



**TAKING CHARGE**—AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland and Secretary-Treasurer Thomas R. Donahue confer during the recent AFL-CIO convention in Washington, D.C. Both were elected by the delegates by acclamation to two-year terms.

## Fed Parleys to Eye Labor's Political Action Alternatives

Two educational conferences on "Politics in the '80's" will be held by the California Labor Federation next year to air organized labor's growing discontent with the existing political structure, John F. Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO, announced this week.

Henning said that the decision to hold the conferences — one during the first half of 1980 and the other later in the year — was made at a special meeting in-

volving the principal officers of labor councils throughout the state and the Executive Council in Anaheim last week.

The sense of the meeting, Henning said, was that creation of a Labor Party was not immediately feasible but a great deal of frustration with the existing party system was voiced, particularly the lack of a liberal alternative to the growing conservatism of the Democratic Party.

Henning said that the educational conferences on "Politics in the '80's" would also take up the questions of coalition politics, public financing and campaign spending limitations as well as the relationship of the California AFL-CIO with such recently formed bodies as Social Democrats, U.S.A.; the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee; and the Democratic Agenda.

## Labor & Coalition Push for National Health Care Plan

The AFL-CIO and a coalition of 70 national organizations prodded Congress to enact a "long overdue" comprehensive national health care program that would be "accessible to all and affordable by all."

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, in a statement prepared for a joint session of two House subcommittees, called for an end to the "social class distinction" that relates the quality of health services to the affluence of the patient.

The coalition case for passage of the labor-supported Health Care for All Americans Act was presented by UAW President Douglas A. Fraser, who is chairman of the Committee for National Health Insurance. Kirkland is secretary of the coalition.

Their common theme was that patchwork solutions won't work.

They warned that a program limited to "catastrophic" insurance would speed up an inflationary spiral, and an Administration proposal involving deductibles and copayment would perpetuate existing inequalities.

By contrast, Kirkland declared, the comprehensive health care bill sponsored by Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.) and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.)

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## DEADLINE IS FEB. 15

# 33 \$500 Scholarships at Stake in State Fed Contest

Thirty-three \$500 college scholarships are being offered to graduating seniors in California's public and private high schools in the California Labor Federation's 30th annual scholarship awards program.

Brochures announcing the contest have already been sent to public, private and parochial schools throughout the state. Graduating seniors interested in competing in the contest should contact the principal of their high school for details on the contest.

In announcing the 1980 competition, the Federation said:

"In all the free nations of industrial significance across the globe, labor unions share in the determination of economic, social and political destinies of their respective societies.

"While this has been especially true in the advanced nations of western culture and tradition, it is also increasingly the way in the developing nations. Thus, Labor is necessarily of interest to students of today's world.

"Certainly all Americans who would review the course of their own nation must give thought and study to both the history and

present purposes of unionism here at home.

"We propose that you study American Labor with the objective mind of the scholar. We believe such study will enrich your knowledge of our national past and its unfolding future. In this belief we invite your participation in our scholarship program."

The brochure, which was also sent to all California AFL-CIO affiliates, points out that applica-

tions to compete in the contest must be received from the principal of the applicant's high school not later than **February 15, 1980** along with a transcript of the student's high school record.

The competitive, two-hour examination will be held in each high school where applicants have filed on **Thursday, March 20, 1980.**

The examination is designed to  
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## Calif. AFL-CIO Opposes Jarvis II Tax Cut Proposal

The California Labor Federation has become the first major statewide organization in the state to announce its opposition to a new constitutional amendment being pushed by Howard Jarvis that would chop more than \$5 billion from the state's 1980-81 fiscal year revenues by cutting personal income taxes in half.

The Federation's Executive Council, which represents the state's 1.7 million AFL-CIO union members, voted unanimously at a two-day meeting in Anaheim last week to oppose the measure.

John F. Henning, the State AFL-CIO's executive officer, said that it would be "the worst of follies for the citizens of this state to approve such a crippling slash in the state's only tax that's based on the fair principle of 'ability to pay' when a state study shows that the full crippling impact of Proposition 13 will be felt within the next two years.

"The restrictions of these two measures would mean an absolute disaster for governmental services in California," Henning warned.

Jarvis II, as it is known, would cement into the state constitution a provision asserting that "taxes on or measured by income which are imposed under the personal  
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## Fed to Help Local Unions Set Up Alcoholism Projects

The California Labor Federation will serve as a clearing house to assist local unions and councils in establishing programs to combat alcoholism among their members.

John F. Henning, executive officer of the State AFL-CIO, announced this to the 100 people attending the Federation's educational conference on "Labor's Concerns with Alcoholism" at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim.

He told the participants he would soon be communicating with

affiliates of the Federation advising them of this service.

Henning's administrative assistant, Doug Barrett, has been designated as the contact in the Federation's San Francisco office. He will be assisted by Bill Combs of IAM District 141, Director of the California Labor Management Plan for Alcoholism Programs and Coordinators, and program chairman for the conference.

Bob Scott, project manager for  
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## Tax Simplicity Act Wins State AFL-CIO Backing

The Executive Council of the California AFL-CIO has announced its support of the signature gathering campaign for the Tax Simplicity Act, a statutory initiative that would give 7.2 million California income taxpayers a \$329.00 tax cut by wiping out tax loopholes and reducing the state's income tax form to one page.

Circulation of petitions for the initiative is expected to get underway early in January, with 346,119 valid signatures required to qualify it for the November 1980 general election ballot.

The Council acted at its meeting in Anaheim Dec. 5-6.

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## Attack on Reclamation Law Seen as Taxpayer Ripoff

(Editor's Note — Dr. Paul S. Taylor, professor of Economics Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, is one of the nation's foremost experts on U.S. reclamation law, having fought for its enforcement for nearly 50 years. He has written extensively on the subject, testified repeatedly before various congressional committees, served as a congressional consultant and as a consultant to the California AFL-CIO. From 1943 to 1952 he served as a consultant to U. S. Interior Secretary Harold Ickes. Both the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals and the U. S. Supreme Court have cited his studies in their decisions. In the following article he voices grave concern about legislation (S. 14) passed by the Senate earlier this year and now due for House action, which, he says, would rip the nation's "historic land and water policy from stem to stern" and permit wealthy landowners and corporate interests to continue to monopolize land reclaimed at the public's expense that was intended to be made available to family farmers.)

By PAUL S. TAYLOR

Congress and President Theodore Roosevelt decided in 1902 to open the door of the national treasury to finance irrigation works — dams, reservoirs and canals — necessary to enable landless farm families in the East and South to make homes in the arid West.

When Congressman Oscar Underwood, of Alabama, threw southern support behind the reclamation bill its passage was assured. He said:

"If this policy is not undertaken now, this great Western desert will ultimately be acquired by individuals and great corporations. . . . Then it will be impossible to ever convert it into homestead lands for our own people. . . . It is in the interest of the man who earns his bread by his daily toil. It gives him a place where he can go and be free and independent; it gives him an opportunity to be an owner of the soil and to build a home." (35 Cong. Rec. 6672)

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## Natl. COPE Area Conference in L.A. Mar. 14-15

"Fight for Your Union" will be the theme of 10 national COPE area conferences to gear up for the 1980 election campaigns, Al Barkan, national COPE director has announced.

The conferences will spell out in detail the political assault currently being launched against workers and their unions by the mushrooming corporate, trade association and right-wing political committees which are expected to  
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# Fed to Help Local Unions Set Up Alcoholism Projects

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Patient Care of Raleigh Hills Hospitals, was the luncheon speaker. Praising labor for its commitment to deal with "people problems at the people level," he presented a first-hand view of the alcoholic from "skid row" to recovered alcoholic and therapist.

Ann Coughlin, a member of Office Workers Local 29 and labor staff representative of the Labor-Management Task Force in the San Francisco Bay Area, pointed out that conservatively there are 10 million Americans "suffering from the disease of alcoholism" and that each alcoholic intimately "affects an average of four other persons"—spouses, children, parents and friends. This does not include employers or fellow employees, she said.

"Local estimates indicate that between six and 12 percent of the employed population in the greater San Francisco Bay Area suffers from the disease of alcoholism," Coughlin said.

"Nationally, at least 240 million work days are lost annually because of alcoholism," she noted.

The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism has estimated the loss to the economy and society due to alcohol-related problems in 1975 at \$42.75 billion, she said.

The pilot project she serves with has worked with 150 local unions and representatives of over 50 major employers during the past three years. As a result over 50,000 workers will have an occupational program available to help them and their dependents.

Combs, whose plan is statewide in scope and includes the Teamsters, the UAW and ILWU as well as AFL-CIO unions, discussed progress that has been made in dealing with alcoholism in collective bargaining and the work that

remains to be done in the future.

Factual studies, he declared, show 95 percent of alcoholics are working people. Only five percent more or less are on "skid row."

He described the pioneering of IAM District 141 in training individuals to direct alcoholism programs in local unions and councils.

Combs introduced six training directors of the program who made brief presentations, namely: **Roberta Ziegler** of Local 11, Hotel and Restaurant Employees; **Lonnell Johnson** of the SEIU in Southern California; **Willis Sudduth** of Machinists District 115; **Ed Torres** of ILWU Local 13; **Art O'Flanagan** of Teamsters Joint Council 7; and, **Ruben Talamantz** of the UAW in Van Nuys.

A panel of members of Alcoholics Anonymous, Alanon and Alateen gave presentations on the application of their programs to labor's concerns.

Harvey Anderson, of the AFL-CIO Department of Community Services Activities who serves as

liaison representative with the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, called attention to the resolution adopted at the National AFL-CIO Convention last month which encourages organized labor to actively sponsor programs to combat alcoholism and drug abuse.

He discussed the inclusion of a "human contract" along with social and economic issues in collective bargaining agreements, citing examples of past success and failure.

Other conference speakers and their topics included:

**Joy Ellis**, program director, Renewal Unit, Dominguez Valley Hospital and Southern California representative to the California Women's Commission on Alcoholism, who spoke on "The Increasing Involvement of Women with Alcohol and Prescription Drugs;" and,

**Tom Jones**, manager, Occupational Programs, State of California, who spoke on "The Commitment of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Helping People to Recover."

## Labor & Coalition Push for National Health Care Plan

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"establishes quality health care as the right of all Americans and 'in the long run, it will cost less than the other proposals.'"

Waxman is chairman of the Commerce subcommittee which joined with a Ways & Means subcommittee headed by Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.) to hold hearings on the major proposals.

Rangel is co-sponsor of the Administration bill, which was defended by Health, Education & Welfare Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris as a more realistic and less costly approach.

### SHORTCOMINGS CITED

The Administration bill would provide no-strings coverage only for the poorest of the poor and for infants through their first year.

Otherwise it would depend largely on a form of catastrophic insurance coverage to be provided through employers, which would require out-of-pocket payments of \$2,500 before the plan takes over.

Kirkland countered that the Administration proposal "would merely pour new money into the present system, which is inherently inflationary and which puts emphasis on reimbursement for sickness, rather than prevention of sickness."

He said the AFL-CIO and other groups in the health care coalition have already compromised significantly by agreeing to a role for the insurance industry.

This was done, Kirkland said, because of a belief that any bill that doesn't give the health insurance industry a share of the action isn't likely to get through Congress.

### WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT

That concession "should overcome the objections that have blocked congressional action far too long," Kirkland said, adding that "America can't afford to wait any longer for national health insurance."

While the best in health care remains "a privilege of wealth," it is not just the poor who suffer, Kirkland noted.

He pointed to the problem encountered by "workers with comparatively good insurance policies who need a doctor at night or on a weekend, or have waited for hours in a hospital emergency

room with an injured child, or have faced the horrendous bills that remain after their insurance is exhausted."

Fraser stressed the universal and comprehensive coverage of the labor-supported Health Care for All Americans bill.

It would include, without strings, all hospital services, physician services in and out of hospitals, home health services, X-rays and lab tests.

### FUNDING OF BENEFITS

Benefits would be largely funded by employer-paid premiums based on total wages.

Employers would be required to pay at least 65 percent of the premium cost and could pay the full amount, either voluntarily or under the terms of a negotiated union contract.

There would be a variety of insurance options, but no policy would relegate participants to second-class status.

The various groupings of insurers, including Blue Cross-Blue Shield, private companies and the various forms of health maintenance organizations would negotiate with hospitals to establish their overall budgets and with groups of physicians to set appropriate fees.

### PROVISOS PROTESTED

Kirkland protested provisions of some health insurance bills that would through various devices require persons using health services to pay a substantial out-of-pocket amount on the theory that this would make them "cost-conscious" and curb inflation.

"In plain English," Kirkland told the committee, deductibles, co-insurance and co-payments "all mean that the patient pays."

In fact, he insisted, "making the patient cost-conscious has no bearing on medical costs because the patient has no way to control those costs."

It is the doctor and not the patient who decides on the treatment, who sets medical fees, who determines how long a patient stays in the hospital, Kirkland stressed.

Adding to the patient cost, he suggested, would merely lessen the likelihood that an illness will be treated at an early stage rather than after it becomes serious.

## Calif. AFL-CIO Opposes Jarvis II Tax Cut Proposal

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income tax law or successor law shall not exceed 50 percent of those rates in effect for the 1978 taxable year," according to the State Attorney General's summary of the measure.

It would also require the legislature to set up a system to adjust personal income tax brackets to reflect annual changes in the California Consumer Price Index and exempt business inventories from property taxation.

Henning pointed out that legislation has already been enacted which eliminates the property tax on business inventories and calls for cost-of-living indexing of the state income tax.

The Jarvis forces are seeking to qualify the Jarvis II constitutional amendment for the June 1980 ballot. A total of 553,790 valid signatures—eight percent of the votes cast in the last gubernatorial election—are required to qualify it.

In a departure from the traditional card-table-in-the-shopping-center system used by initiative circulators in the past, the Jarvis forces are using a sophisticated computer letter to gather their signatures. The mailings bring back campaign contributions as well as signatures that are being used to finance additional computer mailings.

The State Attorney General's summary of the measure says that it would slash state revenues by about \$5.1 billion in the 1980-81 fiscal year and result in continuing reduction of state revenues by about \$4.3 billion thereafter. It also says that it would slash local revenues by about \$520 million a year.

"California voters must begin to recognize that two-thirds of the benefits—\$4.6 billion—of Proposition 13 went to commercial and industrial interests and that the wealthy would likewise be the major beneficiaries of any such proposed slash in the state personal income tax as that proposed in Jarvis II," Henning said.

He pointed out that a recent state report, "An Analysis of the Effect of Proposition 13 on Local Government" which was released by the state legislative analyst's office last month, found that local governments have succeeded in deferring the impact of Proposition 13 by digging into their reserves, reducing jobs by attrition and using some \$4.4 billion from the state's surplus to get by.

The real crunch will come when local reserves and the state's surplus is used up, some time after July 1981, the report said.

At that point, the growth in expenditures will have to be reduced significantly below historical trends and some programs may have to be reduced unless additional revenues are raised from non-property sources, it said.

Little more than two months ago, the State Board of Equalization reported that one of the major pitfalls in Proposition 13 — the fact that it will shift the state's property tax burden from commercial and industrial interests to residential homeowners—is already becoming evident.

The Board's report disclosed that state-assessed property, most of which is owned by utilities, rose by only 7.5 percent in average assessments while locally assessed property climbed 14.2 percent.

One of the principal reasons why the California AFL-CIO opposed Proposition 13 was because residential properties change

hands far more frequently than commercial and industrial properties and this means that Proposition 13 will result over the years in increasing the burden on homeowners while substantially reducing taxes on commercial and industrial properties which change hands far less frequently.

## Tax Simplicity Act Wins State AFL-CIO Backing

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Henning pointed out that action to endorse the measure would be decided by delegates to California Labor COPE's pre-primary endorsement Convention in San Francisco April 16.

The measure, sponsored by the California Tax Reform Association, would simplify the personal income tax by eliminating most exemptions, credits and deductions in favor of large "zero brackets" and balancing the tax burden more equitably both among individual taxpayers and between individual taxpayers and corporations.

The act is fiscally balanced; that is, it results in no revenue gain or loss for government, Jonathan Lewis, CTRA's executive director, said.

It would exempt from taxation the first \$10,000 of income for single people and the first \$20,000 of income for couples. Only the income tax deductions for business expenses, alimony, charitable contributions, return of capital and deferred compensation plans would be continued as under current law.

It would make all income taxable with the exception of government transfer payments, employer contributions to pension plans, life insurance proceeds, gifts and inheritances, amounts received for injuries or sickness or from accident or health insurance plans and reasonable employee fringe benefits.

Above the zero brackets, the measure would apply a graduated income tax with rates ranging from one to 12 percent. The top 12 percent bracket would start at \$25,400 for single people and at \$50,800 for couples.

It would also index the income tax brackets and the dependent tax credit to the California Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers.

It would continue the existing law's provisions on income averaging and permit homeowners to continue to avoid taxation of home sale profits by reinvesting in another home.

Lewis explained that the Tax Simplicity Act would result in a dual tax shift: first, \$950 million raised from corporate taxpayers would be used for individual income tax relief; second, 7.2 million California income taxpayers (92 percent) would receive a tax cut while 625,000 would receive a tax increase.

The measure would provide "the first meaningful bank and corporation tax increase in recent memory," he said, boosting the current corporate tax rate of 9.6 percent to 12 percent to match the highest personal income tax rate.

"The Tax Simplicity Act merely demands that every single taxpayer contribute his or her fair share. The truth is that the rich have been undertaxed. For example, the act will tax 25,000 California taxpayers who should be paying \$11.6 million in taxes, but who won't pay one penny unless the Tax Simplicity Act is passed," Lewis declared.

## Unionists Sought To Set Up Projects To Aid Alcoholics

Are there alcoholics in your plant or shop?

Is any help available to them from your union or the employer?

If not, you may wish to contact Bill Combs, director of the California Labor-Management Plan, who is currently organizing a new group of union members to be trained to be directors of an alcohol and drug abuse program for their union.

During its first year of operation under a new state contract, the California AFL-CIO-backed CLMP has already trained a number of trade unionists to develop programs to cope with alcoholism and drug abuse at their own places of employment, Combs said.

"Far too many of our union members and their families need assistance and do not know that their union is able to give it," he said, noting that alcoholism is the No. 1 health problem in the nation.

For further information on the program, which provides salary and fringe benefits of up to \$17,700 for trainees, trade unionists in Northern California should contact Combs, a member of the Machinists Union, at (415) 342-3541.

In Southern California, information may be obtained by contacting Doug Maguire in Los Angeles at (213) 322-2675.

The California Labor Management Plan has its offices at 209 Highland Ave., P.O. Box 391, Burlingame, CA 94010.



# Attack on Reclamation Law Seen as Taxpayer Ripoff

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Informed westerners already were aware that an impediment to fulfillment of this purpose was in existence.

As early as May 5, 1877 a newspaper in California's Central Valley, the Visalia Delta, made this comment:

"No one would believe that shrewd, calculating businessmen would invest their money on the strength of land rising in value while unimproved, for even the farmer himself has to abandon it who endeavors to add to its value without water. At the same time, purchasers are not lacking who would add it to their already extensive dry domain and the people, in the next legislature, will find themselves confronted by an array of force and talent to secure to capital the ownership of the water as well as of the land, and the people will at last have it to pay for."

Twenty-five years later Congress (in 1902), well aware of this problem and wishing to spread the benefits and the subsidies widely, limited water deliveries to an individual to the quantity sufficient to irrigate a 160-acre farm, and required that he be a resident upon the land or in the neighborhood.

As the reclamation era began there were hopes and some signs that large landowners would accept these conditions which Congress had specified as justification for public subsidization of reclamation.

## ACREAGE LIMITS ACCEPTED

In fact, at the Orland project in the Sacramento Valley they did voluntarily accept a limit of 40 acres. In 1905 a California Civil Engineer gave his opinion publicly that acreage limitation would be accepted generally. He said:

"In California much of the best land for Government irrigation is in huge private holdings. It is believed that every great landholder in California will be willing to sign a contract to subdivide in order that the Government may proceed as rapidly as possible to construct irrigation works under the National Reclamation Act. Already owners of more than seventy huge tracts of land have signified their willingness to subdivide their lands for the benefit of intending settlers. This shows which way the wind blows and may be taken as an indication that when the Government is ready to go ahead our patriotic landed proprietors will be willing and ready to cooperate. (John W. Ferris, C.E., The Reclamation of Swamp Land. In For California, Vol. II, No. 10, p. 14.)"

It has not turned out as predicted. Large landowners in the West have resisted enforcement of these conditions upon which national subsidies were extended, while at the same time welcoming the public subsidies that were making water available to them.

A common tactic has been to seek specific exemptions from acreage limitation and residency, project by project.

At times they have succeeded; at other times they have not. A major effort to remove the conditions upon which the subsidies are granted under law is now in progress.

## S.14 WOULD RIP UP LAW

On September 14, 1979, the Senate passed what is called by its supporters the "Reclamation Reform Act." "Reform," however, is hardly the right word to describe the effects of S.14, should it become law. S.14 rips historic land and water policy from stem to stern, as a few examples make evident.

1. S.14 raises the limit on water deliveries to an individual from 160 acres to 1280 acres, an eightfold increase. This would increase the magnitude of the benefits of subsidized water for the few, and diminish opportunity for the many to establish themselves as farmers on the land. Congressman George Miller of California has described passage of S.14 by the Senate as "socialism for the rich" and as "the biggest Western stagecoach robbery of the public since Jesse James."

2. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held in 1976 that the acreage limitation provisions of reclamation law apply to Tulare Lake Basin, despite the fact that they have never been enforced there. The Court noted that "More than 157,000 of the 188,000 acres within the boundaries of the Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District . . . are held in tracts of more than 160 acres." J. G. Boswell Company owns about 90,000 of these acres and Salver Land Company owns about 65,000 acres. The Basin

is served by dams constructed by the Corps of Engineers.

Congress said in 1944 that irrigation uses of water from Corps projects are covered by reclamation law, and this has now been supported by the Courts. S.14 seeks to repeal this law and exempt Tulare Lake by stating that "The Federal reclamation law shall apply only to lands which are included within a Federal reclamation project. . . ." (Sec. 8 (c) (1). (Emphasis supplied.)

On November 18, 1979 the Los Angeles Times made this comment under the title "Agriculture Giant Sows the Political Field":

## BOSWELLS PUSH FOR EXEMPTION

"While many give the Tulare Lake exemption little chance of survival in the House, there are others who caution 'Never bet against the Boswells.'"

3. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has held that acreage limitation and residency provisions of reclamation law were applied to Imperial Valley lands by the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928. They have never been enforced in the Valley. S.14 declares that they shall not be applied there. (Sec. 8 (c) (1))

4. S.14 goes beyond granting these huge project exemptions. S.14 terminates reclamation law on all projects upon completion of "pay-out." "Pay-out" does not mean payment of "project costs." It means only the lesser charges to landowners that omit subsidies paid by taxpayers, power users, etc. This forecasts the end of national land and water policy, if the House should concur with the Senate on S.14.

It is well to remember what is the essence of national policy as expressed in the instruments that give it effect, known as acreage limitation on water deliveries to individuals and the requirement that they be resident upon the land receiving the water or in the neighborhood.

The United States Supreme Court gave the answer when the constitutionality of the law was challenged. In 1958 the Court said:

## HELP PEOPLE, NOT LAND

The project was designed to benefit people, not land. It is a reasonable classification to limit the amount of project water available to each individual in order that the benefits may be distributed in accordance with the greatest good to the greatest number of individuals. The limitation insures that this enormous expenditure will not go in disproportionate share to a few individuals with large land holdings. Moreover, it prevents the use of the Federal reclamation service for speculative purposes. In short, the excess acreage provision acts as a ceiling, imposed equally upon all participants, on the subsidy that is being bestowed. *Ivanhoe v. McCracken*, 357 U.S. 275 at 297.

As President, Theodore Roosevelt played an important role in the inclusion of acreage limitation in the 1902 Reclamation Act. A few years later, addressing the Commonwealth Club of California as ex-President, he gave his reasons in these words:

"Now I have struck the crux of my appeal (for the excess land law). I wish to save the very wealthy men of this country and their advocates and upholders from the ruin they would bring upon themselves if they were permitted to have their way. It is because I am against revolution; it is because I am against the doctrines of the Extremists, of the Socialists; it is because I wish to see this country of ours continued as a genuine democracy; it is because I distrust violence and disbelieve in it; it is because I wish to secure this country against ever seeing a time when the 'have-nots' shall rise against the 'haves'; it is because I wish to secure for our children and our grandchildren and for their children's children the same freedom of opportunity, the same peace and order and justice that we have had in the past."

S.14 shows no similar concern for political stability. The course of 20th century history, however, reveals a vital relation between land tenure and stability in Mexico, Russia, China, Vietnam, Japan, Korea and Central America, indeed, almost the world over. Theodore Roosevelt's concern for "peace and order and justice" is not out of place nor out of date.

# Supreme Court to Review Imperial Valley Decision

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed this week to decide whether millions of dollars in public tax subsidies should continue to be funneled to a small group of large landowners and corporate agribusiness interests in Imperial Valley without requiring them to sell off their excess lands to create family farms as mandated by the 1902 U.S. Reclamation Act and a 1977 federal appeals court decision.

Prior to the Court's decision to review the case, the California AFL-CIO had urged both the U.S. Solicitor General and the U.S. Attorney General to oppose any Supreme Court review of the appellate court's decision.

In a letter sent last month to Judge Wade H. McCree, Jr., the Solicitor General, John F. Henning, the California AFL-CIO's executive officer, said:

"The California Labor Federation, which represents California's 1.7 million AFL-CIO union members urges you in the interest of justice to oppose any Supreme Court review of the Imperial Valley decision so that the government can begin to enforce U.S. Reclamation Law in Imperial Valley and not repeat the outrages of the Nixon Administration."

"Affirmation of the appellate court's decision is essential to any effective efforts to alleviate rural poverty. In Imperial Valley, for example, the farm workers are overwhelmingly Mexican-American while the landowners are almost exclusively white. Millions of dollars in subsidies paid for by U.S. taxpayers are still being funneled to a relative handful of large landowners and corporate interests in violation of both the

letter and spirit of U.S. Reclamation Law.

"Such subsidies must not continue to be bestowed on greedy special interests that are intent both on destroying the farm workers' union and denying the general public access to lands reclaimed as a result of U.S. taxpayer investments."

On learning of the Supreme Court's action, Arthur Brunwasser, a San Francisco attorney who took on the agribusiness interests in behalf of a group of largely landless Imperial Valley citizens and won the victory in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco two years ago, said:

"We're confident the Supreme Court will reach the same decision as the appeals court."

Brunwasser got into the Imperial Valley case after the Justice Department during the Nixon administration refused to appeal a lower court decision favoring the wealthy Imperial Valley landed interests.

The appeals court decided that a 1933 letter written by Secretary of Interior Ray L. Wilbur, a lame-duck in the Hoover Administration, did not have "the binding force of law."

The Wilbur letter expressed Wilbur's belief that the 160-acre limit should not be enforced within the Imperial Valley because the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928 did not incorporate the acreage limitation language.

The nation's corporate farm interests are also mounting pressure on Congress to enact legislation that would exempt the Imperial Valley as well as the Kings River and Kern projects from the 160-acre limitation.

This legislation, S. 14 passed the Senate this year and is expected to be taken up by the House early next year.

In the course of carrying the fight for the small farmers in the Senate debate on S. 14, U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.) pointed out that a 10,000-acre farm in Imperial Valley benefits by \$630,000 a year because historically the federal acreage limitation has been ignored there.

Just last month at its national convention, the AFL-CIO denounced S. 14 saying:

"The AFL-CIO opposes this bill as a sellout to large agricultural and corporate landowners at the expense of family farmers."

## Natl.COPE Area Conference in L.A. Mar. 14-15

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have a \$100 million war chest to throw behind anti-worker, anti-union candidates next year, Barakan said.

The California conference, which will involve trade unionists from Arizona, California and Nevada, will be held at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles March 14-15.

The COPE area conference for the states of Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington will be held in Portland, Ore., on March 11-12.

Each of the conferences will include discussions of COPE's registration, education and get-out-the-vote programs and exhibition of a new film highlighting the advantages of—and ways of adopting—a check-off system for voluntary political contributions by union members.

The Los Angeles conference will open at 2 p.m. March 14 and extend through the morning of March 15.

Registration forms for the conference have already been sent to AFL-CIO affiliates.

## E. T. 'Buck' Harris, S.A.G.'s Publicist 28 Years, Dies at 77

Eric Townsend (Buck) Harris, who served as Public Relations Director of the Screen Actors Guild for 28 years, died at the Motion Picture Country House in Woodland Hills on November 23. He was 77.

Brother Harris, who had worked as a newspaper man in San Francisco and Alaska, had served as a vice president of the International Labor Press Association and was one of the founding members and a past president of the California Labor Press Assn., which has since evolved into the Western Labor Press Assn.

Prior to his long association with the Screen Actors, Brother Harris was the manager of publicity for the 1939 San Francisco World's Fair and handled public relations for the Hotel Mark Hopkins when it opened.

He also managed San Francisco Station KGEI and served as broadcasting manager for Nelson Rockefeller's Coordinator of American Affairs Office.

He was appointed as SAG's Public Relations Director in 1945, retiring from that post in 1973.

Survivors include his wife, Helen, a daughter, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## Publisher's Notice

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DEADLINE IS FEB. 15

## 33 \$500 Scholarships at Stake in State Fed Contest

(Continued from Page 1)

evaluate the students' knowledge and understanding of labor, business, industrial and governmental problems and their ability to present that information.

Twenty-nine of the 33 scholarships at stake in the 1980 contest are co-sponsored by the following Federation affiliates:

Bartenders & Culinary Workers Union, Local 340, San Mateo; Butchers Union Local 120, Oakland; Butchers Union Local 498, Sacramento; California Confer-

ence of Machinists; California Federation of Teachers, AFT, AFL-CIO; California State Branch, Amalgamated Meat Cutters & Butcher Workmen of North America, AFL-CIO; California State Council of Carpenters; California State Council of Culinary Workers, Bartenders & Hotel Service Employees; California State Council of Lathers—Lloyd A. Mashburn Memorial Scholarship;

Carpenters Ladies Auxiliary, State Council of California; Com-

munications Workers of America, Southern California Council — George W. Gorman Memorial Scholarship; Culinary Workers & Bartenders Union Local No. 814, Santa Monica; Los Angeles District Council of Carpenters; Los Angeles District Council of Painters, No. 36; Marin County Labor Council; Newspaper Guild Locals of California;

Northern California District Council of Laborers; Orange County Central Labor Council; Provision House Workers Union, Local 274, Los Angeles; San Diego-Imperial Counties Central Labor Council; San Mateo Central Labor Council Local Unions; Southern California District Council, I.L.G.W.U.; Southern California District Council of Laborers;

Southwestern States Council of Retail Clerks — Warren G. "Pop" DeSepte Award; State Building & Construction Trades Council of California; U. A. Local 38, Plumbers and Steamfitters Scholarship Trust Fund, San Francisco; United Cannery & Industrial Workers of the Pacific, Wilmington — James Waugh Memorial Scholarship; United Professors of California; and the United Transportation Union, California State Legislative Board.

The remaining four scholarships are sponsored by the California Labor Federation itself and designated as Haggerty-Pitts Memorial Scholarships in honor of the late C. J. "Neil" Haggerty and Thomas L. Pitts, both former executive officers of the Federation.

The brochures announcing the scholarship competition include suggested readings and other resources as well as other instructions to applicants preparing for the competition.

Serving as judges for the 1980 competition will be:

Jack Blackburn, Administrator, Center for Labor Research and Education, Institute of Industrial Relations, UCLA; Peter Guidry, Coordinator for Labor Programs, Center for Labor Research and Education, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California at Berkeley; Sylvia Lubow, Associate Professor of History, Los Angeles Valley College, Van Nuys; Leland S. Russell, Secondary Administration Committee, Association of California School Administrators, Lafayette; and Manuel Vizcaino, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Bilingual, Bicultural Education, University of La Verne, La Verne.

In general, the competitive exam will touch on such areas as: the structure of the AFL-CIO; labor movement history; social legislation; political and economic problems; labor union programs; labor, management, and government relations.

For further information write to: Education Committee, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, John F. Henning, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, 995 Market Street, Suite 310, San Francisco, CA 94103, Attention: Albin J. Gruhn, President.

## State Fed Program to Help First Offenders a Success

Instead of winding up in jail or getting into further trouble with the law, a big majority of young first offenders referred to the California AFL-CIO Program for Offender Career Placement and Diversion are coming out of their first brush with the law with a clean slate, and most of them with jobs as well.

During its first year of operation, the program—one of the unheralded ways in which organized labor contributes to community welfare and save taxpayers' money — has provided assistance and counseling to 257 participants and placed 170 of them (2 out of 3) in jobs, Charlie Paul, the program's director, said.

Earlier this year, California AFL-CIO-sponsored legislation extending the pre-trial diversion programs to help first offenders get back on track without a criminal record was signed into law by Governor Brown.

The legislation, authored by Assemblywoman Marian Bergeson (R-Newport Beach), extended the authorization for such programs for two years, until January 1, 1982.

The program which now qualifies for On-the-Job Training funds, was developed by the California Labor Federation and the San Francisco office of the AFL-CIO's Human Resources Development Institute.

It has been endorsed by central labor councils in Alameda, Contra-

Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Napa and Sonoma Counties.

Just this week, Paul announced the appointment of Lavon Gieselman as San Francisco field representative for the program and said that Bay Area union officials will be contacted by her for their ongoing support during the next few months.

Gieselman, a member of Office Employees Local 3, formerly served on the staff of the San Francisco Labor Council's Committee on Political Education.

Further information on the program may be obtained by writing to Paul at the POCPD headquarters at 199 California Drive, Oxford Plaza, Suite 210, Millbrae, CA 94030 or by phoning either (415) 692-1260 or 781-6012.



LAVON GIESELMAN

## U.S. Workers' Wages Drop 5.1% Over Year, BLS Says

The buying power of American workers continues to be drained by fast-rising retail prices.

Over the past year, real spendable earnings — take-home pay adjusted for the impact of inflation — dropped 5.1 percent.

A married worker with three dependents had average real spendable weekly earnings of \$87.48 in October, down 96 cents from the previous month and \$4.61 less than in October 1978.

The 5.1 percent decline in buying power is substantially greater than the year-to-year decrease reflected in BLS's September report on earnings, AFL-CIO Research Director Rudy Oswald pointed out. In September, real spendable earnings were down 4 percent from 12 months earlier.

"A year ago, average hourly earnings were increasing at an 8.9 percent rate with the CPI up 8.8 percent," Oswald noted. "Now, average hourly earnings are increasing at only a 7.5 percent rate, and the CPI has increased at a 12.4 percent rate."

"Hence, the very deleterious effect on real spendable earnings."

The government's consumer price index rose another ninth-tenths of 1 percent in October, combining with a decline of eighth-tenths of 1 percent in working hours to reduce real spendable earnings by 1.1 percent from the September level, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The chief culprit in lifting the CPI 12.4 percent above its year-earlier level last month was housing.

Housing prices were up 1.5 percent — 13.7 percent higher than the year-earlier level — and accounted for over 60 percent of the October CPI increase.

The main pressure on housing costs came from home financing costs, which were up 2.4 percent.

"The October numbers are not heartening in terms of any indication of a slowdown in the rate of inflation," Oswald observed.

The nation's inflation rate of 12.4 percent exceeds the 12.2 percent inflation figure for calendar year 1974, the worst inflation year since 1946 when prices rose 18.2 percent.

Besides housing prices, medical care costs played a big role in pushing up living costs over the month.

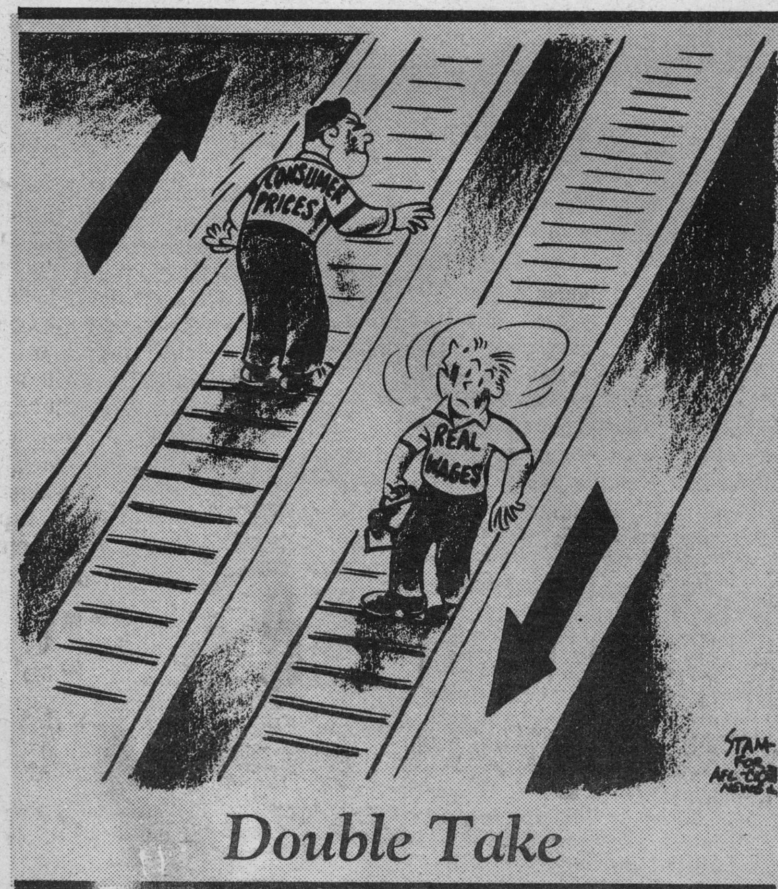
Rapid increases in the cost of physicians' services and hospital rooms pushed up the medical care component of the index by 1.1 percent, the largest boost in this category this year. Medical care costs are now 9.9 percent higher than a year earlier.

Fuel oil prices were up 1.3 percent compared with average monthly increases of about 5 percent during the first nine months of the year.

Fuel oil prices are now up 56.9 percent for the year. Gas and electricity rates rose 1.1 percent in October, and are up 13.5 percent for the year.

Gasoline prices rose 1.8 percent in October, compared to average monthly increases of about 4 percent during the previous nine months.

Gasoline prices are now up 50.5 percent for the year.



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## Aliens DO Cost US Workers' Jobs, Labor Secretary Says

The nation's unemployment rate could be cut to less than four percent if we didn't have undocumented aliens taking substantial numbers of U. S. jobs, according to U. S. Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall.

Emphasizing that he does not advocate any mass deportation of illegal aliens, Marshall sharply rejected claims made by conservative employers that the illegal workers only take jobs U. S. workers reject.

"It is false to say American workers cannot be found for all of the jobs filled by undocumented workers," Marshall said.

"The truth is that there are millions of American workers in all of these low-paying occupations already. The job market in which they compete is highly competitive, with a surplus of people vying for a shortage of jobs, no matter how undesirable the jobs may be."

He pointed out that the number of undocumented workers in the United States is estimated at somewhere between four and 12 million. Noting that four million is one of the lowest estimates, Marshall said:

"If only half, or two million, of them are in jobs that would otherwise be held by U. S. workers, eliminating this displacement would bring unemployment down to 3.7 percent, which is below the four percent full employment target set by the Humphrey-Hawkins (Full Employment) Act."

"The real tragedy of this displacement is that its burden falls on the most vulnerable people in our society: minority teenagers, women who head families and older workers. Their high rates of unemployment are public record. They will continue to suffer if high levels of illegal immigration continue," Marshall said.

The Secretary, a labor economist who has studied the illegal immigration problem for 25 years, said he wanted to "speak out" on the problem of illegal im-

migration now "because many of the arguments in the debate over this issue are patently false."

"The main concern is not necessarily on the immediate impact of illegal aliens on the present levels of unemployment, but to provide a just and humane solution to a complex problem before it does reach crisis proportions."

In an interview carried by the Los Angeles Times December 2, Marshall said:

"Employers often shamelessly exploit them, paying less than the minimum wage, cheating them and sometimes even arranging raids by immigration officers on the day before payday. Even when paid minimum wage or higher, comparable U. S. workers might earn more."

"In short, the illegal immigrant often works hard and scared, and that is nothing to cheer about in a nation that has struggled for two centuries to achieve dignity for its citizens and a decent reward for work."

He also pointed out that "the ample supply of docile, illegal workers perpetuates an underclass of dirty, unsafe, inefficient jobs."

"It removes the incentive to design work that is more efficient," he said.

Marshall suggested the need for an identification system which would apply to all workers such as a non-counterfeitable Social Security card.

He emphasized that he, like many critics of the identification system, was concerned about civil liberties.

But, he said, "the fears of such a system are exaggerated because all workers would be covered, not just Hispanics or some other group. It would not impair anyone's liberty."

He also suggested that the number of legal immigrants allowed in should be increased. He estimated that about 60 percent of the undocumented workers now in the country are from Mexico.