



# Public Workers Bargaining Imperative

## U.I. Increase, Free Choice Bills Advance

Four legislative bills of importance to organized labor in California each moved an important step closer to becoming state law this week when they were given "do pass" recommendations by the fiscal committees of the Senate and the Assembly.

Members of Senate Finance Committee are Anthony Beilenson (D-L.A.); Donald Grunsky (R-Watsonville); Al Alquist (D-San Jose); Peter Behr (R-San Rafael); Dennis Carpenter (R-Newport Beach); Randolph Collier (D-Santa Rosa); Lou Cusanovich (R-Woodland Hills); John Holmdahl (D-Oakland); Nicholas Petris (D-Oakland); David Roberti (D-L.A.); Albert Rodda (D-Sacramento); Walter Stiern (D-Bakersfield); Howard Way (R-Exeter).

Members of Assembly Ways & Means include John Foran (D-S.F.); Frank Lanterman (R-Pasadena); Howard Berman (D-Sherman Oaks); Daniel Boatwright (D-Concord); Robert Burke (R-Huntington Beach); Peter Chacon (D-San Diego); Eugene Chappie (R-Roseville); Pauline Davis (D-Portola); Wadie Deddeh (D-Chula Vista); Gordon Duffy (R-Hanford); Jerry Lewis (R-Redlands); Alister McAlister (D-San Jose); Ken MacDonald (D-Ventura); Ken Maddy (R-Fresno); John Miller (D-Em-  
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## Union Labor Day Set at Candlestick

The San Francisco Labor Council has designated Saturday, Sept. 13, as Union Labor Day with the Giants at Candlestick Park, according to Council Secretary John F. Crowley.

That afternoon the Giants will host the National League's western division leader, the Cincinnati Reds, in a 1:05 p.m. game.

San Francisco's starting pitcher is scheduled to be rookie John (The Count) Montefusco.

The Giants are making a 2-for-1 special ticket offer on box and reserved seats to all members of organized labor in the San Francisco Bay Area. Coupons for this offer will be available at all union halls, in the area's labor papers and from the CLC.

## Labor Day Message

by John F. Henning,  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Thanks primarily to the national leadership of George Meany, the AFL-CIO movement has assumed a position of new prestige as it exposes and refutes the recession-creating policies of the Ford Administration.

Those policies have meant the highest unemployment figures since the Great Depression. The jobless rate in California is ten percent. One million are out of work in the once prosperous Golden State.

President Ford's vetoes of employment-creating programs have cost the country more than 640,000 jobs. The President and his advisors are frank in admitting there will be no real reduction in unemployment until some time in 1977.

America can't wait for Ford. Interest rates are again climbing. The cost of food is once more out of control. Unemployment Insurance funds can't carry the load. The Ford theory that unemployment will curb inflation has been neither moral nor realistic. Washington is on a disaster course.

It is, therefore, the duty of Congress to renew its assault on the Ford doctrine of planned unemployment. It is also the duty of the government of California to rally the Congress to action. The state government must speak clearly in Washington against policies that have given California a million jobless workers and the nation the worst economic crisis in 40 years.

There is the present danger that distrust of the economic system could lead to distrust of the American political structure. Somebody should tell the President that democracy has enough grave diggers. The digging usually begins with recessions.

The labor movement has its own obligations. It must lead a confused and dispirited public to political militancy. Labor must provide the organizational inspiration to millions who are suffering victims of conditions of unemployment and inflation over which they have no control.

## Assemblyman Z'berg Dies Suddenly

Fellow legislators this week eulogized Assemblyman Edwin L. Z'berg (D-Sacramento) who died of a heart attack at 4:35 a.m. Tuesday at the age of 49.

Z'berg apparently was stricken following dinner Monday evening and rushed to a Sacramento hospital, where he failed to respond to treatment.

First elected to the Assembly in 1958, his Fourth District presently encompasses portions of Solano, Yolo and Sacramento Counties.

A life-long resident of the capital city, he graduated from UCLA and received his LLB from USF Law School. Before entering private practice, he was a deputy state attorney general following World War II naval service.

He is survived by his widow, Merle, and their four children.

In the current session, he was chairman of the Committee on Resources and Land Use and was a ranking member of the Committees on Public Employees and Retirement, and Ways and Means.

"Organized labor has lost a champion in the legislature," declared Jack Henning, head of the California AFL-CIO. "Ed Z'berg's voting record on the floor over his nine terms was close to 100 percent on behalf of organized labor."



EDWIN L. Z'BERG  
Death is Mourned

"We had a fine personal relationship with him and I was shocked and saddened by his sudden death."

Governor Brown characterized Z'berg as "one of the hardest working and most knowledgeable legislators." Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy declared, "The Assembly has lost one of its most dynamic and concerned members."

A Mass was scheduled this morning at Immaculate Conception Church in Sacramento. Father Leo McAllister, chaplain of the Assembly, was the celebrant.

## State Fed Supports S.F. City Strikers

Firm support for the San Francisco police and fire fighters who last week walked off their jobs in a pay dispute with their employer, the City and County of San Francisco, was reiterated this week by Jack Henning, executive officer of the 1.7 million member California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

He said the strike came about when the affected public employees "were left no alternative by hysterical and vindictive politicians."

He also emphasized the present lack of effective collective bargaining procedures for public workers in California and declared, "California obviously requires a state law defining the collective bargaining rights and obligations of public employees and employers."

He called on the Governor and the Legislature to "make enactment of such a law a matter of highest priority."

The complete text of Henning's statement follows:

"The California AFL-CIO movement stands with the fire fighters and police officers of San Francisco who went out on strike last week because they were left no alternative by hysterical and vindictive politicians."

"The growing crisis in public employment is not confined to San Francisco, although the violent anti-labor agitation of certain of its politicians is unmatched anywhere in the state."

"The truth is that municipal and county employees, sheriffs' deputies, firemen, policemen and teachers have been walking off the job in various California cities because they are being denied a collective bargaining recognition granted 40 years ago to the nation's workers by the Wagner Act."

"California obviously requires a state law defining the collective bargaining rights and obligations of public employees and employers. Governor Brown and the State Legislature should make the enactment of such a law a matter of highest priority."

"Until there is legal recognition of collective bargaining in public employment in California, there will be more and more employee defiance of dictatorial governmental bodies that believe they have the sole and exclusive right to fix wages, hours and conditions of work. Employer dictatorship is something American workers will never accept."

"Those politicians who are now voicing their personal hatred of labor in San Francisco should be reminded that fire fighters and police officers are required, among other duties, to give their lives in defense of other peoples' property. In the absence of a collective bargaining law, those who are expected to sacrifice life should at least be allowed to bargain on the conditions of death."

"Meanwhile, in San Francisco, Berkeley or anywhere else in the state, the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, stands with employees who strike for job rights denied by law. Insofar as the state AFL-CIO movement is concerned, an injury to one will always be an injury to all."

## "Long Overdue," Brown Declares; Signs Tips Bill

On Saturday, August 23, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed AB 232 by Assemblyman Leroy Greene (D-Carmichael), barring employers from deducting tips from wages paid their employees.

This culminates a drive of four sessions by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, and the Culinary Workers along with Greene to get the law on the books. They were opposed throughout by the California Hotel & Motel Association and several large restaurant chains.

"The time is long overdue for the minimum wage to be paid by the employer," said the Governor on signing the bill, "not the employee. This law helps those in our society who often work the longest hours for the least pay. When customers tip for service they receive, it is only right that the person serving them get the benefit."

Presently, employers are allowed to deduct up to 25 cents an hour in tips from the \$2 hourly minimum wage, thus reducing the hourly pay 12.5 percent.

The new law becomes effective next January 1.

## Operating Engineers Win \$1,500,000 Training Grant

The Operating Engineers received a new Labor Department grant for \$1.5 million to provide on-the-job training for 530 jobless and underemployed workers in nine states.

The IUOE, working with local unions and joint apprenticeship committees, will provide apprenticeship entry training and upgrading the skills of experienced craftsmen.

Under five previous contracts, the IUOE trained 4,085 persons. Of these, 1,099 were placed in apprenticeships and 2,986 in upgraded positions, the Labor Department reported.

## BLS Reports Confirm Dollar-Value of Union Card

A new report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals a dramatic differential in the wages and fringe benefits earned by workers in establishments above their non-union counterparts.

The biennial report, prepared by BLS's Office of Wages & Industrial Relations, shows unionized workers in the nonfarm economy drew an average rate of compensation of \$5.83 an hour in 1972 compared to \$3.53

for non-unionized workers.

Unionized workers received an average of 36 cents an hour for paid leave while non-union workers got 13 cents. For private pension plans, unionized workers received an average of

23 cents an hour, non-union workers got 5 cents.

For life-insurance and health-benefit programs, the unionized worker received an average of 37 cents compared to 13 cents

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## Drive for Jobsite Picketing Gains Momentum in Congress: Georgine

Legislation to give craft unions the same jobsite picketing rights long held by industrial unions is closer to passage now than at any time in the struggle that began in 1951, President Robert A. Georgine of the AFL-CIO Building & Construction Trades Dept. declared last week.

Georgine said the measure is aimed at allowing craft unions to "peacefully advertise" grievances in a way that will bring about prompt settlement of disputes. He said that although the proposal has had strong bipartisan support in both the Congress and the White House dating back to President Eisenhower and every Administra-

tion since, employer groups determined to stop passage and their supporters in Congress have used all possible parliamentary roadblocks to prevent a vote on the issue. He pointed out that House passage of the measure shortly before the August recess is the best progress ever for the bill.

Questioned by reporters on the AFL-CIO produced network radio interview Labor News Conference, Georgine said that the two central arguments made against the measure—that it would legalize secondary boycotts in construction and would give the unions a powerful hammer in collective bargaining—just don't stand up.

The bill does nothing to legalize secondary boycotts, he asserted, but only corrects improper definition of such action. He also stressed that the measure doesn't affect collective bargaining at all, since the craft unions already have the right to picket and shut down a whole jobsite when a contract has expired.

Turning to the economy in the construction industry, Georgine said that the predicted turnaround in housing never has developed.

"During the current recession, no industry has been hit harder than construction," he said, and while employment has picked up in some indus-

tries, there has been no rebound in construction—particularly housing.

He blamed the Administration's tight money and high interest rate policies for the hard situation.

Nothing will happen in housing until something is done about interest rates for housing that "are now so high that the average person working for a living just can't afford to buy a house," he asserted. He said the craft unions have urged the Administration and Congress to adopt policies and programs that will hold mortgage interest rates to "no more than 6 percent—maybe 6½ percent."



ROBERT GEORGINE  
Job Site Picketing

## MD Labor Day Show Features George Meany

For the first time since 1968, George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, will appear live during the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Via split screen on September 1, President Meany will talk with Jerry Lewis, who hosts the Telethon from the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas. President Meany will speak from Washington, D.C. In other years he has taped or filmed messages of support from the American labor movement for the MDA Telethon.

Following his national Telethon appearance, President Meany will attend the annual AFL-CIO Labor Day celebration at Wolftrap Farm Park, outside Washington.

Many AFL-CIO member unions actively support MDA throughout the year with fundraising drives, benefits, and other special events. Leaders of national unions scheduled to appear with Jerry Lewis during the Telethon in Las Vegas are Frederick O'Neal, president of the Associated Actors and Artistes of America, national labor chairman of the Telethon; William H. McClellan, president of the International Association of Fire Fighters; James H. Rademacher, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers; and Jack Loveall, vice president of Retail Clerks International Association. Hal C. Davis, president of the American Federation of Musicians, and Paul Swaity, international vice president of the Textile Workers Union of America, will speak on the network show from New York City. Hundreds of trade union officials will report on the contributions made by their unions' members on local cutaways to be aired by the 195 telethon network stations across the country.

## Henning Speaks at Plasterers' Convention

John F. Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO, addressed delegates to the convention of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association at Las Vegas, Nevada, on August 20.

The 43rd convention of the international was held August 18-22 in the southern Nevada city.

## Legislative Committees Approve Bills Backed by AFL-CIO

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eryville); Louis Papan (D-Daly City); Alan Sieroty (D-L.A.); Alan Sieroty (D-L.A.); Charles Warren (D-L.A.). There is one vacancy.

Each of the bills given the "do pass" recommendation will go to the floor of the respective houses of the committees.

### SENATE FINANCE

Bills approved by Senate Finance included:

AB 91, increasing maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefits passed 10-2. The bill, by Assemblyman Alister McAlister (D-San Jose), would boost the amount from \$90 to \$104.

The Finance Committee also approved an amendment restoring the wage earner's base-year earnings amount to \$750 which an earlier amendment had boosted to \$900, over objections from the California AFL-CIO and other labor representatives.

The higher amount effectively would have removed 38,000 low-wage workers from eligibility.

The bill is opposed by the state chamber of commerce and the California Manufacturers' Association.

The roll call was: "Aye" votes: Beilenson, Grunsky, Alquist, Behr, Collier, Holmdahl, Petris, Roberti, Rodda and Steirn. Cusanovich and Way voted "Nay," while Carpenter was absent.

AB 1287 by Assemblyman John Foran (D-S.F.) which provides for the free choice of physicians by employee claimants in workers' compensation cases was passed out of committee on a 10-3 roll. Voting against the bill were Beilenson, Carpenter and Way. Voting for it were Grunsky, Alquist, Behr, Collier, Cusanovich, Holmdahl, Petris, Roberti, Rodda, Steirn.

AB 469 by Assemblyman Leon Ralph (D-L.A.) was recommended on a 7-6 count. This would remove arbitrary hours limits on domestic workers under workers' compensation coverage, and would extend such coverage to all household domestic workers in the state.

Voting "Yes" were Grunsky, Behr, Collier, Petris, Roberti, Rodda, Steirn. Voting "No" were Beilenson, Alquist, Carpenter, Cusanovich, Holmdahl, Way.

### WAYS & MEANS

The Ways and Means Committee gave approval to an

amended version of Senator David Roberti's SB 261, which will require certain groceries and supermarkets to clearly and individually mark the unit price on each item for sale so customers would not have to rely on the cryptic computer coded price markings now being experimented with by some of the larger chains and producers of consumer goods.

The bill was supported by the state AFL-CIO and the Retail Clerks. As amended, its application will be limited to the period from April 1, 1976 to April 1, 1977. Its provisions also will be limited to the two chains now equipped to use the computer scanning system and any others who might acquire such equipment during the life of the bill.

The roll call was Foran, Lanterman, Berman, Boatwright, Chappie, Davis, Deddeh, Lewis, McAlister, Maddy, Papan, Sieroty and Warren voting for the amended bill. Burke and MacDonald voted against it. Other members were absent or not voting.

The same committee refused approval to SB 100 by Senator James Mills (D-San Diego) to boost the gasoline tax by two cents a gallon for state highway and mass public transit projects. The Senate passed measure failed on a 7-8 tally, three short of the needed 10-vote minimum. The roll call was, for the bill, Lanterman, Chappie, Lewis, McAlister, Maddy, Miller and Warren; opposed, Foran, Berman, Boatwright, Chacon, Davis, Deddeh, Duffy, and Sieroty. MacDonald, Burke and Papan were not recorded.

SB 100 remained alive when reconsideration on another day was granted by the committee on an 11-2 tally.

SB 100 is backed by the California Labor Federation and the State Building & Construction Trades Council.

## Defaults on Mortgages Relate to Joblessness

According to Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corporation, 20 percent of home mortgage defaults reported to MGIC in July were due to unemployment related causes. Such delinquencies associated with joblessness were 22.7 percent in April and held steady at near that figure for the following two months.

## Public Works To Combat Joblessness

The failure of Congress to overturn President Ford's veto of the job-creating Emergency Employment Act makes passage of the pending public works measure more urgent than ever, Legislative Director Jack Curran of the Laborers declared.

Curran pointed out that national unemployment figures released after the veto was sustained show that joblessness now stands at the highest level since 1941. Worse yet, he stressed, unemployment among construction workers is more than double the rate for all industries, and in some areas has soared as high as 60 percent.

Curran scored President Ford's claim that he vetoed the jobs bill because it was inflationary.

"Indeed, it is inflationary to do nothing to stimulate the economy," he asserted, noting that a rise of one percent in unemployment is an increase of \$16 billion, in terms of costs to the federal government, through loss of revenue and greater expenditures of public assistance programs.

Turning to the issue of some \$30 billion appropriated by Congress, but impounded by the White House, Curran said that even though the courts have ruled that certain of those appropriations must be released, bureaucratic indifference in the federal agencies keeps the badly-needed monies bottled up.

## Post Card Voters' Sign-Up to Brown

On a party-line vote, the State Assembly on Thursday approved Senate amendments to a bill to permit post card registration of California voters, a proposal backed strongly by California's AFL-CIO.

The minority Republicans continued to oppose the measure, as it passed its final legislative test, on cost grounds. However, the Assembly concurred in the amendments 43-23 and sent AB 822 by Assemblyman Jim Keyser (D-Sepulveda) to the Governor for signature.

The bill will be effective next July 1, with Governor Brown's approval.

Registration cards then will be available through supermarkets, banks and civic organizations.

## Farm Labor Election Bids Begin Sept. 2

Chairman Bishop Roger Mahony of the new state Agricultural Labor Relations Board said this week the board will not accept election petitions under the act, which becomes effective Aug. 28, until Sept. 2.

He said the time was needed for the board to hold hearings and make decisions on emergency rules and regulations.

The question of access of union organizers to farms and ranches is a basic question which must be resolved, a draft of the proposed regulations says.

"Other questions . . . include . . . the status of economic strikers, contiguous unit questions and the use of symbols on election ballots," the preamble to the draft said.

The board will establish regional offices in Riverside, Fresno, Sacramento and Salinas. Copies of the proposed regulations are available, in both Spanish and English, at 26 State Motor Vehicle offices in major farming areas.

The question of access was accented this week when growers in Merced, Yolo and Tulare Counties had United Farm Workers' organizers arrested on trespassing charges. A major grower in the latter county has also obtained a court order barring organizers from his fields.

## Farm Work U.I. Bill Sent to Governor's Desk

Legislation extending state unemployment insurance coverage to some quarter of a million farm workers in California cleared the Assembly this week when that house approved Senate amendments by a 42-14 vote and sent the bill to Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Assemblyman Jack Fenton (D-Montebello) has authored similar bills for several previous sessions, which also enjoyed the strong support of the California AFL-CIO. These were vetoed by former Governor Ronald Reagan.

Farm workers are now covered by special federal unemployment insurance, which expires next July. Fenton's AB 118 will continue benefits from then on.

Agribusiness employers will pay about \$41 million a year to help provide these benefits. An additional \$45 million will come from other sources through the state U.I. program.

## BLS Reports Confirm Dollar-Value of Union Card

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for the non-union employee.

Compensation for non-office workers in both manufacturing and non-manufacturing was

higher in establishments in which the majority was covered by collective bargaining agreements than in those in which none or a minority was cov-

ered, BLS noted.

Unionized workers in non-manufacturing areas of the economy received compensation averaging \$6.24 an hour

compared to \$3.36 for unorganized workers. Organized workers in manufacturing got \$5.50 an hour compared to \$4 for non-unionized workers.

# 1975 Labor Day Message

By George Meany, President, AFL-CIO

One year ago, on Labor Day 1974, the American labor movement expressed its deep concern for the future because of the serious and continuing erosion in the living standards of most Americans, caused by recession and inflation.

That erosion continues today and has picked up steam, threatening to wipe out a generation of gains made in the standard of living of average Americans.

Administration policies that perpetuate recession while fueling inflation are the cause; reduced buying power, increased unemployment and a bleak future are the effects.

Most seriously affected, of

For those who are lucky enough to be employed, their standard of living is also suffering. They've lost ground compared to where they were a decade ago. Real spendable weekly earnings in June — the take-home pay of the average worker — were less than in 1965, ten years ago.

Gasoline, coffee, meat, bread, groceries are going up. Rent, mortgages, heating fuel, electricity are going up. Tuition, books, school clothes are going up.

The only thing not going up is the people's standard of living. It is going down.

The majority of American families have been priced out

number of unemployed has tripled. That sorry record indicates only one thing—the policies were wrong, and those who had a hand in developing those policies should be removed from government.

They should be replaced before it is too late. For, despite the Administration's optimistic pronouncements that the recession is over, the truth is less comforting. True, the headlong downhill plunge of last winter has abated, but the economy is still in the throes of the recession.

No recession can truly be said to be over until the unemployed are back to work. And only when there is full employment and full production will the economy be safe from another, more dangerous recession.

In recent weeks, Administration policies have recreated precisely the same set of conditions that caused the current recession, and, thus, there is today the very real danger of a deeper, more serious recession starting again before the economy has had sufficient time to recover.

These are the warning signs:

✓ First, the Federal Reserve Board under Dr. Arthur Burns has reimposed a tight money policy and forced interest rates to increase. Similar policies in 1973-74 were a major factor in creating the recession plaguing America today. In fact, continued high interest rates on long-term loans have discouraged expansion of the economy, particularly home-



**“ . . . It seems to me that the Administration has its priorities upside down . . . ”**

This grain giveaway, a repeat of 1972, will boost already intolerably high food prices and shorten domestic supplies.

No American consumer needs to be reminded of the outrageous increases in food prices that resulted from the last grain deal. It makes no sense for an Administration—which claims it is fighting inflation—to force increases in food prices, when consumer buying power is already below the levels of 10 years ago.

✓ Third, another runaway inflation in fuel prices has begun as a result of the Administration's energy policy of making consumers pay more and more for less and less energy. Fuel price inflation could get even worse if the Arab coun-

genuine recovery and put America back to work. As a result, the meager recovery to date has not been strong enough to even begin to restore the economy to health.

Adoption of the emergency tax cut and some other parts of the AFL-CIO Action Program to Put America Back to Work, as well as the operation of the unemployment insurance system, have been major factors in slowing down the decline of the economy.

✓ Finally, consumer purchasing power remains weak and consumer confidence low. With the threat of still more unemployment hanging over the heads of many workers, they are understandably hesitant to make major purchases. Coupled with the certain price increases for food and energy, consumers are worried about the future.

This sorry state of affairs didn't just happen. It is the result of deliberate policies adopted by the Nixon-Ford Administrations. With the economy so weak and so vulnerable, these six points I have just mentioned could well set off another recession on top of the current one, which is already the worst since the 1930s.

America is at the edge of another economic calamity, but it is not too late for the President and the Congress to prevent it from happening.

We in the AFL-CIO believe the following steps should be taken immediately:

1—The individual income tax cuts, scheduled to end on December 31st, should be extended for another year.

2—Existing programs to boost the home-building industry should be fully implemented by the Administration.

3—An accelerated public works program to create jobs should be passed by the Congress and signed by the President.

4—The public service employment program should be greatly expanded, creating jobs for the unemployed in state and local governments.

5—The Federal Reserve Board should be ordered to cut interest rates and to allocate credit to such important areas as housing.

6—State and local communi-

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**“ . . . This sorry state of affairs didn't just happen. It is the result of deliberate policies adopted by the Nixon-Ford Administration . . . ”**

course, are the unemployed. At best, for those covered by unemployment insurance, their standard of living is cut in half. Because that is all that unemployment insurance covers.

For the unemployed workers who are daily exhausting even this meager protection, mere survival has now become a problem.

Every unemployed worker is faced with making painful decisions for his or her family: Which is more important, food on the table or a roof over their heads? Which bill must be ignored in order to buy medicine or school clothes?

And while their physical standard of living is halved, their mental standard of living also suffers — fear of harassment, unpaid bills, idle hours, loss of self-esteem, stresses and strains on family relationships, sometimes leading to divorce, alcoholism, drug abuse and crime.

Continued high unemployment is a time bomb ticking in the foundation of this society. In six percent of America's working families, the head of the household is unemployed. The average unemployment now lasts 15 weeks—50 percent higher than a year ago and it is getting longer. And high unemployment is forecast to continue for the rest of this decade, aggravating old social problems and creating new ones.

The damage to the standard of living of an unemployed family may never be repaired.

There is no way to count the number of young people whose college dreams were shattered when their parents became unemployed; no way to measure the effects on young children forced to grow up in unhealthy neighborhoods; no way to counter the bitterness a child accumulates while he watches a jobless parent lose hope.

This, too, is part of the lost standard of living, but it doesn't appear on any economists' chart or graph.

Then there is the persistently high unemployment among minorities which makes a mockery of equal opportunity laws. And the fact that high unemployment among teenagers means that the first “work experience” of the young is long-term unemployment.

of decent housing; they can't afford the high monthly payments that result from 9 to 10 percent interest rates. Their children are being priced out of higher education by tuition increases and President Ford's veto of education funds. It is imperative that this veto be overridden when Congress returns.

The Administration's answer to the American people is that they will just have to accept a lower standard of living. All that they have worked for—the better life they have sought for their children—is being taken away from them by deliberate government policies. This is no accident.

Are the corporations asked to accept a lower standard of living? No. The Administration wants to boost their profits through tax breaks. Those who earn their way by honest labor must take less, while those who can afford to let money work for them will get more.

It seems to me that the Administration has its priorities upside down.

That's why its economic policies haven't worked, aren't working and won't work. The Administration places dollar signs ahead of people, and the American people won't buy that.

It is worth remembering that 6½ years ago — when Richard Nixon became President and an economics professor named Arthur Burns was given the reins of the economy — unemploy-

**“ . . . Only with full employment and full protection will America have a stable, healthy economy and secure future . . . ”**

ment was at 3.4 percent and the cost-of-living was rising at an annual rate of 4.2 percent.

Six and a half years ago, Arthur Burns said that the 4.2 percent inflation rate was too high. For 6½ years, under both Presidents Nixon and Ford, he has applied essentially the same economic policies to reduce inflation. He tightened up on the money supply; he forced interest rates up.

And 6½ years later, inflation is more than double and the

building. The rise of interest rates now—with more than 8 million unemployed and one-third of industry's productive capacity idle—could turn a possible recovery into a disaster.

Let me emphasize the economic stupidity of this policy. Earlier this year the Congress enacted an emergency tax cut to stimulate the economy. It was felt that by putting money in the hands of average Americans, the money would be spent on consumer goods and, thus, stimulate sales. It worked. In fact, the emergency tax cut was one of the reasons why the rapid downturn of the economy was slowed.

So, what's Arthur Burns trying to do now? By tightening

money, he wants to counteract the positive stimulus of the tax cut. He wants to slow down the recovery, even before it builds up enough steam to get the unemployed back to work.

In other words, Burns is taking away from the people the money they received by way of the tax cut. This is sheer nonsense.

✓ Second, the administration has permitted the Soviet Union to again purchase huge amounts of American grain.

**“ . . . The damage to the standard of living of an unemployed family may never be repaired . . . ”**

tries carry out their threat to hike the price of crude oil.

Rising energy prices could cost the American economy as much as \$40 billion. For industry, this means that money that should go to expansion and new machinery will be siphoned off to pay higher fuel bills. For consumers, this means that their family budget will have to be stretched further and their standard of living lowered even more.

✓ Fourth, because of the President's veto of housing legislation, the housing construction industry remains in a depression. The history of past recessions is that a revival in housing — a bellweather industry — leads to recovery. By its actions in holding down the housing industry, the Administration is clearly prolonging the recession.

The most important factor preventing a revival in housing is high interest rates, which place the monthly payments beyond the reach of most families. Reduce the mortgage interest rate to 6 percent and the housing will be built—it is just as simple as that.

✓ Fifth, the President has vetoed congressional programs that would have stimulated a

**“ . . . The majority of American families have been priced out of decent housing . . . ”**

# 1975 Labor Day Message

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ties hard-hit by high unemployment should receive immediate federal aid.

7—The nation's railroad track and roadbeds should be restored.

8—The outmoded unemployment insurance system should be overhauled immediately.

9—Major loopholes in the tax structure, which yearly rob the federal Treasury of \$20 bil-

**“ . . . Continued high unemployment is a time bomb ticking in the foundation of this society . . . ”**

price increases for fuel.

11—The government should regulate the export of American goods and products in short supply to prevent inflation.

12—The President should

omy that more jobs wouldn't cure. Putting people to work means more tax revenue and a lower budget deficit. Jobs mean workers can sustain their standard of living and enjoy a more prosperous life.

Indeed, jobs are what Labor Day is all about. On this day, when America honors workers and their labors, there should be a new resolve on the part of the government to put America back to work.

Only with full employment and full production will America have a stable, healthy economy and a secure future.

**“ . . . No recession can truly be said to be over until the unemployed are back to work . . . ”**

lion, should be closed.

10—A comprehensive energy policy should be adopted that does not permit uncontrolled

more rapidly release previously impounded funds to create jobs.

In short, there is nothing wrong with the American econ-

## Chris Gersten Is Named as Frontlash Head

Chris Gersten has been named executive director of Frontlash, the labor-supported youth voter registration organization. Gersten was named by the executive board to replace Charlotte Roe, Frontlash director since its founding in 1968, who resigned to join the legislative staff of the Ladies' Garment Workers.

Gersten, 27, is a graduate of the University of Colorado and has been southeast director of Frontlash since 1973.

## Ford Vetoes Cut 640,000 U.S. Jobs

Vetoes of several bills by President Ford which Congress was not able to override has cost the national economy almost 640,000 jobs, in the estimation of the Congressional Report Service.

Senator Walter Mondale (D-Minn.), who requested the study, said the bills vetoes actually involved around 1,810,500 jobs. However, compromise legislation subsequently enacted reduced the job loss figure.

## Building Permits Slip In 200 U.S. Cities

After an upsurge the month prior, May building permits in the 200 largest cities subsided 21.6 percent. New York City, where plans were down 50.5 percent, suffered the biggest decline.

## System Sound

“The Social Security system is not — and I want to underscore this point very forcefully — on the verge of financial collapse.”

—Sen. Frank Church (D-Ida.)

## 131 of 150 Major Labor Areas in U.S. Had "Substantial" Joblessness in July

The number of major labor areas with “substantial” (six percent or more) unemployment rose to an all-time high of 131 in July with the addition of two new areas, the U.S. Labor Department has reported.

The July ratings are based on state employment security agencies' preliminary data on employment and unemployment for mid-May, taking into con-

sideration preliminary June data.

The rise from 129 in June to 131 in July among the 150 major areas surveyed marked the fourth straight time that the figure was the highest since the present classification system started in May 1955. In July 1974 the number was 47.

“Substantial” unemployment means the area has a jobless

rate of six percent or more, discounting seasonal factors, with the rate expected to continue for at least two more months.

## Higher Cite Illness Time Losses By Pesticides

University of California, Davis, researchers conclude that almost three times more farm workers in this state become ill from pesticides than official records indicate.

Richard Howitt and Charles V. Moore said their most conservative estimate is that time lost among agricultural workers to pesticide ailments runs about 1½ hours per 1,000 hours worked, which compares to State Workers' Compensation Insurance estimates of .0056 hours per 1,000.

In fact, they said, by including illnesses “possibly related to pesticides” the rate jumps to 5.251 hours per 1,000.

State averages among manufacturing employees is three hours and construction workers have the highest rate, 4.74 hours.

The UCD researchers suggest the workers' comp insurance premiums for each grower be based on the number of claims filed from his farm.

The study involved 1,477 farm workers in Monterey and Stanislaus Counties. Howitt and Moore say the California workers' compensation reporting system compares well with other states but greater effort is needed to explain their rights and benefits to farm workers.

In addition, the pair recommend a requirement for bilingual warning labels on pesticides. They found only 14.5% of workers surveyed fully understood the skull-and-bones label with the warning message in English.

**Protect Your Job: Look for Union Label**

## Health Profile Tests Given Clerks in Kern

Because of the convenience of the modern mobile units provided by American Health Profiles, Inc., a Nashville-based medical mobile testing company, Retail Clerks Union, Local 137, of Bakersfield has had more people screened than their total membership.

Mel Rubin, the local's president, explained that the more-than-membership number of examinees resulted from the fact that eligible dependents were also tested.

### NO COST FEE

The program did not cost the union members or their families any fee, Rubin said, since preventive medicine benefits are part of their contract, provided by union-management trust funds.

In the Bakersfield area, some 95 percent of those checked indicated they would take the tests again when next offered.

An AHP spokesman said that while the typical examination takes from 30 to 35 minutes, more than 100 test criteria are covered by using modern equipment and techniques.

### MANY TESTS

On the mobile vans, the union members were tested for hearing, eyesight, blood, heart, blood pressure, teeth and other test criteria. Results are then forwarded to the examined person's doctor, with a note to both the doctor and the examinee, stating that results show normal conditions or some abnormality, if discovered.

AHP serves unions, associations, industrial organizations and other groups.

## Rafferty Elected to Arthritis Board

President Frank S. Rafferty of the Painters has been elected to the board of directors of the Arthritis Foundation.

In accepting the appointment, Rafferty stressed that the Painters are vitally concerned for the health of their members on and off the job. He noted that the union is currently conducting a nationwide program involving physical examinations of members on the effects of exposure to toxic substances on the job.



**SCHOLARSHIP WINNER** Maureen A. Bagley of Stockton receives her certificate signifying the award of a \$500 scholarship by the California Labor Federation in its 1975 scholarship competition among the state's high school seniors. She will enter University of the Pacific this Fall. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willard T. Bagley, the 18-year-old lady is a former member of the Culinary Workers in Sacramento. Her scholarship, one of 29 awarded by the CLF in June, is co-sponsored by Butchers' Union 498, Sacramento. From the left, presenters of the certificate to Miss Bagley are Robert L. Renner, secretary-treasurer, Central Labor Council, San Joaquin & Calaveras Counties; Roy Mack, secretary, Butchers' Local 498; Leon Kessinger, president of the CLC and business representative, Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 492, and C. A. Green, vice president, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

## Workers' Move to Organize Fits Labor Day Spirit, Vial Says

The vitality that today moves large numbers of workers to organize in California is as strong as it ever has been since the turn of the century, according to a Labor Day statement issued by Donald Vial, State Director of Industrial Relations.

“The spirit behind the first Labor Day celebration is very much alive,” Vial said. “The holiday still symbolizes the continuing need in our changing society to join together for economic and social good.”

Vial described three powerful forces reflecting the organizational thrust of working people:

- the necessity for organization by farm workers that led to successful passage of the farm labor relations law;

- the general disfavor all Californians have for political power plays as substitutes for negotiation to resolve public employee disputes;

- the vast majority of California workers, now unrepresented, who seek to share, through bargaining with a united voice, the economic benefits available to organized workers.

He finds the vitality for further organizing most visible in the farm fields of California.

## Robert Sessions Dies at 69 In El Centro

Robert La Vere Sessions, a deputy state labor commissioner from 1956 to 1973, died August 20 in the El Centro Community Hospital. He was 69.

Sessions served in the Imperial County office of the State Division of Labor Law Enforcement, Department of Industrial Relations, before his retirement in July, 1973.

Before coming to state service, he had been eight years a member of the negotiating committee which hammered out a master labor agreement affecting six basic trades in the 12 southern California counties.

He had also been secretary of the Imperial Valley Building & Construction Trades Council and business manager of Carpenters Local 1070 since 1946.

“The new Agricultural Labor Relations Act, that became law on August 28, is a reality because farm workers gave expression to their need to organize. The law merely provides a democratic framework for social and economic justice in the fields. But the final structure will depend upon the vitality and unified purpose of workers themselves, if they are to enjoy the benefits of justice and peace,” Vial said.

Turning to the aspirations of public employees, Vial said, “Collective bargaining for public employees has to come, because neither the workers nor California taxpayers will stand still much longer for catch-as-can solutions based on the exercise of pure political power.”

Vial also predicted that the huge group of California workers not now organized are coming to understand the real benefits of organization.

Vial said that just as workers are facing up to the realities of our society today, government must also take a long, hard look at itself.

“Our programs in the State Department of Industrial Relations were enacted to foster and promote the welfare of California workers. Where they don't protect the workers' interest, then we have an obligation to propose changes. The test of how effective a program may be is in terms of meeting the changing needs and interests of working people, and we are moving quickly to assure that our programs do just that. Labor Day 1975 is a fitting time to dedicate ourselves to that aim,” he concluded.

## Unions Grew

During World War I, U.S. labor union membership grew by at least 37%.

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