WLPA
LABOR PRESS AFL-CIO CLC
151

California AFL-CIO News

Official Publication of The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Vol. 22—No. 32

August 16,

AUG 14 1979
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY
INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LIBRARY
UNIV OF CALIF

Thousands Join March for Justice for Farm Workers

Thousands of striking California farm workers marching in two columns—one from the north and one from the south—to help rally support for the United Farm Workers Union's seven-month strike against California lettuce growers and spur support for the boycott of iceberg lettuce were expected to reach the outskirts of Salinas this evening.

The long, banner-waving columns of workers are scheduled to meet at an intersection in Salinas at noon tomorrow and march to the Sherwood School on South Wood Street for a rally culminating the march.

UFW President Cesar Chavez, who began a water-only fast last Sunday "for patience and love" to help bring about a resolution of the dispute with six major western lettuce growers, has continued to speak out strongly at rallies along the way that have resulted in hundreds of workers stopping work and joining the march daily.

Chavez has taken part in both of the marches, commuting by plane to attend rallies and march with the workers.

Chavez said his fast, his first since 1972 when he refused food for 24 days to protest an Arizona state law forbidding the union from striking and boycotting, was not a protest.

"It is not a means of pressuring the growers or winning the strike, or a way to force the farm workers to continue the strike. It is a fast for patience and love," he said.

Chavez' first fast, which lasted 25 days, was in the cause of nonviolence during the prolonged Delano grape strike in Kern County in 1968.

Following the rally tomorrow, the UFW is scheduled to convene its fourth constitutional convention in Salinas on Sunday.

NATIONALIZATION EYED

Labor Urges U.S. Takeover Of Oil Imports, Allocation

The AFL-CIO National Executive Council called on the federal government this week to create a government agency to determine the amount of oil to be imported, negotiate its price with foreign governments and allocate it throughout the nation 'to best meet the needs and interests of all segments of society."

Pointing out that because of the "OPEC stranglehold through price and supply decisions, the United States is "at the mercy of either the sheiks of OPEC or the barons of American oil companies," the Council declared:

"The giant oil companies, whose profits balloon with every OPEC price hike, have neither the incentive nor the desire to protect the American people. Only government can and must do that."

Lane Kirkland, the AFL-CIO's secretary-treasurer, noted at the Council's summer meeting in Chicago that the 14-million member Federation is "not generally an advocate of nationalization" because unions usually prefer to deal with private firms rather than with corporations run by the government.

But he pointed out that oil is vital to the nation's economy and that the private corporations controlling it have now extended their interests to most other forms of energy, including nuclear power and coal.

"I don't believe I want to trust the private companies in their dealings with national monopolies (of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries), especially, when, they are at best double agents, serving as agents of the other side," Kirkland said.

He presided at the meeting in the absence of AFL-CIO President George Meany who is recuperating from a hip ailment. .

If this proposal fails, the Council's resolution said, "serious considerations should be given to

(Continued on Page 4)

'UNFAIR PRACTICES'

Teachers File Charges Against S. F. School Dist.

The AFL-CIO San Francisco Federation of Teachers charged the San Francisco Unified School District with violating six specific sections of the California Government Code in an unfair labor practice suit filed this week.

The action was filed Monday with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) regional office in San Francisco.

The PERB is the state agency legally responsible for enforcing the collective bargaining law covering teachers and other school employees.

"We are charging the school district with refusing to bargain in good faith with the San Francisco Federation of Teachers, the legal bargaining agent for the city's 4,200 teachers and 2,000 paraprofessionals," James Ballard, SFFT president said.

"The superintendent is issuing proposals at a press conference rather than at the bargaining table. Negotiations are meaningless when the bargaining team has to learn Alioto's latest proposals from TV and the newspapers," he pointed out.

"In order to avoid a strike at the opening of school, the superintendent must follow both the spirit and the letter of the collective bargaining law. It is a sad fact that teachers' strikes are often caused by difficulties of procedure on the part of school districts rather than by differences of substance," he declared.

James Tamm, regional director of PERB, will have the responsibility of assigning a hearing officer to hear the unfair charges made by the Teachers' Union.

State's Jobless Rate Dips to 5.8% But U.S.Rate Rises

California's unemployment rate dropped from 6.0 to 5.8 percent in July, reducing the number of *California's jobless workers from* 652,000 to 629,000, 183,000 fewer than were jobless in July 1978.

But this improvement in unemployment in California may be short-lived.

The national rate rose from 5.6 to 5.7 percent last month and Carter Administration economists are now expecting unemployment nationally to rise to 8.2 percent next year instead of the 6.9 percent forecast just three weeks ago in light of the deepening national recession.

In California the annual job growth rate in non-farm payroll employment dropped from 7.8 percent between July 1977 and July

(Continued on Page 2)

State Fed Opposes Move To Block Big Power Project

The California AFL-CIO this week voiced its strong opposition to a proposal to have a major section of the Tuolumne River designated as "wild and scenic," a federal action that would permanently block construction of a $660 million hydroelectric power project needed to help assure adequate clean energy supplies in Northern California during a period of mounting energy shortages.

Albin J. Gruhn, president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said that in light of the energy crisis facing both California and the nation as a whole, the proposal "just doesn't make sense."

Gruhn said that the State Labor Federation "is opposed to the designation of up to 92 miles of the Tuolumne River as 'wild and scenic' because it believes that far more U. S. citizens, far more Californians, would be hurt rather than helped by such a designation."

Speaking in behalf of John F. Henning, the Federation's executive officer, Gruhn cited President Carter's recent speech to the nation on energy in which the President stressed that U. S. citizens can't go on consuming 40 percent more energy than we produce and warned that when we import oil we are also importing inflation and unemployment.

"The truth is," Gruhn declared, "that the designation of the Tuolumne as 'wild and scenic' would clearly be a step in the wrong di-

(Continued on Page 4)

Women in Work Force Parley Set in S. F. Oct. 26-27

A two-day statewide educational conference on Women in the Work Force sponsored by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, will be held at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco Friday and Saturday, October 26-27.

The two major aims of the conference will be:

✔ To provide background and up-dated information on key issues of concern to all unionists who represent women workers; and,

✔ To sharpen the participants'

(Continued on Page 3)

Amalgamated's Jacob Potofsky Dies in N.Y. at 84

"What you win at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls."

That was one of the points often emphasized by Jacob F. Potofsky, former president of the AFL-CIO Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America who died at his home in New York last Sunday. He was 84.

Potofsky joined the Clothing Workers Union when it was founded in 1914 and rose through the ranks to become its executive officer in 1946 and later a vice president and member of the Execu-

(Continued on Page 4)

Labor Opposes Bid to Cut Extended Jobless Benefits

A proposed change in federal regulations that would deny tens of thousands of California workers up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment insurance benefits is being vigorously opposed by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

The proposed revision would eliminate from the count of the insured unemployment rate (IUR) the count of extended benefit claims when determining both the national and state triggers.

The effect of the change would be that national extended benefit periods would start later and end earlier and state extended benefit periods would end earlier.

In a letter sent to the Employment and Training Administration of the U. S. Labor Department, John F. Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO, charged that the proposed revisions would "subvert the fundamental purpose of the nation's unemployment insurance program—maintaining consumer purchasing power during periods of unemployment—by denying extended benefits to tens of thousands of California workers who would be eligible for such benefits under the existing regulations.

"With administration economists now anticipating an increase in unemployment from 5.8 million to more than 8 million during the next year, such proposed revisions would be disastrous for tens of thousands of U. S. workers struggling to maintain their homes and keep their families together during the currently developing recession," he said.

He urged rejection of the proposed revisions on grounds that they are "clearly not in the best interests of either the nation's workers or the stability of the economy of California or the nation at large."

He also pointed out that if the proposed revisions had been in effect from 1974 to 1977 an estimated 1.4 million workers would have been denied up to 13 weeks of the extended benefits.

U. S. Constitutional Convention Fight Still Alive, Meany Warns

Labor's efforts were "crucial" in helping to slow down a right-wing drive to force the calling of a constitutional convention to draft a U.S. constitutional amendment to mandate a balanced federal budget earlier this year but "the battle is not over," AFL-CIO President George Meany has warned.

Meany thanked AFL-CIO affiliates and state and local central bodies for their prompt response to the alert he sounded over six months ago after 26 state legislatures had rushed through resolutions to compel such a constitutional convention.

At that time, the right-wing National Taxpayers Union was predicting that the eight additional state endorsements needed would be obtained before the end of June.

But they didn't make it.

"The AFL-CIO, its affiliates and state and local central bodies can rightfully take a measure of credit for stalling this effort," Meany said.

Labor's activities were crucial in rejection of the convention call in a number of states, particularly California, Minnesota, Montana, Rhode Island, Michigan and Mis-

(Continued on Page 4)

AFL-CIO's Natl. Convention To Open Nov. 15

The 13th Constitutional Convention of the AFL-CIO will take place in Washington, D.C., beginning Thursday, Nov. 15, 1979.

The meetings of the convention will be in the Sheraton Park Hotel.

State's Jobless Rate Dips to 5.8% But U.S. Rate Rises

(Continued from Page 1)

1978 to 4.3 percent between July 1978 and July 1979.

If the latest Carter Administration estimates should prove to be close to the mark it would mean that unemployment nationally would rise nearly 40 percent — from 5,848,000 to 8,000,000 or more —next year.

At the depth of the 1974-75 recession, unemployment peaked at 9.1 percent.

The state's labor force climbed from 10,626,000 in July 1978 to 10,919,000 last month, an over-the-year increase of 293,000. During the same 12 months, jobs in California rose by 476,000 cutting unemployment by 183,000, a state report released this week said.

In July 1978 the California jobless rate was 7.6 percent.

In Los Angeles County, the jobless rate rose from 5.2 percent in June to 6.3 percent last month as large numbers of students looking for summer jobs flooded the job market.

But Gera Curry of the California Employment Development Department, pointed out that nearly 100,000 jobs were created in Los Angeles County last year and said that the county continues to enjoy healthy and diverse business activity.

Employment in the aerospace industry rose by 1,600 jobs last month and serves as the county's shield against a major recession, she said.

PLEASE DON'T BUY COORS BEER

IWC ORDERS ALTERED

Cal/OSHA to Take Over Job Safety Rules on Lifting

The proposed revisions in State Industrial Welfare Commission orders regulating wages, hours, and working conditions in California that were initially announced last July 24 have been further modified, and those changes will be incorporated in the orders to be presented at a series of public hearings scheduled to begin next Monday in Los Angeles.

IWC Chairperson Michael R. Elorduy announced that the Commission has voted to delete the section of its proposed orders regulating lifting.

It was determined that standards governing lifting by employees are properly the jurisdiction of the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, he said.

Standards Board Chairperson Gerald O'Hara announced that his staff will draft language of a lifting standard to protect California workers.

The decision on jurisdiction over lifting was made after a joint meeting of the IWC and the Standards Board on July 26 in San Francisco.

The IWC also modified its proposed revision of those sections of its orders dealing with change rooms and resting facilities, and with uniforms and equipment, in order to make sure that the separate jurisdictions of the IWC and the Standards Board are clearly indicated, Elorduy said.

The Commission formally voted to delete the section on lifting when it met separately in a public meeting on July 26.

After adjourning the public meeting, the Commission in executive session drafted clarifying language on the other two sections which will be further discussed at a joint meeting of the IWC and the CAL/OSHA Standards Board at 10 a.m., Aug. 30, in the auditorium of the State Building in San Diego, Room B-109, at 350 Front Street.

Copies of the language of the modified revisions may be secured from Margaret Miller, IWC Secretary, Room 3242, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, 94102, (415) 557-2590.

Unionist Named to State Council on Apprenticeship

David C. Rea, assistant administrator of the Northern California Joint Apprenticeship Committee for the Operating Engineers, has been appointed to the State Apprenticeship Council by Governor Brown.

Rea, who lives in Rocklin in Placer County, directs the apprenticeship program for 46 counties in northern California. He has been a member of the Operating Engineers Union since 1950.

The Governor also reappointed Virginia C. Gee, a personnel and employee relations representative at Stanford University, to a new term on the Council.

The Council is charged with formulating rules and regulations to carry out state apprenticeship laws. The terms of Rea and Gee extend until January 15, 1981.

Right-to-Work-for-Less Promoters Lose 12 Out of 12 in '79

Twelve times in 1979 the National Right to Work (for Less) Committee went to the well with a compulsory open shop proposal, and 12 times it came up with an empty bucket. In baseball terms, a shutout; in box scores, 0-for-12.

In one of the 12 states, it almost scored but New Mexico Gov. Bruce King vetoed the measure.

The 12-state blanking for the open-shop committee this year follows hard on the heels of its embarrassing rebuff at the polls in Missouri last November, when voters rejected the proposal 3-2 in a statewide referendum, the first large-state vote on the issue in 20 years.

Still, despite its repeated series of failures, supporters of for-less are expected to continue their generous financing under the constant direct-mail prodding of NRTWC.

The ironic record over the years of the right to work for less bunch is that the more they fail the more money they get.

They have been in business since 1955. In the nearly quarter century since, they have gained exactly one state in their column.

Their winless record is worse than the Toronto Blue Jays. Despite this, their budget has swelled enormously. Their contributors reward failure generously.

Their performance this year ranks with their worst. Going into the 1979 legislative sessions in the various states, the for-less committee was trumpeting almost certain victory in several of them, its optimism buoyed by conservative gains in 1978 state legislative elections.

Yet, the record shows they came up zip. Following is a brief state-by-state round-up of the compulsory open-shoppers' performance:

West Virginia—The first RTW attempt in the state in 21 years didn't make it beyond the Senate Labor Committee, which voted unanimously to reject.

Maryland—Here, too, the open shop proposal didn't get beyond the committee stage. The Senate Economic Affairs Committee turned thumbs down, 6-2.

New Mexico—RTW got through the State Senate by just one vote and succeeded in passing the House, as well. After a veto by Governor King, hard-core for-less proponents tried to push it through to a referendum as a constitutional amendment. The House turned this down, 43-23, because some who voted for it in the legislature feared lack of public support for the open shop, as in Missouri.

Vermont—The NRTWC ran a large direct-mail campaign, but its proposal died in House committee. Some Vermont legislators reportedly were angered by activities of the out-of-state NRTWC and by the refusal of open shop proponents to divulge their expenditures.

Maine—Both houses of the legislature turned down a joint resolution—85-59 in the House, 21-9 in the Senate.

Indiana—Proposal died in committee.

Illinois—Died in committee, as did three related anti-union bills.

Delaware — One of the states NRTWC counted on and where it lobbied heavily. Bill was withdrawn by its sponsor because it faced defeat in House after loss on a procedural measure.

Nevada — Law is on books through legislative action. Conservatives proposed it as constitutional amendment. Failed in committee.

Texas—Same as Nevada.

Alabama—Same as Texas and Nevada.

New Hampshire — House approved bill. Governor threatened veto if it got to his desk. Senate defeated it decisively.

MAKE THAT 0-FOR-13

Even 4,000 miles from the American mainland, more than half way across the Pacific, the word is out on the right to work for less crowd.

The for-lessers went that far, to the territory of Guam, to push through their legislation. It was a long trip for nothing. The island legislature turned them down.

—from Memo from COPE

STICK TOGETHER—PASS THEM BY

Here's the California AFL-CIO's 'We Don't Patronize' List

The following firms are currently on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. Firms are placed on the list in response to written requests from affiliates and only after approval by the Executive Council.

All trade unionists and friends of organized labor are urged not to patronize firms listed here.

Affiliates involved are urged to inform the Federation of any future contract settlements or other developments that would warrant the removal of any of these anti-union firms from the list.

Unfair firms are:

HOTELS & RESTAURANTS

Fresno Area

Fresno Townehouse, 2220 Tulare St., Fresno.

Los Angeles Area

Newporter Inn, Newport Beach.

* * *

The following San Diego area motels:

Bahia Motel and Motor Lodge,

Catamaran Motor Hotel and Restaurant.

Sacramento Area

Sacramento Inn, Arden Way at Interstate 80, Sacramento.

* * *

Red Lion Motor Inn, 2001 West Point Way, Sacramento.

The Nut Tree and the Coffee Tree Restaurants on Interstate 80 between San Francisco and Sacramento.

San Francisco Bay Area

The following restaurants on Union Street in San Francisco:

Thomas Lords
Mother Lode
Cooperage
Coffee Cantata
Vintners
Hudson Bay West
Perry's
Victoria Station
The Deli
The Godfather
Mingai-Ya
Jim's Grill

Restaurants in Ghirardelli Square, San Francisco:

Magic Pan
The Mandarin
Ghirardelli Wine & Cellar Cafe

Other eating places in San Francisco:

McDonald's Hamburger (all);
Colonel Sanders Kentucky Fried Chicken (all);
H. Salt Esquire Fish & Chips (all);
Jack In The Box (all);
Benihana of Tokyo;
Head Hunter Amusement Park of San Francisco;
Kau Kau Gardens;
Carol Doda's;
Mabuhay Restaurant; and
The Casbah.

San Jose Area

The following hotels, motels and restaurants in Santa Clara County:

Vagabond Motor Hotel, 1488 North First, San Jose.

Giorgio's Pizza House, 1445 Foxworthy, San Jose.

Holiday Inn - Palo Alto, 625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto.

Cindy's Restaurant, 17025 Condit Road, Morgan Hill.

Sirloin & Brew Unlimited, Restaurant, 12333 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road, Saratoga.

Shirtail Restaurant, 2515 El Camino Real, Palo Alto.

Hungry Tiger Restaurant, 1010 Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road, Sunnyvale.

Magic Pan Restaurant, 335 S. Winchester Blvd., San Jose.

House of Genji/Cathay Restaurant, 1335 N. First St., San Jose.

William Flaggs Restaurant, Homestead Road & Lawrence Expressway, Santa Clara.

Travelodge, 940 Weddel Drive, Sunnyvale.

Red Baron Restaurant, 2500 Cunningham Ave., San Jose.

International House of Pancakes, 3395 Stevens Creek Blvd., San Jose.

Stockton Area

Stockton Inn Motel and Restaurants, 4219 Waterloo Road at Hwy. 99.

Otto's Place, 7824 Thornton Rd.

Stockton Joe's Restaurant, 1503 St. Mark's Place Plaza.

Vagabond Motor Hotel, 33 N. Center.

Denny's Restaurants, 3950 E. Waterloo Rd. & 642 W. Charter Way.

Sambo's Restaurant, 11 N. Center.

Jolly Tiger Restaurant, 4747 Pacific Ave.

Modesto Area

Holiday Inn, 1612 Dale Road, Modesto.

MANUFACTURING

Charles Manufacturing Co. of Dothan, Ala., which also sells furniture under the name of **The Fox Manufacturing Co.**

* * *

Coors Beer

* * *

Gaffers & Sattler products

* * *

Masonite Corp. plant, Cloverdale, Sonoma County.

* * *

Pemko Mfg. Co., Emeryville, Calif.

* * *

J. P. Stevens & Co. textile products.

Rylock Company, Ltd., 1285 Atlantic Ave., Union City.

* * *

Tennessee Plastics of Johnson City, Tennessee.

PRINTING

San Francisco Bay Guardian.

* * *

San Rafael Independent-Journal.

* * *

Vallejo Times-Herald.

* * *

In addition the Federation is supporting such national AFL-CIO sponsored boycotts as those in progress against the **Kingsport Press** of Kingsport, Tenn., publishers of the **"World Book"** and **"Childcraft" series.**

THEATERS

Broadway Theatre, 4th and Broadway, Santa Ana.

Kindair Theater Corporation, operators of the following anti-union theaters in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties:

Cinema 70 in Monterey;
Steinbeck Theater in Monterey;
Valley Cinema in Carmel Valley;
Globe Theater in Salinas;
Cinema Theater in Soquel; and,
Twin I & II in Aptos.

Marriott's Great American Theme Park and Hotel, Santa Clara.

Sea World, San Diego.

OTHERS

Doctor's Hospital of San Leandro.

Hertzka and Knowles, San Francisco, architects.

* * *

Montgomery Ward in Redding.

* * *

Norbert Cronin & Co., insurance agents, San Francisco.

* * *

Non-Union Iceberg Lettuce.

First Federal Union

The first union of federal employees was formed in 1863 by New York City letter carriers, according to the U.S. Department of Labor publication, "Labor Firsts in America."

Publisher's Notice

The California AFL-CIO News (ISSN: 0008-0802) is published weekly by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, 995 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94103. Second class postage paid at San Francisco, Calif. — Subscription: $3.50 a year. Publication Number 083400. John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer; Glenn Martin, editor.

Women in the Work Force Parley Set in S.F. Oct. 26-27

(Continued from Page 1)

skills as advocates and negotiators.

Much of the time of conference participants will be concentrated on simulated organizing or bargaining situations and communication workshops, John F. Henning, the California AFL-CIO's executive officer, said.

The conference will include discussions of the theory and practice of negotiations, listening as an art, speaking persuasively and methods of achieving consensus.

It will also focus on such issues as equal pay for work of comparable value and on the expanding opportunities for women workers in apprenticeship programs.

Conference participants will receive descriptions of the various workshops being offered and will be asked to designate their workshop selections before the conference begins.

Henning urged local unions and councils to make plans now to be represented "to the fullest extent possible" at the conference.

Registration fee for the conference is $20 per person, which includes dinner Friday evening, a continental breakfast Saturday morning as well as conference materials.

The Jack Tar Hotel has set aside a block of rooms to accommodate participants at $42 for single accommodations or $49 for double or twin. There will be no charge for children under 12 sharing their parents' room. But the hotel must receive reservations by September 25 in order to confirm them.

Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. on the mezzanine floor of the hotel and the conference itself will convene at 10 a.m. October 26.

Conference details are being handled by Kathleen Kinnick, the California Labor Federation's Director of Women's Activities. For further information, contact her at (415) 986-3585.

Coming Up Empty

Clayman to Be Honored at Dinner in S. F. to Help Blind

Jacob Clayman, president and Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department, will be honored at a benefit testimonial dinner to be held at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn in San Francisco on September 18 during the IUD's convention.

All funds derived from the event will go to build a new school now under construction at International Guiding Eyes, Inc., in Los Angeles, a school that provides free guide dogs for the blind, John F. Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO who is serving as chairman for the dinner, said.

William W. Winpisinger, president of the International Assn. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers who has long been active in assisting the blind through the Guiding Eyes Program, will be the keynote speaker.

"Clayman is a man who has long been in the vanguard of worthwhile labor, community and charitable causes and deserves recognition and commendation for his work," Henning said.

Clayman, an attorney, served as general counsel to the Ohio State CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations) from 1943 to 1948 when he was elected its secretary-treasurer.

He was named administrative director of the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department in 1960 and has also been a member of the Federal Advisory Council on Employment Security and was the founding president of the Consumer Federation of America. He has also served as chairman of the National Civil Liberties Clearing House.

Clayman was elected secretary-treasurer of the IUD in 1973 and four years later was elected president and secretary-treasurer.

A letter announcing the dinner was sent to all California AFL-CIO affiliates this week.

Spying Charges Filed Against J. P. Stevens

The Clothing & Textile Workers Union has charged J. P. Stevens & Co. with discouraging lawful union activity and exchange of information obtained through illegal police spying in the Baldwin County area of Georgia.

The union filed an amended complaint in U.S. district court in Macon, Ga., in the case involving Milledgeville, Ga., city officials, whom the union had earlier charged with unlawful surveillance of ACTWU representatives.

The charges against Stevens were made also against Grumman Aerospace Corp., Concord Fabrics and Meadow Industries.

The union said that deposition testimony given by Milledgeville Mayor Robert Rice admitted an agreement with J. P. Stevens and the other companies to monitor the comings and goings of union representatives and supply the data to the companies to help identify union sympathizers.

Wage Boosts in Major '79 Contracts Averaging 8.2%

Wage increases in major collective bargaining agreements for the first six months of 1979 averaged 8.2 percent in the first year, up from the 7.6 percent in 1978, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Over the life of the 271 contracts covering 1.4 million workers in bargaining units of 1,000 or more, the increases averaged 7 percent per year, up from the 6.4 percent for 1978.

The settlements in the BLS report covered workers in transportation, construction, apparel, trade and refining.

For workers in bargaining units of 5,000 or more the first year increase of wages and benefits averaged 9.2 percent, up from 8.3 percent last year and the average over the life of the contract was 7.3 percent compared to 6.3 percent.

The existence of cost-of-living provisions are reflected in the scope of the settlements, BLS said. First-year increases in contracts with COLA provisions averaged 6.6 percent compared to 9.2 percent for contracts without such clauses. Over the life of the contract the difference was 5.4 percent and 7.9 percent.

Cost-of-living adjustments payable to employees during the first six months of 1979 averaged 3.6 percent, returning about 52 percent of the rise in the Consumer Price Index during that period, BLS said. COLA clauses covered 532,000 employees, or 39 percent of those under the first-half settlements.

The average duration of contracts negotiated in the first six months was 32 months, down only slightly from the 32.7 months the last time the parties negotiated.

In manufacturing, negotiated wage increases averaged 9.6 percent in the first year and 8 percent per year over the term of the contract.

Non-manufacturing contracts provided average gains of 7.7 percent in the first year and 6.5 percent per year over term. In construction the first-year figure was 9.2 percent and 8.2 percent over term.

During the first half of 1979 wage increases were received by 6.1 million workers in major collective bargaining units averaging 5.7 percent representing a combination of deferred wage increases, COLA adjustments and new settlements.

DECONTROL TO COST $500 BILLION

Labor Urges Key Changes In Windfall Oil Profits Tax

The nation's alternative energy program and relief for low-income households hardest hit by uncapped fuel prices shouldn't be limited by the size of the windfall profits tax that Congress enacts.

That was one of the points stressed by AFL-CIO Research Director Rudy Oswald in pressing the AFL-CIO's case for direct consumer relief that would approximately triple President Carter's proposals.

The AFL-CIO also called for a commitment to needed energy programs that does not depend on the uncertainties of windfall profits tax receipts.

Oswald testified at House Ways & Means Committee hearings on legislation to govern the use of the trust fund scheduled to be set up with windfall profits tax receipts.

The tax itself has not yet been enacted.

The House passed a windfall tax bill after weakening the measure drawn up by the Ways & Means Committee.

And that weakened bill is currently being reshaped even more to the liking of the oil companies by the industry-oriented Senate Finance Committee.

$500 BILLION COST

Oswald told the panel that the already-ordered decontrol of domestic oil prices will cost America's consumers about $500 billion over the 1980-1990 decade.

Over that period, the Administration program calls for returning only $24 billion—$2.4 billion a year—in fuel rebates or subsidies.

That's too little, Oswald insisted. It would mean helping only "the very poor, the welfare and food stamp recipients."

He urged the committee to take account of the "many workers employed at low wages who simply cannot stretch their already tight budgets to pay for the greatly increased prices of gasoline they must buy to get to their jobs, or heating oil and other forms of energy to heat their homes."

BENCHMARK PROPOSED

One possible benchmark, he suggested, would be to provide fuel cost offsets for workers eligible for earned income credits, to at least provide relief for a family of four with income up to $10,000. Another test might be the lower-level City Workers Family Budget, currently about $11,546.

As for the use of a trust fund to finance needed energy programs, Oswald said that the AFL-CIO is "particularly disturbed" at a White House fact sheet on its program declaring, "Any reduction in the receipts from the windfall profits tax will require reductions in these program levels."

To the contrary, Oswald said, "If Congress is determined to use a trust fund, we urge that it be framed in such a way as to assure continuation of essential programs through use of general revenue if necessary."

School Asbestos Cleanup Bill Gets Bipartisan Senate Backing

Legislation to remove hazardous asbestos materials from the nation's schools, authored by Congressman George Miller (D-Contra Costa), picked up key support in the U. S. Senate last week when Senator Jacob K. Javits (R-New York), together with 5 other senators, introduced a bill virtually identical to Miller's bill.

"I am very pleased that this influential group of senators has endorsed this plan," Miller said.

"Their support increases the chances that this legislation will be considered quickly by the Senate. Given the fact that several million school children may be affected, I think swift deliberation is absolutely required."

The legislation is aimed at providing limited federal assistance to school districts to aid in the detection and repair of deteriorating materials in school buildings. Asbestos, which was heavily used in schools during the 1940s - 1960s, has shown to cause a variety of severe diseases when inhaled, including lung cancer.

During hearings before House subcommittees earlier this year, doctors and scientists warned that children might be particularly susceptible to illnesses associated with asbestos fiber inhalation. The doctors advised that deteriorating asbestos materials be removed from schools, a decision endorsed by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Miller-Javits proposal would provide grants to school districts to help in the effort to detect asbestos materials. Long-term, no-interest loans would be available to districts to aid in the removal or containment of deteriorating asbestos which represented an "imminent hazard to health and safety." School districts would have to match the federal grants and loans with a 50 percent contribution.

Miller's legislation has been approved by the Education and Labor Committee, and is awaiting action by the House of Representatives after Congress reconvenes in September. His bill has been cosponsored by over 40 House Members.

Cosponsors of the Javits bill include Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), Daniel P. Moynihan (D-N.Y.), Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), Bill Bardley (D-N. J.), and Robert Stafford (R-Vt.).

Boycott Seattle-First National Bank, AFL-CIO Executive Council Urges

The national AFL-CIO Executive Council has voted unanimously to endorse a national boycott of the Seattle-First National Bank, based in Seattle, Wash.

All labor organizations, union members and the general public are urged to withdraw their funds from the bank until it agrees to recognize and bargain in good faith with Financial Institution Employees Local 1182 of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW).

In March 1978, the independent union representing Seattle First employees voted to affiliate with the Retail Clerks union (now UFCW).

The National Labor Relations Board unanimously agreed to this change in the certified bargaining agent.

The NLRB also ruled that Seattle-First had engaged in unfair labor practices against the union and had been bargaining in bad faith.

NATIONALIZATION EYED

Labor Urges U.S. Takeover Of Oil Imports, Allocations

(Continued from Page 1)

nationalization of the (oil) industry."

Although the AFL-CIO voiced general support for President Carter's energy program, Kirkland said that the administration's decision to decontrol oil prices was a mistake and should be reversed.

The Council also emphasized that there must be a "windfall profits tax on the oil companies whose gluttony has injured the American people."

The AFL-CIO called for a windfall profits tax rate of 85 percent instead of the 50 percent recommended by President Carter or the 60 percent now being considered as a compromise in Congress.

In other actions, the Council:

● Voiced qualified support for ratification of the new Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT-II) but stressed that it would be meaningful only if it resulted in further agreements to limit not only the number of missile launchers but "warheads, which are the real instrument of destruction and which SALT-II permits to increase dramatically in numbers and accuracy";

● Called for federal action to protect consumers involved in condominium sales;

● Urged Congressional action on new national health care legislation; and,

● Called for new safeguards to "protect the economic rights of workers and their communities against the closing and relocation" of large plants.

Rights of U. S. Workers Still Not Secure, Marshall Says

People frequently ask me, don't I think the labor movement is too strong. My answer is no. I think the labor movement is too weak.

I think that it needs strengthening and that we need particularly to change the policy that makes it possible for some people to make a conscious decision to obey the law or to disobey it with respect to collective bargaining.

It does not mean much to guarantee workers' rights if there are no penalties against the violation of those rights. If workers can be discharged with impunity for engaging in collective bargaining or in union activities, then that right is not very secure . . .

That was one of the main reasons that we fought hard for labor law reform.

I think that is still unfinished business that we have got to do.

—Labor Secretary Ray Marshall at briefing for labor editors.

Amalgamated's Jacob Potofsky Dies in N. Y. at 84

(Continued from Page 1)

tive Council of the national AFL-CIO.

Under Potofsky's leadership and that of his predecessor, Sidney Hillman, the Amalgamated, as the union came to be known, was one of the pioneers in the fight to improve the social as well as economic conditions of garment workers toiling away in sweatshops in New York and elsewhere throughout the country.

Potofsky not only fought for adoption of such basic social insurance programs as workers' compensation and unemployment insurance but for national health care and adequate child care facilities for working women. He retired in 1972.

State Fed Opposes Move To Block Big Power Project

(Continued from Page 1)

rection because it would compound rather than ease the current energy shortage which is clearly the single greatest cause of the nation's rising inflation and unemployment rates."

The Clavey-Wards Ferry project was conceived in 1948 and would produce an additional 884 million kilowatt hours of electrical power and provide 3.9 billion gallons of water annually, Gruhn noted.

It involves the construction of three small dams and reservoirs northeast of Don Pedro Reservoir and 10 miles southwest of the existing San Francisco-owned-and-operated Hetch-Hetchy water and power system.

Gruhn pointed out that the construction of this project would create jobs for some 2,500 construction workers and generate a total of between 10,000 and 17,000 new jobs during the construction phase alone.

The project would generate enough power to support the needs of 80,000 four-person households and save over 1.5 million barrels of oil a year, he said.

Moreover, the proposed Clavey-Wards Ferry recreational plan "has the potential to provide increased accessibility and recreational use of the area by far more people," Gruhn pointed out.

Other labor officials testifying at the San Francisco hearing in opposition to the "wild and scenic" designation included:

John F. Crowley, executive officer of the San Francisco Labor Council;

Stan Smith, executive officer of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council; and,

James R. Ivy, of Local 3 of the AFL-CIO Operating Engineers International Union.

At an earlier hearing in Modesto Tuesday, James S. Lee, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, vigorously opposed designation of the Tuolumne River as "wild and scenic," asserting that:

"As usual, the real losers in this struggle would be California's working men and women who because of the statewide energy shortage will suffer from higher and higher energy costs. Even worse, it is the working men and women who will suffer most from the inevitable fact that when there is not enough energy, there aren't any jobs."

Lee pointed out that the state currently enforces some of the most stringent energy production laws in the nation and said that the state's energy policy banning new nuclear power plants coupled with the strong constraints on building coal-fired power plants is restricting California's ability to keep pace with the energy needs of its increasing population.

"According to the NERA (National Economic Research Associates) study, current energy policies and the anticipated energy shortfall will cost Californians over $4.7 billion and 170,000 annual job losses by 1995." Lee said.

To place the Tuolumne River into a status which would permanently foreclose any possible future energy development, especially at a time when the nation is striving to achieve energy independence, he said, "seems incomprehensible."

Speaking in behalf of the 28 million plus residents who will live in California in 1995 and in behalf of the 350,000 members of the State Building and Construction Trades Council, Lee said:

"I ask that this state be allowed the option to explore future energy alternatives. We ask that you provide us with that opportunity by excluding the Tuolumne River from consideration as a 'wild and scenic' river."

In remarks prepared for another hearing on the issue in Oakland tomorrow, Anthony Ramos, president of the State Council of Carpenters, also opposed the "wild and scenic" designation and announced his council's support for the construction of the Clavey-Wards Ferry project.

He pointed out that it takes "enormous amounts of energy to construct new homes and apartments" and cited a study on energy usage for home construction conducted in Contra Costa County in 1976 that found that it took 1.3 million therms or 4.8 million kilowatt hours of electricity to construct a 347-home subdivision.

Pointing out that Californians are already "experiencing the burdens of a severe housing shortage," Ramos said:

"The shortage is reaching crisis proportions in many parts of the state in both the multi-unit and single-family dwelling markets. With California's growing population and growing demand for more and better housing opportunities, reduced supplies of higher cost energy will intensify the state's housing shortage."

There is no question, he added, that the current skyrocketing costs of energy already have reduced significantly the amount of new housing starts in the state.

Other labor officials scheduled to testify at the Oakland hearing included William Ward, executive officer of the Alameda County Building and Construction Trades Council; John Paul Molin, of IBEW Local 302; and Bob Skidgel, of Operating Engineers Local 3.

The public review period is scheduled to end on September 15 when a final report and environmental impact statement will be prepared by the Agriculture and Interior Departments for submission to the President.

House Unit Drops Move to Rewrite Broadcast Law

A House subcommittee has decided to drop plans for a massive rewriting of the Communications Act that labor and consumer groups feared would have sacrificed the public interest in the name of deregulation of the airwaves.

Rep. Lionel Van Deerlin (D-Calif.), sponsor of the controversial bill and chairman of the subcommittee, announced a "consensus" among panel members to concentrate on more limited legislation.

His original bill would have ended or phased out nearly all federal regulation of radio and television broadcasting, eliminating obligations to air both sides of controversies under the fairness doctrine, and discarding relicensing procedures that allow stations to be challenged on how they fulfilled their obligations to the public interest.

Other provisions of the bill, strongly criticized in testimony last month by the AFL-CIO Dept. for Public Employees and the State, County & Municipal Employees, would have blurred the distinction between public and commercial broadcasting and enhanced the influence of corporations over programming.

In a letter to subcommittee members before the decision to drop the measure, AFL-CIO Legislative Director Kenneth Young voiced labor's concern at "objectionable" features of the bill.

Communication of ideas and information is "of critical importance to a democracy," Young wrote, and laws governing the communications system "are among the most important a free society can enact."

Van Deerling noted that the Senate counterpart committee is also proceeding with amendments to the 1934 Communications Act rather than scrapping the law and rewriting it from scratch.

U. S. Constitutional Convention Fight Still Alive, Meany Warns

(Continued from Page 1)

souri, he said.

Under a never-used provision of the U.S. Constitution, an amendment may be initiated by a constitutional convention called by two-thirds of the states.

This would bypass the normal procedure that requires two-thirds approval by both the House and Senate before an amendment can be submitted to the states for ratification.

To date, 30 states have adopted constitutional convention calls. The four states that have adopted it since the trade union movement made it a high priority issue are Indiana, Iowa, New Hampshire and Utah.

"While the required 34 states have not called for a convention, the battle is not over," Meany said.

"Some legislatures continue to meet while others reconvene in 1980. With only four more states needed to call for a convention, the NTU continues to press their objective in the remaining 20 states," he warned.

Asserting that "this drive must be stopped," Meany said that the AFL-CIO legislative department "will keep you informed of the need for assistance on a state-by-state basis."

"We must continue our efforts to defeat the right-wing campaign to strait-jacket Congress with the rigidity of a balanced budget mandate. By so doing, we preserve Congress' ability to meet economic crises with legislative solutions. To succeed will require your unceasing opposition to a constitutional convention in the state legislatures," he added.

Last February three measures aimed at requiring Congress to call such a constitutional convention were defeated in California in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee after the California AFL-CIO warned that such a "runaway" convention could result in a national right-to-work law as well as repeal of vital civil rights and labor laws.

John F. Henning, executive officer of the California Labor Federation, said that the right-wing drive for a constitutional convention was "a prescription for political extremism" and warned that the constitutional amendment sought by anti-union, right-wing forces would cripple the nation's ability to cope with recessions.

He also pointed out that although the measure would permit Congress to ignore the balanced budget requirement if faced with serious unemployment, the conservative block could filibuster and, since it takes a 60 percent vote of Congress to invoke cloture, the nation could be subjected to the worst depression in its history before Congress could act.

A number of other states have either formally defeated constitutional convention resolutions or bottled them up in committees.

The AFL-CIO has worked with a broad-based Citizens for the Constitution Coalition to spotlight both the economic consequences of a rigid balanced budget requirement and the hazards of a never-used convention procedure to re-write the constitution.

Corporations Reap Profits 19% Higher Than Last Year

Despite the onset of a recession in the second quarter of 1979, corporate profits increased 19.6 percent over the same quarter a year earlier, with oil profits leading the way.

The Wall Street Journal's survey of 437 major corporations produced the 19.6 percent after-tax profits figure, an increase that followed a 37 percent jump in the first three months of the year.

The profits report comes on the heels of a decline of 3.3 percent in the gross national product—the total value of goods and services—in the April-June period and other reports that a recession has set in.

The Journal noted that "corporate profits to some extent are being buoyed by smaller-than-expected increases in wage costs."

The eight oil companies in the Journal's survey showed after-tax profits for the second quarter of $2,086,256,000 with autos next in line with profits of $1,891,975,000.

Even with the country in a recession the outlook for the third quarter of the year is that profits will be running about 10 percent higher than for the same quarter in 1978, the article said.