

## Pitts Pledges Full Support to President Johnson

"The devastating events of the past several days have brought into focus the tremendous burden of continuity that rests on your shoulders upon assuming the grave obligations of the office of president," Thos. L. Pitts, Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO said in a wire dispatched early this week to the nation's new Chief Executive, President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

"Out of grief and compassion, the working people of California share with the nation, a keen and new sense of unity, fully confident in your leadership, your ability and above all, your dedication to the same human aspirations that endeared the late John F. Kennedy to all freedom-loving people.

"Your commitment to carry on the responsibilities of the office of president is no less than our commitment to assist you in every way possible," Pitts' wire declared.

Earlier, almost immediately after confirmation of President Kennedy's assassination, the National AFL-CIO had pledged its "full support" to President Johnson.

"In this hour of almost inexpressible grief, on behalf of the AFL-CIO I want to express to you our full support as

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**JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY**  
35th President of the United States of America  
May 29, 1917 - Nov. 22, 1963

### Labor Mourns Loss of JFK

Voicing the grief of 1.4 million union members in California, Thos. L. Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, issued the following statement on the assassination of President Kennedy.

"The assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy clearly, cruelly and crushingly demonstrates the impossible price that fanaticism in any form may exact from the nation.

"Seldom has our country called to its highest office a man of such vigor and determination, such ever-ready warmth and wit.

"Seldom have we had a President with such proven courage, such genuine concern for the needs of the working people, the impoverished, and the elderly; or one who so epitomized the vitality embodied in the nation's cherished freedoms.

"In mourning President Kennedy's death we give vent to our own loss as much as we do to his personal martyrdom for he was more than labor's friend; philosophically he was our brother. And we loved him."



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**THOS. L. PITTS**  
Executive  
Secretary-Treasurer

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## **Realtors Rebuff Realtors**

# **Support Mounts To Fight Move by Real Estate Agents To Kill Fair Housing Law**

Support to retain the Rumford Fair Housing measure enacted by the 1963 State Legislature is mounting.

Some of the most prominent members of the California Real Estate Association have placed themselves in direct opposition to the Association's drive for 468,259 signatures on an initiative petition for a Constitutional amendment to repeal the law.

Their action was taken when the California Real Estate Commission voted unanimously late last week to oppose the proposed initiative. All of the Commission's seven members belong to the CREA. The six commission members who were present at the meeting were:

Leonard Seeley, Hayward, past president of the Southern Alameda County Board of Realtors and a past director of the California Real Estate Association; Joseph H. Carter, Eureka, vice president of CREA and a past president of the Eureka-Humboldt County Board of Realtors; Ralph H. Miller, Upland, past president of the Ontario-Upland Board of Realtors and a leader in the CREA education program; John H. Tolan, Jr., Richmond, a builder and an attorney; David Miller, Riverside, member of the Riverside Board of Realtors; Milton G. Gordon, Los Angeles, State Real Estate Commissioner, past secretary of the Westwood Division, Los Angeles Realty Board and a past member of the Board of Governors.

The resolution adopted by the commission directed Commissioner

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### **House OK's \$4.2 Billion Public Works Measure**

The House of Representatives has approved and sent to the Senate a \$4.2 billion public works bill by a vote of 359 to 27.

Some \$2.6 billion would be spent by the Atomic Energy Commission. Among other things the bill would provide funds to finance flood control, harbor improvement and reclamation projects in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1964.

Although the House cut some \$161 million from the AEC requests, it left intact \$782.9 million designated for development and manufacture of nuclear weapons.

Gordon to point out to the state's 144,000 real estate licensees "the importance to the state and nation of eliminating discrimination in housing and of helping licensees to know and to understand their responsibilities and the impact of those state laws relating to their activities in this field."

The Commission's resolution read as follows:

"For many years the laws of this state have said that discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry is against public policy. In furtherance of this, the "Fair Housing Law" was enacted in 1963. This law forces no one to sell or rent to anyone but lays down guidelines to assure equal housing opportunity for all residents of this state regardless of their race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry.

"Believing that it is in the best interests of the people of the State of California to give this law a fair and impartial trial, and since under the provisions of Section 10059 of the Real Estate Law it is the duty and responsibility of the members of the Real Estate Commission to make such recommendations and suggestions as the members deem beneficial and proper for the welfare and progress of the real estate licensees and of the people and of the real estate business in California; now, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED by the Real Estate Commission of the State of California that the Real Estate Commissioner should point out to the licensees of the Division of Real Estate the harm that will be done to the cause of the professional orientation of the real estate business by support of an initiative measure seeking repeal of this recent legislative action by the State Legislature. The commissioner is further urged to take every reasonable action to bring to the attention of the real estate licensees the importance of the state and nation of eliminating discrimination in housing and of helping licensees to know and to understand their responsibilities and the impact of those state laws relating to their activities in this field; we call upon him to urge licensees to participate in groups devoted to the solving of inter-racial problems in every metropolitan area. We ask that he offer to them the help of his office explaining these statutes and in keeping real estate licensees current with developments and activities by the other agencies and groups, that they may do their duty in improving their business relationships and in im-

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## **Projects To Aid School Dropouts Now Underway**

Pilot projects under the Compensatory Education Act designed to help curb school dropouts are now under way in 24 school districts in Northern and Southern California.

The measure authorizing the projects was passed at the last session of the State Legislature. It appropriated \$346,000 to support pilot projects intended to provide new data in techniques of working with disadvantaged youth.

"With these pilot programs we are showing the rest of the nation that the State of California is taking positive action in meeting the serious school drop-out problem," Senator "J" Eugene McAteer, author of the Act, said.

The projects to help children from low socio-economic groups are in operation at the following school districts:

Berkeley, Bishop Union Elementary School, Centinela Valley Union High School, Colusa, Fresno, Kings County, Los Angeles County, Los Nietos Elementary School, Merced City Elementary School, Monterey County, Mt. Diablo, Oakland, Oxnard, Pasadena, Ravenswood City Elementary School, Riverside County, Rodeo Elementary School, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, Sausalito Elementary School, Sequoia Union High School, Stockton and Willowbrook Elementary School.

The San Francisco school program will include 1,350 first and seventh grade pupils of various backgrounds. It intends to make an extensive exploration of resources of the local environment to enrich pupils' learning experiences.

The Willowbrook Elementary project (Compton-Los Angeles County) will include 500 fourth and fifth grade pupils, all of whom are living in an area of very limited economic and cultural resources. This program will establish a transitional fourth-fifth grade which will provide students with more individual attention in counseling, academic and cultural enrichment activities.

Kings County will help ninth and tenth grade students in language enrichment programs, while Riverside County will make use of Spanish-speaking teachers to help children from migratory agricultural families.

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you undertake the grave duties of the presidency," AFL-CIO President George Meany said.

"We are confident that you will carry on the work of John F. Kennedy, which is of such tremendous importance not only to the people of America but to all the free world.

"In that mission and your efforts to meet the many problems that will arise from our domestic and international responsibilities, you will have our complete backing and our prayers," Meany wired.

Expressing the heartfelt condolences of organized labor throughout the nation, Meany also wired Mrs. Kennedy saying:

"No words can express our shock and grief. The president was a great man, and history is certain to regard him as one of our greatest presidents.

"He was a warm friend of all the working people of America and only a week ago it was our great honor and privilege to show him in person the warmth and affection in which we held him. To you and your children go the heartfelt sympathy of millions of workers who admired and loved your husband and who were the beneficiaries of his wisdom and courage and devotion to freedom. We shall always miss him."

The President was struck down by an assassin's bullet shortly before noon on Friday in Dallas, Texas, while on a political tour of the state. He died within one hour of the shooting.

Texas Governor John Connally was seriously injured by the assassin's barrage but is no longer in critical condition.

The prime suspect in the assassination was Lee Harvey Oswald, who was slain Saturday by a Texas night club owner.

Just seven days before the assassination, President Kennedy, who was strongly backed by organized labor in his 1960 presidential campaign, had addressed the AFL-CIO convention at the Americana Hotel in New York City.

At the convention, the late President noted that the AFL-CIO "may have had something to do with" the narrow 116,000 plurality by which he defeated former Vice President Richard M. Nixon. He had told the delegates that he was deeply concerned about the nation's persistent 5.5 percent unemployment rate and had declared that the nation's "No. 1 domestic issue" was jobs and economic needs.

"The forces of freedom are still in the majority around the world because the U. S. has been willing to bear the burden" of leadership of the free world for the past 18 years. But, he warned, the nation can maintain this burden

## Governor Brown Pinpoints Faults of MAA, Urges OK for King-Anderson Bill

The Kerr-Mills approach to medical care for the aged "is not and can never be the answer to this problem," Governor Edmund G. Brown declared in testimony presented to the House Ways and Means Committee which is considering the Administration's proposal for a national system of medical insurance for the aged under the social security system.

The King-Anderson measure embodying the Administration's proposal "offers the American people the opportunity to save systematically during the active, working years of their lives to protect their health and economic security during their later years," the Governor said.

Brown's testimony, which was delivered to the committee by John M. Wedemeyer, State Director of Social Welfare, pointed out that the measure "provides the opportunity to do this through a system of contributory social insurance that has proved itself fiscally sound and in keeping with American principles of self reliance and human dignity."

Three years of experience with California's medical assistance to the aged program under Kerr-Mills has demonstrated that the Kerr-

only if we provide for a growing and buoyant and progressive economy here."

During less than three years in office, President Kennedy had fought for many programs in the field of civil rights, jobs, social security, education, housing and tax reduction which were strongly backed by the AFL-CIO.

In May, 1961, he signed a new minimum wage bill that raised the minimum and simultaneously extended protection to millions of workers not previously covered for the first time since the original law was enacted in 1938.

President Johnson, having served 12 years in the House of Representatives and 12 years in the Senate, brings a wealth of legislative experience and ability to the White House.

In the course of his two years and ten months as Vice President, Johnson, who was personally chosen by Kennedy as his running mate in 1960, has been particularly concerned with the field of civil rights. As Chairman of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, Johnson has pressed both industry and labor to give full implementation to principles of equality in the job field.

As Senate majority leader in 1957 and again in 1960, Johnson was a prime force in the passage of the first civil rights measures to win Congressional approval in more than 90 years. These measures, although inadequate in guaranteeing voting rights, served at least to substantiate Congressional recognition of the need for reforms.

Mills public assistance approach will not solve the older citizen's need for costly comprehensive medical care at a time in his life when he is least able to afford it, the Governor explained.

The State's Chief Executive spelled out his dissatisfaction with the Kerr-Mills approach and cited the following specific objections:

- Kerr-Mills (MAA) does not offer comprehensive medical care for short- and long-term illnesses.
- At great cost to the state, local and federal governments, it covers less than 25 percent of the 142,000 Californians over age 65 with an income of less than \$2,000 a year who require hospital care each year.
- The cost of making MAA in California a comprehensive short-and-long-term medical care program would bankrupt the state and county governments.

"Each year more than 100,000 low income older people are admitted to California hospitals for periods of less than 30 days. . . . If we were to provide comprehensive hospital care from the day of admission our 1964-65 estimated total MAA costs of \$142,000,000 would be increased by \$54 million. Of this increase, \$13.5 million would come from the State general fund and a like amount from the counties which would make necessary, on a statewide basis, an increase in the county property tax rate of 3.8 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

"If we were to follow the American Medical Association's recommendation to liberalize eligibility standards — and this would have to be done by increasing the personal property holdings exemption from \$1,200 to the recommended \$5,000 — we would add an additional \$88 million to the 1964-65 costs. The county share of this increase, \$22 million, would add another 6.2 cents to the county property tax rate.

"I submit that if California is unable to shoulder this load, the less affluent states must be in even a more distressing situation," Governor Brown's statement said.

He also objected to provisions in the Kerr-Mills program which make it necessary for older people to exhaust their personal resources before becoming eligible for aid because this tends to encourage indigence and dependence. The King-Anderson proposal would "go

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## Governor Brown Pinpoints Faults of MAA, Urges OK for King-Anderson Bill

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far in preventing older people from becoming dependent on public support or other sources because of illness," Brown pointed out.

Contrary to fears voiced by private insurance company lobbyists, the Governor said he felt that passage of the King-Anderson legislation "would encourage private health insurance as a source of financial protection in addition to the basic services the bill would provide."

"Even recent efforts by Blue Cross and Blue Shield and private commercial companies have resulted in policies that are still too expensive and contain many exclusions and restrictions.

"For instance, the newly announced plan of the Western 65 Health Insurance Association . . . offers a basic hospital policy paying up to only \$20 per day for hospital room and board for 31 days hospitalization plus \$200 related in-patient care which would cost an aged single person \$132 a year and a married couple \$264. For a more comprehensive policy, the annual premium cost would be \$276 for single persons and \$552 for a couple.

"I am convinced," the Governor declared, "that the ability of private health insurance to provide truly low cost policies offering broader coverage would be substantially enhanced if they were developed to supplement a basic program of benefits available to all older people."

The overriding advantage of the King-Anderson proposal (HR 3920) is its method of financing, the Governor asserted. The measure would be financed by a boost in the social security contribution rate of one quarter of one

percent on both the employer and employee up to the first \$5,200 of earnings. This would amount to \$13 per year per worker.

"This is a small price," the Governor said, for the working people of this country to pay for "basic insurance against the costs of health care in their retirement years." It would also serve as a bulwark "against having to ask for public aid after a lifetime of personal self-reliance," he added.

The problem of providing Americans, now and in the future, with a method of meeting the costs of illnesses that are the inevitable companions of old age is a "central human problem of American society in the second half of the twentieth century," Brown said.

It represents "one of the cruelest paradoxes of our society . . . that, at a time in the life of man when the human need for medical care is greater than at any time since birth, the ability to pay for that care is at its ebb point . . .

"The human result of this paradox makes mockery of what has been called man's golden years. Men and women, who in their active, working years contributed so much to the prosperity, strength and security of our country find they must surrender the independence of a lifetime in exchange for the costly medical attention demanded by illness . . .

"The old suffer from the workings of this paradox. The young suffer as it affects the lives of their aged parents and will suffer directly when they grow old.

"The bill before you now offers our country the opportunity to erase that paradox and the ill effect it has on the lives of every man, woman and child in the United States," the Governor declared.

## Fair Housing Law Gains Defenders

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plementing their responsibilities as law-abiding citizens."

In Contra Costa County the Richmond City Council voted its unanimous opposition to the initiative movement and called on directors of the West Contra Costa Board of Realtors to oppose it. The Richmond Council also asked the realtors board to poll its members on the issue.

The organization of groups to support the law in opposition to the CREA's drive to repeal it was also apparently in progress in a number of other communities throughout the state, including Berkeley and Palo Alto.

In the course of a day-long conference on "Race and Property" at the Claremont Hotel in Oakland, Professor Richard R. B. Powell pointed out:

**"One cannot use what he owns in a fashion harmful to the community of which he is a part."**

This is an old idea, Powell, author of a definitive, six-volume work on real property, declared. It started with the time when the first fire regulations were passed. It continued with zoning regulations and with laws requiring landlords to abide by decent health standards, he pointed out.

With one exception, the speakers at the conference generally agreed that the government has as much right to end discrimination in housing as it did to free the slaves, get children out of sweatshops and close down brothels.

The exception came in the lone dissent by a spokesman for CREA who contended that "voluntary action" would be sufficient.

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