event which reflects the challenges the state must face. The state AFL-CIO leader also applauded the Governor.

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Governor's Celebration Plans Draw Support

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nor's "progressive" administration as one which has demonstrated understanding of growth problems.

The following is the full text of Pitts' wire:

"The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Governor of California
Sacramento 14, California

"The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO warmly applauds your plans to celebrate a truly historic event when California becomes the most populous state in the nation in December 1962.

"The more than 1,375,000 AFL-CIO members in this dynamic state, I am certain, share your thought that this should be 'the biggest party this State has ever seen.' We pledge our wholehearted cooperation with business, industry, civic and social groups which are enthusiastically joining with you to plan a celebration that reflects the momentous nature of the event.

"It is fitting that our golden state should achieve the nation's highest ranking at the close of your progressive Administration's first term of office. In the face of a serious national depression, your leadership has enhanced California's position as the nation's first choice among business men for industrial expansion. Your programs and policies reflect deep understanding that sound growth has its base in a high standard of living economy, in government services and programs to meet the mounting social needs of our exploding population, and a public education system equal to the challenges freedom and democracy must face in the sixties.

"We concur in your statement that 'California will be in the world spotlight as the testing ground for American freedom and enterprise.' Let us plan a celebration that reflects both our pride of achievement and this challenge of growth.

s/s Thos. L. Pitts,
Secretary-Treasurer
California Labor
Federation, AFL-CIO"

In making his prediction that California will pass New York in population in 1962, the Department of Finance used the latest projections of the Bureau of Census and its own projections. The Census Bureau projection is that California will not exceed New York's population until August 1963.

Recent studies of the Department of Finance show, however, that California's daily rate of growth has increased over the Census Bureau's estimates. The Finance study assumes that New York's rate of growth has not changed.

On the reliability of the State Department of Finance's projections, Brown noted that the Department's estimates of the 1960 federal census came within two percent of the actual population count in California—a more accurate prediction than that of the federal Bureau of Census.

Brown's "state of the state" message was presented in a TV broadcast originating in Los Angeles. With the Governor were two of his top aides: Hale Champion, Director of the Department of Finance, and John F. Henning, Administrator of the Employment Relations Agency. Brown pointed out that some 200,000 new families were added to the state in 1961, along with 200,000 new students who required 4,600 new classrooms.

The state, he noted, built 100 miles of freeway and started construction on 400 additional miles. Farmers produced more than \$3 billion worth of crops to again lead the nation in agricultural production.

"As a people we earned \$46 billion last year," he said. "We spent some of it on our 9 million cars and trucks. We bought homes and rugs and appliances and gadgets. And we invested a good share of it in the education of our 3,300,000 students."

The Governor said that "one of our greatest achievements cost us practically nothing." This was a new law changing the emphasis in our public schools to require teachers to have a college education in the subjects they teach.

In welfare, the Governor said that the state is providing county welfare departments with \$1.1 million to devise rehabilitation programs "to help get people on their feet and into useful work again," thus taking them off the welfare rolls. In addition, he added, the state has raised pensions for 280,000 aged, blind and disabled, and will now be providing medical care for an additional 30,000 persons over 65 years of age.

John F. Henning, reporting on employment conditions in the state,

Attorney General Mosk To Seek Reelection

Attorney General Stanley Mosk last week announced his candidacy for reelection as Attorney General of California, stating he found his office "a challenging responsibility which had been met with industry and imagination."

Backed by organized labor in 1958, Mosk received over 3,000,000 votes, defeating his opponent by a 1,150,000 majority in the general election. This was the largest margin achieved by any candidate for any office in the nation that year.

Mosk's decision is viewed by political observers as an important source of strength for the Democratic ticket in the 1962 elections.

In reviewing his record, the Attorney General warned "there are those who would turn the clock back. Unfortunately, some politicians approach the problems of law and law enforcement with a lack of experience and an abundance of emotion. This serves neither the objectives of the law enforcement agencies, nor the people of California, who desire the security of person and property under constitutional guarantee."

Mosk stated that he would seek another four-year term to assure "maintenance of the spirit of cooperation between the state Department of Justice and local agencies."

said that "despite the impact of the national recession of 1960-61, the number of employed workers in California last year reached record heights."

Henning said employment averaged 6,115,000 workers. He predicted that in 1962, total employment will increase by 250,000 to another new record.

There are three principal reasons for the improved employment outlook, said Henning, who is also Director of the Department of Industrial Relations.

These are: the favorable business climate for location of new industry in the state, which is still the first choice of the nation's businessmen for new plant sites; improved purchasing power of consumers, and the anti-recession program of Governor Brown's administration which accelerated construction projects all over the state.

CHARGE NIXON NOT JOINING FIGHT AGAINST ULTRA RIGHT

Speaking before the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. this Monday, Governor Edmund G. Brown charged that Richard M. Nixon is "not joining the fight against the ultra right wing, although these extremists are a strong force in our state and in his party."

In a portion of his speech which denounced by name the John Birch Society and its extremist allies, Brown said that the former Vice President "must choose between principle and opportunism. He has chosen the latter. He has stepped away from those who are fighting the political primitives, and he apparently wants their money and support."

The text of Governor Brown's remarks on the issue, reported in abbreviated form by the daily press, follows:

"I want to mention a separate situation in California that seriously disturbs me. That is the matter of the John Birch Society and its extremist allies.

"Like the extremists of the far left, the forces of the radical right cannot live with the complexities of today — so they escape into simplicity.

"Like the Communists, the radicals of the right have a basic quarrel with democracy because it is complex. It does not offer easy answers.

"Looking for a panacea, the extremists of both left and right seek escape into simplicity — and find that it ultimately turns out to be an escape into authoritarianism.

"Now you may ask: what has all this to do with the California campaign for Governor?

"You may well note that Mr. Nixon is not a John Bircher, and the evidence is that he is not.

"The real problem, however, is that he is not joining the fight against the ultra right wing—although these extremists are a strong force in our state and in his party.

"One important unit of the Republican Party already has swung to the Birchers—while Nixon and other Republican leaders look away.

"Robert Welch claims California

as his main source of both dollars and disciples.

"No other state must admit to having two John Birch representatives in Congress.

"Furthermore, the ultra conservatives have corporate financial support. They are using it to exact concessions from merely conservative Republicans, and to seize control of party organization.

"Late last month, the presidency of the Young Republicans in Los Angeles County was won by a protege of a John Birch member. In their state convention this month, the far-right group will try to capture the entire Young Republican movement in California. They may well succeed.

"All of this places Richard Nixon in a position where he must choose between principle and opportunism. He has chosen the latter. He has stepped away from those who are fighting the political primitives, and he apparently wants their money and support.

"If I run, I want no support from either extreme.

"Mr. Nixon, however, appears on the same platform with Birch candidates and assures them 'there is room in the Republican Party for people who differ.' He goes even farther. He promises to support them if they win in the primaries.

"I would hope that responsible Republicans in California will not

let him walk both sides of the street much longer. He is not fighting the extremists. And the only way to meet this issue is to fight it, in whatever form it turns up.

"People of both parties must recognize that the fanatical spokesmen for the far right, like the Communists, want to escape from the hard trials of today into an oversimplified dream. But in their admiration for men on horseback, they create the climate for dictatorship. . . ."

This Wednesday, in a speech before the Whittier Chamber of Commerce, Nixon attempted to deny Brown's charges.

The former Vice President and candidate for the Republican gubernatorial nomination in California, however, is reported to have carefully steered clear of mentioning any groups or individuals by name in statements which appeared calculated to dissociate himself from extremism.

Calling on "motherhood" to defend him, Nixon is reported to have said:

"The last thing my mother wanted me to do was to get into politics because of the attacks a man in public life must undergo. But I have no regrets for the decision I made 16 years ago. Too many people sit on the sidelines wringing their hands about what a dirty business politics is instead of getting into it themselves and cleaning it up."

State AFL-CIO Teachers Pushing for Collective Bargaining

Maurice Englander, newly-elected president of the California State Federation of Teachers, has announced that the teachers' unit will intensify its drive to gain collective bargaining rights for teachers.

Encouraged by the AFL-CIO victory in New York City, where 43,000 teachers voted two to one for affiliation with the union, Englander said:

"The Federation will call on local school boards to hold bargaining elections, and failing that, will ask the legislature to instruct school districts to allow them to conduct bargaining elections."

Englander, chairman of the English Department of Lowell High School in San Francisco, was elected

president of the Teachers' Federation at its 19th annual convention held recently in Santa Barbara.

Delegates to the convention also heard a prediction in an address by Myron Lieberman that collective bargaining will become widespread in the near future.

Lieberman is a noted educator and author of "Education as a Profession" and "The Future of Public Education." Within ten years, he declared, the American Federation of Teachers will become the major teacher organization—if it meets its responsibilities.

The New York victory was "a turning point," the author and educator said.

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State Union Labor Report

The State Division of Labor Statistics and Research, this week, issued its latest report on "Union Labor in California," confirming figures revealed earlier by News Letter concerning decline in the proportion of organized workers in California during the past decade.

"California labor unions gained 400,000 members in the 1950s," John F. Henning, Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, said in releasing the report prepared under the direction of labor statistics and research chief, Maurice I. Gershenson.

According to the report, union membership in the state rose from 1,335,000 in 1950 to 1,756,000 in

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crease in the number of persons out of work for 15 weeks or more, matching the rise in total unemployment during December. The increase was 100,000, to a total of 1.2 million out of work 15 weeks or more.

Of this total, 660,000 in mid-December were jobless for 27 weeks or more, about the same as in mid-November. The new figures are certain to spur the AFL-CIO's drive for enactment of the Clark bill to provide federal funds for public works projects during periods of recession-level unemployment.

1960, an increase of 30 percent. The rate of growth in union membership levelled off after the middle of the decade. It averaged 3.6 percent yearly in the first half, but dropped to 1.6 percent in the second half.

Of the 400,000 added members, 130,000 are employed in manufacturing, 92,000 in construction, 88,000 in wholesale and retail trade, and 32,000 in federal, state and local government. An estimated 76,000 of the added members are women. Throughout the decade, women members have comprised about a fifth of the total.

"Despite the rapid growth of California unions, membership did not keep pace with the rise in employment," Henning pointed out.

"As a result, the proportion of the state's non-farm work force that is unionized dropped from 43 percent to 36 percent in 1960. Nationally, about 32 percent of non-agricultural wage and salary earners belonged to unions in 1960."

While the total of 1,756,000 union members in July 1960 was the highest ever recorded in California, Henning pointed out that membership in manufacturing industries reached a peak in 1957. The drop thereafter reflected sharp declines in aircraft manufacturing and other metals and machinery industries. In two manufacturing industries—printing and publishing and paper and allied products—membership increased steadily throughout the decade.

Membership in most nonmanufacturing industries gained a rec-

TWO L.A. DAILIES FOLD

The demise of two of Los Angeles' metropolitan newspapers rocked the publishing world last weekend.

The Los Angeles Examiner, a Hearst publication founded in 1903, and the Mirror, founded in 1948 by the Times-Mirror Company when it bought out the liberal Daily News, ceased publication on January 7 and 5 respectively.

Abandonment of the two dailies leaves the metropolitan newspaper field in the area to be divided between another Hearst publication—the afternoon Herald-Express—and the morning Los Angeles Times, owned by the Times-Mirror Company, publishers of the defunct Mirror.

The Hearst Herald-Express will be published under the new name of Herald-Examiner and will add a Sunday edition to its present six-day a week operation.

The Los Angeles Times, a non-union anti-labor publication boycotted by the AFL-CIO movement, continues as a morning publication on a seven-day-a-week basis.

ord high in July 1960. Greatest non-manufacturing gains in the decade were reported in wholesale and retail trade, government and construction.

Copies of this report may be obtained by writing the Division of Labor Statistics and Research, Department of Industrial Relations, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.