

Top GOP Leader Quits Post To Fight Right Wing Peril

One of California's top Republican leaders has resigned a key post that would have assured him considerable influence at the Republican National Convention in San Francisco next July declaring:

"The compelling reason for my decision is the desire to do my part to prevent the Republican party in California from becoming a branch of the John Birch Society."

That's what Joseph Martin, Jr., Republican National Committeeman for California for the last three and a half years, said in submitting his resignation last week.

Martin, who would have been chief host and a key dispenser of patronage and favors at the GOP national convention, said the action taken at the recent state convention of the California Young Republicans convinced him to abandon his position of neutrality. The Young Republicans voted not to pledge support to any Republican candidate other than "one of their choice," Martin explained.

"I was shocked to see acknowledged Birchers leading the Young Republicans" into that move, he said.

"Like all fanatics, the Birchers are dedicated, unscrupulous and well organized," Martin warned.

"All who do not give 100 percent devotion to the rightists' neo-fascist doctrines will be excluded from the

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Gruhn Pinpoints Realities of Farm Labor Problem at Bakersfield Conference

Zeroing in on the realities of California's farm labor problem, Albin J. Gruhn, keynote speaker at the annual conference of Families Who Follow The Crops in Bakersfield last week, declared that the "primary causal factor" in the farm labor problem is "the abysmally low annual family incomes in this industry."

To develop meaningful and effective programs to cope with this situation, Gruhn,

president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, called on the more than 400 conference participants not to be taken in by the grower-conceived "mirage of 50,000 families marching into California next New Year's Day," and to concentrate instead on:

- Means to raise farm labor wages.
- The unnecessarily abbreviated length of the work year for farm workers.
- Exclusion of farm workers from much of the social legislation such as unemployment insurance which has long been enjoyed by all other men and women working even in seasonal industries.
- The lack of opportunity for farm workers to bargain collectively or to speak their piece collectively in the community, the state legislature or in Congress.
- The gross inadequacy of housing

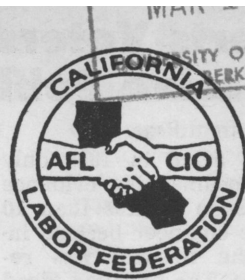
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Mosk Won't Run For Senate Seat

Attorney General Stanley Mosk announced Wednesday that he would not enter the race for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by U.S. Senator Clair Engle (D. Red Bluff).

Mosk's decision followed an appeal to him not to run by Governor Edmund G. Brown because of the internal strife his candidacy might create in the Democratic Party.

State Controller Alan Cranston won the endorsement of the California Democratic Council, which represents some 70,000 Democratic Club members, two weeks ago. Senator Engle has apparently not recovered sufficiently from a brain operation he underwent last year to convince Democrats to back his candidacy for reelection.



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
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Pitts Alerts Voters to Railroads' Drive To Deceive Public on Safety Issue

"Californians who believe it is better to be safe than sorry should not fall prey to the current attempt by the California Railroad Association to badger them into supporting an initiative act to repeal the state's 'full crew' law," Thos. L. Pitts, state AFL-CIO leader, warned this week. Responding to the disclosure that the Railroad Association had requested a title and summary from Attorney General Stanley Mosk for an initiative move to eliminate the law, Pitts, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, declared:

"The very fact that the state legislature saw fit to amend the act just a few years ago in 1959 to make it apply to diesel locomotives puts the lie to the Association's claim that all they are trying to do is rid the law books of what they call 'obsolete excess crew laws.'

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Governor's Report Cites Shortcomings In State Economy

An increasing number of Californians are being denied an opportunity to "share in the fruits of our economic abundance," as hard-core groups of the unemployed and the poverty-stricken "walk in the shadows of our ever-higher economic plateau."

This was one of the dominant themes that emerged from Governor Brown's first economic report to the legislature, the submission of which on Monday marked the return of the lawmakers to Sacramento this week for resumption of legislative battles over the state's proposed \$3.66 billion budget and a number of controversial items on special session "call."

The Governor's economic message—required by 1963 legislation directing the state to promote full employment—was more specific in depicting the many economic problems confronting the state than it was in delineating areas of state responsibility for action programs and in making recommendations to the legislature.

JOB GROWTH FALLS SHORT

Governor Brown used strong language to decry the failure of job opportunities to keep pace with the expansion of the labor force. The creation of 189,000 new jobs in 1963, he pointed out, fell short of the 211,000 added to the labor force last year. The report anticipates that state unemployment, which averaged 411,000 in 1963, will increase to 425,000 this year.

"This would mean," the report added, "that unless we do considerably better

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party councils. . . . The voice of the party will be the voice of the Birchers and the Minutemen. Only candidates with extremist views will receive party support. Completely losing touch with political realities, the party will deteriorate into an angry faction.

"This cannot be permitted to happen," Martin asserted.

"In short, the stakes in June are nothing more or less than the survival of our party. A loss to the radical right will destroy the possibility of Republican effectiveness for many years, if not forever," he warned.

The Birch Society's takeover of the Young Republican convention, Martin said, "convinced me that the rights and dignity of the dissenter are in danger. It convinced me that the time had come for moderates to stand up and be counted."

While making it clear that he does not regard Senator Barry Goldwater or former Senator William F. Knowland, Goldwater's California campaign chairman, as Birchers or right wing extremists, he said that they and those like them who are true Republican conservatives "will soon be swept aside."

"The extremists will control the entire party machinery as completely as they now apparently control the Young Republicans. The result will be even more tragic," he warned.

In deciding to support New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller's candidacy, Martin said he disagreed with Goldwater's position on the United Nations and on civil rights.

"I cannot support the idea that the responsibility for finding a solution to the civil rights question should be turned over to Faubus, Wallace, Barnett and company. . . . It is the proper sphere of the government," he declared.

Martin's statement apparently had a sobering effect on the deliberations of the candidates committee of the California Republican Assembly. A subcommittee of the CRA had voted Saturday 12 to 8 to endorse Goldwater but the following day the full committee voted 36 to 9 to make no endorsement for the Presidential nomination. This had the effect of delaying any endorsement by the CRA until the state convention in Fresno on March 13-15.

Although Knowland subsequently attacked Martin as "the political hatchetman for the Eastern liberal establishment," the San Francisco Chronicle regarded Martin's statement as "An Alarm Bell for Republicans" and said that in the light of the post he abandoned to back Rockefeller his action "cannot be dismissed as just another move by a politician to jump into another politician's camp."

Pitts Alerts Voters to Railroads' Drive To Deceive Public on Safety Issue

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"The legislature acted in 1959 only after examining documentary evidence of 33 cases in a span of less than 10 years in which the engineer became incapacitated and the fireman was required to take over. The so-called 'dead man's control' on some modern diesels is a floor pedal. When an engineer is stricken his foot generally stays on it and no brakes are applied until it is removed," Pitts explained.

"An official of a large eastern railroad stated they would have 10 'dead man's controls' on every locomotive if it would prevent accidents but he said he felt that the best safety factor was an engineer supported by his fireman in the cab," Pitts added.

"The truth of the matter is that—knowing they can't get responsible legislators to sacrifice public safety to private profit — they're undertaking to subvert the real purpose of the initiative process by hoodwinking California voters into compromising their own safety not only as rail passengers but as motorists venturing across highway rail crossings," Pitts said.

"The Association's claim that freight trains 'are required to carry three men in the cab, including a fireman,' is patently untrue and the railroad operators know it," Pitts asserted.

"They attempt to mislead the public by pretending that the fireman's job has disappeared. In point of fact, it is only his title that has become a misnomer. His job has now evolved to one amounting to that of an assistant engineer who serves as a repairman, signal passer and lookout in addition to many other duties. In many cases the fireman is required to care for as many as 10 diesel units in a single train.

"His job on high speed diesel locomotives has become increasingly necessary rather than less so from a safety standpoint as the railroads have accelerated their speed of operation.

"While these trains are in motion there are generally only the engineer and the fireman in the cab. The brakeman has duties that require his

"There are several million moderate, rational, mentally sound Californians who consider themselves members of the GOP and who have pride in the past record and responsible role of their party. This warning of ex-national committeeman Martin is addressed to them. We say it is courageous and of the highest urgency," the Chronicle editorialized.

Other key Republican leaders backing Rockefeller's candidacy include: Senator Thomas H. Kuchel, Ex-Gov. Goodwin Knight, San Francisco's ex-Mayor George Christopher, and state Senator John F. McCarthy of Marin.

absence from the cab the bulk of the time. If the engineer suffers a heart attack or seizure of some sort — and this has occurred on a number of occasions in California in the past five years—his foot remains on the 'dead man's control' and the train hurtles onward to disaster unless there is someone else in the cab to take over," the labor official said.

William V. Ellis, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, corroborated Pitts' objection to the initiative and said the initiative itself as well as the press release and so-called fact sheet released by the Association contained a "welter of distortions and direct misstatements."

For example Ellis cited the fact that 16 states in the nation had seen fit, in the interests of the safety of their citizenry, to enact 'full crew' laws.

"When nearly one-third of the nation's states have seen fit, after careful deliberations, and despite the persistent opposition to virtually all safety measures by the railroad operators, to enact such laws, then it is hardly fair to attempt to dismiss their action by referring to them as just 'a few states' as the railroad operators have done.

"Moreover, the resolution of the train crew unit issue has not, contrary to the Railroad Association's claim, yet been resolved either in the courts or by negotiation," Ellis pointed out.

"Finally, he public must not be deceived. The issue is safety, pure and simple," Ellis declared.

The State Attorney General's office accorded the Railroad Association's initiative, which will require 468,259 valid signatures, the following title and summary:

"RAILROAD TRAIN CREWS. INITIATIVE. Declares state policy on manning trains. Provides that Award No. 282 of Federal Arbitration Board on manning of diesel-powered freight trains shall be effective in California and that no state law or regulation shall prevent a railroad from manning trains in accordance with federal legislation or awards pursuant thereto, or collective bargaining agreements. Repeals initiative provision on crews required for freight, mixed or work trains, and right of State Public Utilities Commission to determine number of brakemen on all trains, and repeals other legislation concerning crews on certain kinds of trains."

"Read this closely and you'll find that the railroads are simply seeking to eliminate, in one grand sweep, protective legislation and other regulations to safeguard the public that have resulted from tragic train wrecks in the past," Pitts asserted.

"Don't fall for it," he urged.

Governor's Report Cites Shortcomings In State Economy

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in providing new jobs, unemployment will continue at the 6 percent rate."

One table in the Governor's economic report gives an indication of just how poorly the state's unemployment insurance program is working as a system designed to maintain a floor on purchasing power and lighten some of the burden imposed on individual jobless workers and their families. The table reveals that less than 55 percent of the state's 411,000 jobless workers in 1963 were effectively covered by either state or federal unemployment insurance laws.

In an earlier request for special session consideration of unemployment insurance improvements, the Federation pointed out that the combination of this low level of effective coverage and a grossly inadequate benefits structure means that the program is providing compensation for only about 25 percent of lost wages due to unemployment.

The Governor's report, however, makes no mention of the obvious need to improve the unemployment insurance program. Neither has the Governor added this subject to his special session "call."

NEW WEAPONS NEEDED

On the broad poverty front, the Governor said that California "long ago enlisted" in the unconditional war declared against deprivation by President Lyndon B. Johnson. However, he declared, "We must expand the range of our weapons, and we must develop new ones to fit the shifting thrusts of our problem."

Brown pointed out that despite California's generally high level of personal income, "at least one million Californians in families of four or larger have a 'bare subsistence' annual income of less than \$4,000 . . . and half of this number struggle with a 'poverty' income of less than \$2,000."

The economic report, Brown said, makes these three facts abundantly clear:

- "First, our economic evolution has placed an increasing premium on skills and education in our labor force. Indeed, some say we are undergoing not an evolution, but a profound technological revolution. The illiterate, the under-educated, the unskilled, will face ever-diminishing job opportunities.
- "Second, our minority group citizens—particularly the Negro and the Mexican-American—are victimized disproportionately by the new technology . . . Our challenge is to compensate for a century of discrimination and disadvantage in a desperately short period of time.
- "Third, while we expect no precipitous decline in the level of fed-

eral spending in our state for defense and space purposes, we cannot expect the heretofore steady expansion of these activities to continue. There may well be some decline."

In the area of economic growth, the Governor said "we must launch more energetic and better coordinated programs to attract industry to our state, to promote the diversification of defense-oriented industries, to expand our foreign trade and promote tourism."

ACTION RECOMMENDED

In this connection, he again recommended special session action by the legislature to create an Office of California Development to direct statewide programs to stimulate industrial development and diversification, expand exports and promote tourism.

The proposal is contained in AB 27 (Crown), which would consolidate the activities of the present World Trade Center Authority and Economic Development Agency while adding a new program of tourism and visitors' services. A \$593,000 appropriation is recommended for the new office, and only about half of this minimal amount would come from new funds.

The dependence of California's economic health on federal fiscal and monetary policies was emphasized throughout the Governor's report, particularly on the demand side in connection with federal defense spending and the state's industrial diversification problem. "We can supplement federal policy, but we cannot supplant it," Governor Brown pointed out.

In cooperation with federal authorities he recommended:

- Finding better ways of repairing local economic disruptions.
- Developing early warning systems on contract phase-outs, the closing of federal installations and on broad procurement policy shifts.
- A more deliberate federal policy to offset reductions in defense investment with investments to meet the vast unmet social needs of our state and nation.

"If we need less rockets, we need more recreation facilities. If Sky Bolt is phased out, schools should be phased in. If we can do with less military hardware, we can do with more mental hygiene," Brown declared. The unmet public needs of the state are "staggering," Brown said, as he reviewed immediate project needs running into several billions of dollars.

On the education and job-training front, the Governor stressed that with the new industrial revolution placing increasing emphasis on skills and education in the labor force, California must put increasing emphasis on vocational training and on programs for the

"functionally illiterate." Generalized recommendations drew focus on job training as a continuing process requiring an updating and expansion of existing programs both on-the-job and in vocational education.

In a section of the economic report on equal opportunities, Governor Brown said the major task ahead is "the preservation and implementation of our present laws." For example, he said, "retention of the Rumford Fair Housing Act is as important to our economy as it is to our sense of justice. It will stimulate demand for new housing and lead to overdue destruction of our trap ghettos, the costly breeding grounds of crime, illiteracy, poverty and hopelessness."

HOUSING PROBLEMS CITED

The success of the state's Fair Housing law in this regard, however, is also closely dependent upon the development of economic housing programs. Governor Brown sketched the following profile of California's housing problem, based on the findings of his Commission on Housing Problems:

- Some 700,000 California dwellings, or about 13.5 percent of the total, lack plumbing facilities or are so decayed that they fail to measure up to federal standards as "sound" housing.
- Nearly 400,000 Californians are forced to pay 35 percent or more of their income for rent because the supply of low cost housing is too limited to meet the demand.
- Nearly 65 percent of the dwellings occupied by domestic field workers in a six community survey were found to be dilapidated or deteriorated.
- More than 80 percent of farm worker families in the same areas lived in dwellings which violate standards of health, safety and comfort; pit privies still served 33 percent of the dwellings occupied by the field workers.

In addition:

- One third of the families in Los Angeles and San Francisco do not earn enough to buy the lowest priced houses on the California market. If present trends continue, their ability to pay will go down, not up. The cost of living in general has risen 33 percent since 1950. The cost of housing has risen 42 percent.
- More than 60 percent of California's elderly couples, widows and widowers live on incomes of \$2,000 a year and less. The rents they can pay are meager and so are the quarters their rent payments buy.

Against these needs, Governor Brown again called upon the legislature in special session to create a state Office of Housing and Community Development to help promote, develop and coordinate programs which will expand

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and field toilet and hand washing facilities for field workers.

In the course of his address, Gruhn scotched a number of the dire predictions that have been bruited about in the daily press recently regarding the impact of the end of the bracero program.

For example, the contention that farm wages in California are superior to those prevailing in other states was refuted when Gruhn pointed out that, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture figures, farm wages in California "were inferior to the hourly rates in effect in Washington and in three eastern states, the same as those in Utah, and only one to three cents above those in Oregon, Nevada and Idaho."

Moreover, he added, the other two west coast states (Washington and Oregon) "both attracted greater numbers of interstate migrants at peak season than California despite their much smaller agricultural economies and greater distances from migrant centers."

The reasons why only 15,000 interstate migrants were attracted to seasonal California farm jobs are readily apparent, the state labor leader said.

First, wage rates simply "were not attractive enough." Secondly, "bitter experience had left them (the interstate migrants) quite realistic as to the difficulty of obtaining steady work in California even during the harvest season in competition with the bracero" despite the bracero law's supposed guarantee that domestic workers be given prior rights to jobs.

Interestingly, both Washington and Oregon have harvested their crops virtually without the use of braceros due largely to conscientious efforts in both states to implement the Annual Worker Program, he added.

Referring indirectly to the claim that Californians won't do stoop labor, Gruhn noted that during the peak of the 1963 season there were 309,000 hired farm workers on California farms according to the Department of Employment.

"Over 68 percent of these—211,000 in all—were local residents employed on either a seasonal or year-round basis. Another 33,000 were Californians working for the time being at harvest jobs away from their permanent home communities," Gruhn said.

Thus, he explained, "more than 244,000 of the 309,000 hired workers employed at the peak season last year were Californians. That left slightly over 20 percent of last year's peak labor force—64,700 to be exact—to be filled by other sources. A little over 49,000 of these were braceros while only 15,500 were interstate migrants," he pointed out.

"If almost a quarter million Californians worked in the State's agriculture at the present level of wages, who can deny that many more thousands would be attracted if, for example, wages rose into the \$1.25 to \$1.50 an hour range? And who would venture to predict what would happen if wages began to seriously approach those prevailing in the rest of the economy?" Gruhn asked.

Paradoxically, he said, "the end of the bracero program stands an excellent chance of becoming a major boon to the bulk of California's farmers."

"This," he explained, "is because the needs of the huge diversified corporate farming operations and those of independent farmers who depend for their livelihood strictly on the price of their crops," are different.

"While the independent farmer (who puts much of his own labor into his produce) wants to maximize the price of his product, the corporate farm (the employer of the vast bulk of bracero labor) often is interested primarily in keeping the price of the commodity as low as possible to maximize sales volume and profits from his canning, freezing, and other integrated operations."

Therefore, Gruhn said, increased wages would place pressures on the large grower-processor interests to bring production more into line with effective demand, thereby yielding a significantly higher price to all growers for their products.

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the supply of decent housing available to Californians, with immediate emphasis on housing for farm workers.

Legislation being advanced, however, would result in the creation of only a skeleton office with a proposed budget of only \$81,000 and virtually no program authority.

In the economic report, great stress is placed on the need for "new tools and new techniques for land development and . . . a focus for solving our housing problems."

It is in this area that the proposed special session legislation is most deficient, despite the prospect of new federal legislation that would require state development of such tools and techniques.

"All of this brings us back to the growers' need for an efficient and stabilized domestic farm labor force of adequate size and the workers' need for the greatest possible amount of employment during the year at decent wages," the Federation's president declared.

"Organized labor can and must play the major role in bringing order out of the present confusion," he said, noting that the hiring hall function of a union "would be particularly important to women and young people who could become a part of this labor force if it did not involve assembling on a street in a rundown area of town in the wee hours of the morning or driving almost aimlessly around the countryside to find employment."

"Ultimately," Gruhn asserted, "the only conceivable key to a stable labor force lies in the area of recognizing the people involved as normal human beings with normal needs and aspirations. . . . It boils down to the need for satisfying the basic requirements to give a man dignity in his daily life. In the labor-management relationship, it is obvious that this can't be realized unless the worker has a meaningful voice in determining the mutual understandings and conditions of that relationship."

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