

Labor's Health Care Fight

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State AFL-CIO leaders from throughout the country — including Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jack Henning of the California Labor Federation — were summoned to Washington yesterday to join the national health care reform lobbying effort as debates heated up in the Senate and House of Representatives.

"Our function will be to make certain that all members of Congress from our respective states re-

Toll-free phone calls enable union members to become grass-roots lobbyists for health care reform.

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alize how crucial health care reform is to the working families they represent," Henning said as he prepared to fly to the U.S. capital.

The summons to state leaders went out as President Lane Kirk-

land of the AFL-CIO charged that those trying to scuttle real health care reform have "blood on their hands."

Kirkland focused on the Senate, where the AFL-CIO is lobbying for

amendments that would make the measure introduced by Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, acceptable.

Business interests opposing reform and their conservative stewards on both sides of the Senate aisle are the "guilty parties" intent on sidetracking real health care reform, Kirkland charged.

"They are the same forces who opposed Medicare 30 years ago,

Social Security 60 years ago, and even opposed a ban on child labor early in this century," the AFL-CIO leader charged.

"Their essential message never changes: 'enact no mandates, leave employers and the vested interests alone and they will do what's best for the country.'

"Their mission is to bring forward a health care bill that is so bad

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Honors for Chavez, Kirkland

Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, and the late Cesar Chavez, founder and long-time president of the United Farm Workers of America, were named recipients of the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by President Bill Clinton during ceremonies Monday at the White House.

Helen Chavez, widow of UFW leader, accepted the medal from the hand of the president. It was the first Medal of Freedom ever awarded to a Mexican-American.

Of Kirkland, the president declared:

"Ever wrestling in his quest to enhance opportunities for working people, he has tirelessly worked to strengthen democracy and to further the cause of human rights. During the Cold War, his vital assistance to the Solidarity movement in Poland spread the forces of freedom toward victory in Eastern Europe, just as his guidance here at home helped to renew and fortify the American economy.

"As a people, we are indebted to Lane Kirkland for his talented leadership efforts as an advocate for unity and social justice," Clinton concluded.

Kirkland, interviewed later Monday on CNN News, said, "I am particularly gratified that there was recognition of the role the free trade movement plays in human society, both in America and around the world, as an instrument for elevating conditions for ordinary people."

Chavez was praised by the president for having faced formidable, often violent opposition with dignity and non-violence.

"And he was victorious," Clinton said.

"Cesar Chavez left our world



Photos by Bill Burke, Page One Photography

Helen Chavez, left, and Lane Kirkland, right, receive Medal of Freedom from President Clinton.

better than he found it, and his legacy inspires us still.

"He was for his own people a Moses figure. The farm workers who labored in the fields and yearned for respect and self-sufficiency pinned their hopes on this remarkable man who, with faith and discipline, soft-spoken humility and amazing inner strength, led a very courageous life," Clinton added.

The citation accompanying the award noted that Chavez was a farm worker from childhood who "possessed a deep personal understand-

ing of the plight of migrant workers, and he labored all his years to lift their lives."

Arturo Rodriguez, Chavez's successor as UFW president, thanked the president on behalf of the union.

"At a time when so few Americans seem inclined to jeopardize their careers — much less their lives — on behalf of principle, the life of Cesar Chavez stands out with even greater moral force," Rodriguez said.

"Every day in California and in other states where farm workers are

organizing, (Chavez) lives in their hearts," Rodriguez concluded. "Cesar lives wherever Americans he inspired work nonviolently for social change."

Also attending the White House ceremony were Dolores Huerta, first vice president and co-founder of the UFW, and Magdelano Rose Avila, executive director of the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation.

Family members taking part were Richard Chavez, the late labor leader's brother; sons Paul and An-

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Felony Arrests In Work Death

Manslaughter charges have been filed against the owners and the foreman of the Oakland plant where a worker was killed last September in a vat filled with cyanide fumes.

But there still is no explanation of why the state Department of Industrial Relations and its various labor law enforcement arms allowed Robert McSkimming and his wife, Barbara, to continue to operate their K & L Electroplating Co. for two years without correcting lethal and illegal hazards discovered by state inspectors in 1991.

It took two years and a wage-earners' death before action was taken against life-threatening conditions at K & L, which produced components for the electronic industry.

Ramon Romero, 45, of Oakland, the father of 12, died Sept. 25, 1993, in a vat in which cyanide and acid were mixed to produce the same gas used in the death chamber at San Quentin Prison.

Romero had leaped into the vat to rescue a worker who had collapsed after being ordered in to clean it. Romero lifted the first man to safety but was felled himself.

The death revealed more than the fact that safety violations discovered two years earlier had been allowed to go uncorrected.

The McSkimmings also had been running typical underground economy exploitation scams on their largely immigrant workers, paying them in cash and keeping their names off the books to evade workers' compensation, unemployment insurance and disability insurance taxes, cheating on hours and overtime, and threatening with dismissal anybody who objected to the economic rip-offs or lethal working conditions.

Charged by the Alameda County district attorney with involuntary manslaughter in Romero's death

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We Do The Work Goes Weekly

We Do The Work, the public television series about workers and workplace issues, goes weekly with the start of the 1994-95 season on Labor Day.

It is a giant leap ahead for the Oakland-produced show, which has been offering one program a month since taking its first faltering steps as "California Working" and emerging onto national public television with its current name five years ago.

Already it is paying off in terms of better prime-time slots on a regular basis on public TV affiliates across the country.

"We are getting very positive responses," Executive Producer Patrice O'Neill said this week. "The

series will be aired in places where it hasn't been seen before, and many stations will be airing the programs at the same time each week so that We Do The Work fans will be able to find the shows more easily."

The new season will start with a one-hour Labor Day Special entitled Heroes 2. Patterned after last year's successful Labor Day offering, it will feature working Americans whose lives inspire their families, co-workers and communities.

After that there will be 26 half-hour segments—a considerable increase from fewer than a dozen produced in years past.

Valerie Lapin, communications director at We Do The Work, said station managers are much more in-

terested in the show now that it can be positioned on a weekly basis.

"We will be reaching a much larger and broader audience in big cities and small towns throughout the country," Lapin said. "In California, We Do The Work will be seen on public television stations in almost every part of the state."

The Labor Day special includes a segment about Billings, Montana, where residents united to fight emergence of anti-semitism and racism. When a brick was thrown through a window displaying a menorah, 10,000 menorahs went up throughout the community. The Painters Union organized volunteers to immediately cover racist graffiti, and the Laborers stood security

watch outside a synagogue.

Other segments in the special depict contributions of a dedicated teacher to the poor community of East St. Louis, Ill.; the work of a pediatric nurse among the Navajos, and the life of Crystal Lee Sutton, the real Norma Rae.

KQED in San Francisco is devoting its Labor Day air time almost exclusively to We Do The Work. Heroes 2, the special, will air at 9 p.m. Reruns of past programs in the series will be shown on either side of the special, starting at 9 a.m. and continuing until 11 p.m.

Air times for the special already confirmed in California include 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, over KCET,

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State COPE Sessions Crucial

Leaders of the Legislature will have key roles in the general election strategy sessions scheduled in Northern and Southern California by the state AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education (COPE).

Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr., will address the Northern California session, which is set for Tuesday, Aug. 23, in the Savoy Ballroom of the San Francisco Airport Hilton Hotel.

Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer will speak at the Southern California session on the following day, Wednesday, Aug. 24, in the Gold Room of the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel.

And Bill Press, chair of the California Democratic Party, will address both sessions, according to an announcement by Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation and head of California COPE.

National COPE will be represented. There will be presentations by spokespersons for the broad-based coalition formed to fight Proposition 187, the anti-immigrant, anti-minority initiative that state AFL-CIO convention delegates condemned three weeks ago.

Electing Kathleen Brown governor of California and reelecting Dianne Feinstein to the U.S. Senate are pressing pri-

orities, along with maintaining Democratic majorities in the Assembly and State Senate, Henning pointed out.

COPE enters the general election campaign with new potency, thanks to action by delegates to the state federation's convention.

Delegates demonstrated their concern about Nov. 8 ballot challenges and their commitment to political action by voting to add five cents for COPE to the federation's per capita tax. This doubles the five cents previously set aside for COPE. Even with the increase, the California Labor Federation's per capita remains among the lowest of any of the

state federations in the country.

Agendas are essentially the same for both of the COPE sessions, Henning said. The focus will be on essential components for Nov. 8 election victories.

Both sessions will convene at 9:30 a.m. They are scheduled to end by 1 p.m. Registration will open at 9 a.m. both days. There are no registration fees.

Participants wishing accommodations in either hotel the nights before the sessions at special group rates should make their own reservations before Aug. 19.

Fired Workers And Supporters Blast Zellerbach

The 47 long-time employees fired from the Zellerbach Company's San Francisco paper products operations went public last Friday with their pain and their determination to fight back against management policies that drive working families into homeless shelters.

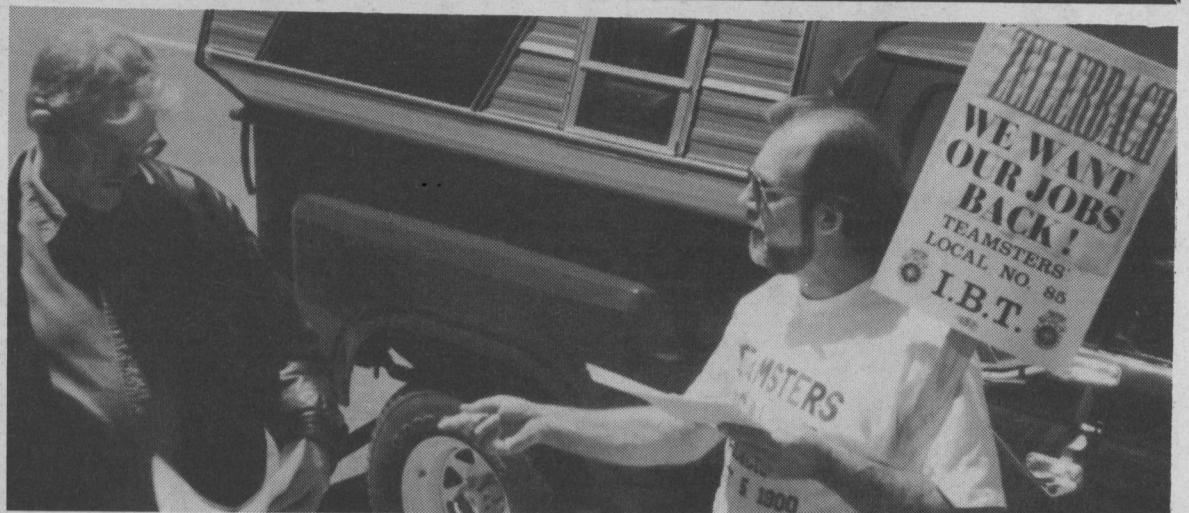
The occasion was a rally in the plaza at the foot of the Zellerbach Building, the landmark tower on San Francisco's Market Street that was the company's world headquarters before the Meade Corporation seized control in a hostile takeover a decade ago, moved offices to the midwest, and began the process of shoving union members out onto the street and replacing them with low-wage, no-benefit workers supplied by contractors.

The fired workers, Teamsters mostly represented by Local 85, had plenty of support. Civic

leaders, elected officials and members of the clergy joined trade unionists backing a corporate campaign to take some of the pain back to Zellerbach and its Meade corporate masters.

Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, introduced speakers including Kevin Shelley of the S.F. Board of Supervisors, Father Peter Sammon, Supervisor Bill Maher, Fathers Gumersinde Yopez and Cesar Pavon, Chuck Mack, president of Teamsters Joint Council No. 7; and Pedro Garcia-Mendez and Gerry Murphy, two of the fired workers along with Terry Hart, secretary-treasurer of Local 85.

Also introduced by Henning was Ron Steif, director of the Center for Ethics and Economic Policy, who chairs the California Committee for Justice, the broad-based coalition



Ken Heggum of Teamster Local 85 hands out facts on Zellerbach firings.

calling for economic action against Zellerbach if the jobs of the 47 are not restored.

The coalition numbers among its members Representatives Ron Dellums, Tom Lantos and Nancy Pelosi, Assembly Members Jackie Speier and Tom Bates, and S.F. Supervisors Terence Hallinan and Angela Alioto in addition to Shelley and Maher.

Northern California Interfaith Council, Pastor J. Alfred Smith of

Allen Temple Baptist Church, Sister Bernie Galvin, Father Sammon and Religious Witness with Homeless People are included. So is St. Mary's College.

Significantly, some two dozen printing houses that used to be Zellerbach customers are coalition members. So are other businesses ranging from restaurants to auto body shops whose owners are incensed at the spectacle of a highly profitable corporation destroying family wage jobs and consigning

workers to the ranks of the unemployed and homeless.

The fired workers for years were employees of Zellerbach, a company whose owners' name was synonymous with philanthropy and community service through several generations. After Meade took control, they found themselves employees of first one, then another contractor although they wore the same uniforms and serviced the same customers.

Meade completed the process of insulating itself from the work force earlier this year when the latest contractor announced that everybody was fired and that individuals were free to apply for their old jobs on a non-union basis.

They all applied. Two were hired, at a fraction of the \$15 per hour they formerly earned.

S.F. Publishers Stonewall

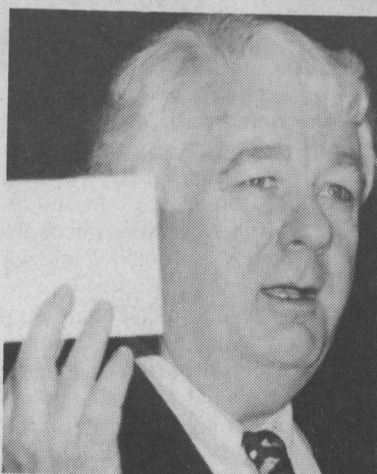
San Francisco newspaper publishers have returned to the bargaining table as ordered by the National Labor Relations Board, but they and their out-of-state lawyers are sticking with the same union-busting demands they were pushing when talks broke down months ago.

"They continue to insist upon replacing union members with no-benefit, low-wage part-timers," said Doug Cuthbertson, executive officer of Northern California Newspaper Guild and chair of the S.F. Conference of Newspaper Unions. "They want to destroy jobs paying wages sufficient to support families."

What the S.F. Examiner and Chronicle and their jointly owned Newspaper Agency seek is a low-paid, non-employee work force of so-called contractors without workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, health care or any other benefits, Cuthbertson said. The newspapers even want such workers to provide their own cars or trucks and to insure the vehicles at their own expense, he said.

King & Ballow, the notorious, anti-union lawyer firm headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee, was brought in by the publishers last year and immediately torpedoed the joint bargaining process that had provided a generation of labor-management accord among major newspapers of the S.F. Bay Area ever since the strike of 1968.

The NLRB ruled that King & Ballow had violated labor laws by reneging on the publishers' earlier commitment to bargain jointly in



Doug Cuthbertson, chair of S.F. Council of Newspaper Unions, urges state fed convention delegates to sign cards authorizing cancellation of subscriptions to the Chronicle and Examiner.

the contract renegotiation that began last year.

Meanwhile the eight unions involved persevere with their determination to pursue orderly negotiations now and to prepare for

whatever economic action may be required later.

Rich Trumka, president of the Mine Workers and head of the AFL-CIO Strategic Approaches Committee, is due in S.F. next week.

George Curtin, national AFL-CIO organizer assigned to the S.F. struggle, said Trumka would confer with local leaders on progress since last May when the Committee on Strategic Approaches announced it would fully support the S.F. newspaper unions.

Cuthbertson, addressing the 20th biennial convention of the California Labor Federation two weeks ago at Sacramento, announced that the Conference of Newspaper Unions was holding thousands of subscription cancellation orders ready for presentation to the publishers at a strategic moment. He urged delegates from locals in Northern California cities where the Chronicle and Examiner circulate to distribute cancellation cards through their local unions.

A meeting with Bishop Carlos

Sevilla of the Catholic Diocese of San Francisco is scheduled for next week as part of the expansion of support by church leaders, Curtin said.

The publishers' plans to fire hundreds of youth carriers were denounced during a City Hall demonstration organized last week by community activists fighting juvenile delinquency and seeking alternatives to youth gangs.

Speakers pointed out that firing the carriers will shut down the city's last significant pool of decent, part-time jobs for youngsters. They called the proposal hypocritical in view of the publishers' editorial page support for youth job programs.

A committee of the S.F. Board of Supervisors voted to write letters protesting the action to Nan Tucker McAvoy, head of the Chronicle, and William Randolph Hearst, Jr., publisher of the Examiner. Supervisors raised the possibility of ending the Newspaper Agency's monopoly of city legal advertising.

Labor Arts Award Nominations Open

Nominations are open for the 1995 Labor Arts Award, which will be presented during the Ninth Annual Western Workers Labor Heritage Festival Jan. 13-15 at Burlingame.

Individuals or organizations can be nominated for a significant contribution to the culture of working people. Winners are chosen not only

on the basis of artistic expression, but also for commitment to using the arts as an educational and organizing tool, according to David Winters, festival director.

Past recipients have been the late John Handcox, author of "Roll the Union On"; Millea Kay, writer, graphic artist and activist; the late Eric Fromer, painter and activist,

and Local 2 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees.

Nominations should be sent to Western Workers Labor Heritage Festival, Post Office Box 7184, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

The 1995 festival will return to the union halls of Machinists Lodge 1781, Transport Workers Local 505 and Plumbers Local 467.

Datebook

COPE general election strategy session for Northern California affiliates: 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23, San Francisco Airport Hilton Hotel.

COPE general election strategy session for Southern California affiliates: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel.

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement State Council membership meeting: Sept. 10, Los Angeles Airport Hyatt Hotel.

Publisher's Notice

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San Jose Meeting LCLAA's Biggest

Political empowerment and economic justice were dominant themes as more than a thousand Labor Council for Latin American Advancement delegates and guests converged upon the Fairmont Hotel at San Jose last week for the organization's 10th National Membership Meeting.

National labor and political leaders called for campaigns to register votes and to raise the awareness of the nation's Latino population.

The delegates reacted with outrage to the firing by Sprint of 235 Spanish-speaking workers who were poised to vote for union representation at La Conexion Familiar, the third-largest phone company's subsidiary servicing Hispanics in several states.

They cheered as a facsimile of the monument that will honor Cesar Chavez was unveiled in the San Jose park that has been renamed in honor of the founder of the United Farm Workers of America.

And they marched hundreds strong through downtown San Jose demanding justice and democracy in the workplace, led by a squadron of gardeners steering the power mowers with which they groom the grounds of glittering high rise buildings for wages below the poverty line.

The largest gathering in LCLAA history got underway Thursday morning, Aug. 4, with a keynote address by Ralph Jiminez, national LCLAA president.

Armando Vergara, California LCLAA president, greeted dele-

California LCLAA Sets Sept. 10 Meeting

The California State Labor Council for Latin American Advancement will hold its General State-wide Membership meeting Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Los Angeles Airport Hyatt Hotel, Jaime Gonzalez, executive director, has announced.

Nominations and elections of officers, LCLAA's California Action Plan, voter registration, the campaign against Proposition 187, the immigrant-bashing so-called SOS initiative, and a legislation update are on the agenda.



Landscape workers with lawn mowers roaring lead LCLAA delegates on march for workplace justice and democracy.

gates with a speech in which he called for close involvement in the Nov. 8 general election. Amy Dean, executive officer of the South Bay Labor Council, sounded a welcome and swung immediately into a denunciation of California Proposition 187, the immigrant-bashing initiative that Dave Sickler, regional AFL-CIO director, called "the most hateful, mean-spirited and evil initiative I have seen in my life."

Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jack Henning of the California Labor Federation, addressing the Friday, Aug. 5, session, reaffirmed the high priority the state AFL-CIO has placed upon LCLAA ever since the first California chapter was chartered in 1972, the year of LCLAA's founding.

Henning also called for defeat of Proposition 187 pointing out that even though the measure targets Spanish speakers, Spanish was the language in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and St. Augustine, Florida, long before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620.

There was an urgent call from Henry Cisneros, U.S. secretary of Housing and Urban Development, for enlistment of every LCLAA



Photos by David Bacon

LCLAA President Ralph Jiminez addresses San Jose rally.

member as a soldier in the battle to win decent health care for the millions of working Americans who now are unprotected.

Jiminez, a member of the United Auto Workers, was reelected president on Friday afternoon. Also

elected were Chano Merino of the USWA, executive vice president, and Maria Portalatin, American Federation of Teachers, secretary-treasurer.

Named as vice presidents were Rudy Mendoza, CWA; Ricardo

Icaza, UFCW; Damaso Seda, TWU; Linda Chavez-Thompson, AFSCME; Tony Padilla, TCU, and Eva Savala, UAW.

Owen Bieber, president of the United Auto Workers, received LCLAA's Montemayor/Barraza Award during the Awards Banquet on Saturday night that was the final event of the meeting.

The award, established in 1980, honors the memories of Paul Montemayor and Maclovio Barraza, USWA leaders who played key roles in the founding of LCLAA.

Edward James Olmos, actor and activist, received the LCLAA Hispanic Heritage Award during the banquet.

Maria Portalatin, the newly elected secretary-treasurer, received the LCLAA Lifetime Achievement Award. The citation listed accomplishments including her rise from unemployed single parenthood to vice presidency of a national union, from cosmetology school to the Georgetown University School of International Labor Relations, and from activism in a local PTA to leadership of 15,000 New York City public school paraprofessionals.

Underground Economy Curbs Advance

The labor-backed bill cracking down on the underground economy and relieving the Department of Industrial Relations of collection duties because of poor performance won the approval of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee Wednesday.

Senate Bill 1490 by Patrick Johnston, D-Stockton, goes next to the Assembly floor for a final vote.

The measure aims at closing many of the loopholes through which scofflaw employers are draining hundreds of millions of dollars a year from state tax revenues while flouting regulations meant to protect workers from illegal exploitation. It increases penalties, for example, on employers who conceal existence of workers from the Employment Development Department in order to cheat on unemployment insurance taxes.

And it transfers collection of delinquent fees, unpaid wages and various employer penalties from the Department of Industrial Relations to the Franchise Tax Board because of DIR's spotty record.

All committee Democrats and one Republican, Paul Horcher of Diamond Bar, voted "yes."

It was one of three labor-backed bills originating in the Senate that cleared the Assembly Ways and Means Committee Wednesday. One labor measure was sidetracked for August 12, 1994

later debate on costs.

Approved on party-line votes with Democrats in favor and Republicans opposed were:

- SB 1373 by Art Torres, D-L.A., establishing a Cesar Chavez holiday in California.

- SB 1419 by Johnston, the bill to make 13 to 20 weeks of supplemental unemployment benefits funded 50-50 with matching state and federal funds available to California workers jobless for so long that they exhaust their regular benefits.

Similar bills have been vetoed

twice despite the fact that California's unemployment currently hovers around nine percent, approximately half again the national average. There was testimony earlier that more than 200,000 long-term unemployed persons lost benefits earlier this year when federal extended benefits were terminated and there was no way for them to take advantage of the matching funds program.

- SB 1512, the measure by Herschel Rosenthal, D-L.A., permitting job applicants to see results of

doctors' examinations required as a condition of employment.

Stalled for debate over its impact on the budget was SB 1464, the measure by Milton Marks, D-San Francisco, to prevent employers from continuing to expose workers to conditions deemed as hazardous by Cal-OSHA throughout the appeal process.

Spokespersons for the Department of Industrial Relations testified that it would cost the state \$456,000 a year to implement SB 1464. Marks, the author, and Tom

Rankin, California Labor Federation research director, protested that the cost figures were grossly exaggerated, but the committee consigned the measure to its suspense file for consideration later in the legislative session when they are trying to match bills to available funds.

Rankin pointed out the DIR had stated two years ago that the cost would be a third less than the figure its spokespersons quoted this week.

On the Senate side of the Capitol, the Rules Committee dealt a death blow to Assembly Bill 2888, which would have weakened the state's licensing requirements for toxic farm pesticides.

The bill by Julie Bornstein, D-Palm Desert, passed the Assembly but was blocked in the Senate Toxics and Public Safety Committee.

Bornstein came to the Rules Committee Monday to request a waiver that would enable her to take an amended version of the bill back to the Toxics and Public Safety Committee even though the procedural deadline had passed.

The committee declined to grant the waiver after Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, argued that the author's amendments would be unlikely to resolve questions raised by the United Farm Workers and others.

Affirmative Action Survives

A Republican attempt to kill affirmative action programs in all California public employment was scuttled Wednesday, but the author said he'd be back with a different version of the same measure next year.

Killed on a 4-6 party-line vote in the Assembly Judiciary Committee was Assembly Constitutional Amendment 47 by Bernie Richter, D-Chico, which would have banned affirmative action in all public employment, schools and public works projects "except under court order, an existing consent decree, or when federal funds are involved."

It clearly is the state GOP's next hot button issue, successor, apparently, to immigrant-bashing that

placed Proposition 187, the "save our state" initiative, on the Nov. 8 general election ballot.

Richter, calling affirmative action "the equally noxious flip side of legal segregation," sought to put a constitutional amendment killing affirmative action on the statewide ballot through passage of ACA 47.

He said he'd come back with a bill to accomplish the same thing through statute without a referendum.

"We will prevail," Richter said. "It will be by statute or on the national level or by an initiative of the people."

Virtually every human rights and

community activist organization in California opposed ACA 47. Supporters were identified as seven businesses, including two architectural firms, and 34 individuals.

Opponents argued that abolishing affirmative action would only exacerbate existing discrimination and extend pervasive inequality in public schools, government management and in business.

"It is one of the most dangerous pieces of legislation I have seen in my four years here," said Assembly Member Barbara Lee, D-Oakland, chair of the Black Legislative Caucus. "If this thing goes forward, we will have turned the clock back 30, 40, or even 50 years."

Lockyer Warns on Right-Wingers

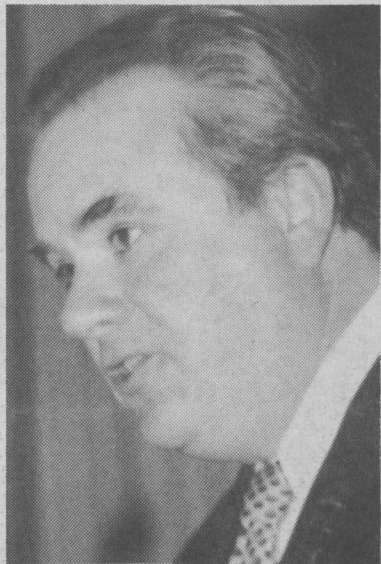
State Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer gave an analysis of the Nov. 8 Senate races during the 20th biennial convention of the California Labor Federation, warning that strong help from labor will be needed to maintain the democratic majority in the upper house of the Legislature.

He pointed out that there currently are 22 Democrats in the Senate, 21 being "the magic number necessary to be able to organize."

Fifteen of the 20 seats up for election in November are held by Democrats.

"We have a lot of exposure," he said. "At least three to one. Maybe worse than that."

"I am particularly worried about the fact that the entire Assembly



Bill Lockyer

and Senate Democratic caucus combined has less money to spend, less cash on hand, than one little group of right-wing fanatics organized by Senator Rob Hurtt from Orange County that calls itself the Allied Business PAC," Lockyer said.

Identified as the principals were Hurtt and his wife, Nancy; Edward Alsinger III, owner of radio stations with religious right formats; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ahmanson, and Roland and Lila Hinz, publishers of magazines.

"Well, Allied Business PAC is the enemy," Lockyer said. "Four families in the last two years have pumped more than \$4 million of personal wealth into these various campaigns and crusades around the state. ... They write huge checks

and attack at the last minute. We won't know until mid-October who they are after in a serious way."

"What we do know is that they are the number one PAC in the state of California. It is the first time an ideological PAC has been in the top 10, and they are number one."

Lockyer cited the group's goals.

"It's prayer in the schools. It's voucher education. It's privatization of everything. It's anti-woman, homophobic, anti-choice, anti-minority."

"And for some reason this group, which tells us their purpose is to integrate Biblical law into our everyday lives, reads in the Bible that we should outlaw agency shop agreements," Lockyer said.

"The Bible tells them that we

should get rid of collective bargaining for public employees. The Bible tells them that both in the public and private sectors the doctrines of prevailing wage should be eliminated."

"It goes on and on."

"Between now and November we have only about 100 days and the election will be over," Lockyer added. "So we need a lot of help. We need the soldiers. We need the money and ammunition and the issues to work with."

"We can do it. But I tell you in the words of a great war leader, 'In victory, magnanimity and peace, good will, in war defiance and resolution.' We are resolved to win this fight."

Health Care...

(Continued from Page 1)

that others will be forced to kill it," he continued. "Then, the blood on their hands will not be seen."

The AFL-CIO supports the health care measure introduced in the House by Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, which adheres generally to the principles set forth by the national federation for meaningful health care reform. In the Senate, the AFL-CIO seeks amendments to the Mitchell proposal to

give it a genuine employer mandate, true universal coverage, and effective cost control.

Kirkland noted that the Mitchell proposal would impose a tax on employee benefits through a premium tax mechanism.

He charged that the National Federation of Independent Business, an organization claiming to represent independent business employers, was misrepresenting the stand of most employers.

"We cannot believe that the majority (of employers) are so avaricious...or so indifferent" that they would want to deny health care coverage to their employees, Kirkland said.

Most employers, the AFL-CIO leader said, would rather find a way to cover their employees if it did not "put them at a competitive disadvantage" against those employers who prefer to "off-load that responsibility on others."

Kirkland's comments echoed a formal statement by the AFL-CIO Executive Council, which called the

Miller: Reform Is Crucial

Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, released new data this week showing why health care reform is a critical issue in his 7th Congressional District comprising most of west and central Contra Costa County and southern Solano County:

- Some 86,000 people in working families in the 7th District have no health insurance.

- One out of four of the uninsured in the district — a total of 21,000 people — is a child under the age of 18.

The figures are newly released by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Department of Health and Human Services.

"Universal coverage is critical to the people of Contra Costa and Solano counties," Miller said. "Thousands of working people and their families have no health insurance. And thousands more suffer from rising health care costs and diminished health care choices."

"Passage of serious health care reform legislation is vital to the personal health of my constituents and to the economic health of the Bay Area and the country at large."

Miller is an outspoken advocate of single-payer health care. He also supports the bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Majority Leader Richard Gephardt.

He called the bill by Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, which lacks universal coverage, "a prescription for disaster."

Manslaughter...

(Continued from Page 1)

were the McSkimming couple, who maintain their legal residence in Reno, and their foreman, Victor Vasquez.

The additional underground economy violations have resulted in 183 felony fraud accusations against the McSkimmings and four other employees at the plant where Romero died and at two other Oakland

Mitchell bill a "timid approach" that "will not solve the root causes of the current health care crisis because it would not end the market incentive for businesses to reduce or deny health benefits to their employees and would not impose effective cost discipline on health care providers."

The council added, "We urge the Senate to strengthen this legislation so that it would assure universal coverage, provide comprehensive benefits based upon a stronger employer mandate, and effectively control costs without taxing health benefits."

The council vowed to "devote all

our efforts in the Senate toward this end."

But, it added, "without positive changes, the AFL-CIO cannot support a health care reform bill that is so detrimental to the interests of working families and the country at large."

We Do The Work...

(Continued from Page 1)

Channel 28 in Los Angeles; 7 p.m. on KEET, Channel 13 in Eureka; 9 p.m. Labor Day on KCSM, Channel 13 in San Mateo, and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7 and 1 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, on Sacramento Cable 7.

KQED is starting the new weekly program out in the 3 p.m. Sunday spot for the month of September. KCSM has it scheduled on

locations were K & L manufactured electronics components.

Bail was set at \$1 million for McSkimming, \$400,000 for his wife, and \$250,000 for Jose Vasquez on the manslaughter charges.

Bail on payroll fraud charges was set at \$50,000 for Jose Vasquez, \$25,000 apiece for Anselmo and Jesus Vasquez, and at \$10,000 for Barbara Kendrick, a secretary at the

firm.

Still pending is payment of the \$741,000 in penalties levied last March for 38 violations of Cal-OSHA and federal OSHA standards following Romero's death.

The McSkimmings have filed protests, and the cases are now in the appeals process.

Included in the 1993 violations

were many for which K & L had been cited two years earlier. The company is charged with failing to provide respirators and rescue harnesses to workers sent into vats with lethal fumes, failing to maintain the acid and cyanide components of the poisonous gas in separate places safe from accidental mixing, failure to provide safety training to workers in hazardous jobs, and many other violations.

and women to the mainstream media. For the first time, there will be a regular place on television where American workers would be seen expressing their opinions and concerns about the critical social, economic and political issues facing our nation."

Medals...

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thony Chavez, daughters Linda Chavez Rodriguez, Elizabeth Chavez Villarino and Sylvia Chavez Delgado, and granddaughter Barbara Ybarra.

The president awarded a total of nine Medals of Freedom during Monday's ceremony. Other recipients were Herbert Block, editorial

cartoonist for the Washington Post; James Grant, head of UNICEF; Dorothy Height, civil rights campaigner; Rep. Robert H. Michel of Illinois, the House minority leader; Barbara Jordan, University of Texas professor and former member of Congress; Arthur Fleming, former secretary of Health and Human Services, and Sargent Shriver, the first head of the Peace Corps.

Labor will launch its support of the United Way of Orange County and the Orange County Combined Federal Campaigns with a Kickoff and Recognition Luncheon Friday, Aug. 19, at the Inn at the Park Hotel in Anaheim.

Dave Sickler, AFL-CIO regional director, will be master of ceremonies. Individuals to be recognized for their service to labor and the community are Howard Darter, Communications Workers Local 9510; Richard Dial, United Food and Commercial Workers Region

15; Ann Foster, past president of the Orange County Central Labor Council; Rodney Wheeler, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 923, and Monsignor John Sammon, vicar for community affairs of the Catholic Diocese of Orange.

Unions to be recognized are CWA Locals 9400 and 9510, Branches 1100 and 737 of the National Association of Letter Carriers, and UFCW Local 324.

Special thanks for early endorse-

ment of United Way of Orange County or the Combined Federal Campaigns will be extended to CWA Local 9400, Coast Valley Typographical Union 650, Iron Workers Local 416, Office and Professional Employees Local 30, and Steam, Refrigeration, Air Conditioning, Pipefitters and Apprentices Local 250.

Details about the Kickoff and Recognition Luncheon can be obtained by phoning Beverly Pastore of Labor's Community Services Liaison Program at (714) 263-6115.

Toll-Free Phone Calls For Grass-Roots Lobbyists

The AFL-CIO's toll-free 800 number gives grass-roots union members the opportunity for positive impact with members of Congress on the health care reform debate.

The number: 1-800-9-CARE-94.

Calls from California currently connect automatically with Sen. Dianne Feinstein's Capitol offices.

You're not likely to get the senator. Instead, you will be talking with a staffer who will be keeping track of the numbers of callers for and against various aspects of reform. His or her primary interest will be in determining which

side of the debate you are on.

Points to remember:

- Be sure to give your name and voting address.
- Urge the senator to support amendments to the Mitchell bill providing true universal coverage, a genuine employer mandate, and effective cost control.
- Urge elimination of any tax on employee benefits.
- End with thanks for listening and an expression of hope that the senator does the right thing when the bill comes up for a vote.