

Council Condemns Prison Plan

The Executive Council of the California Labor Federation voted unanimously this week to fight an amendment to the state Constitution that would make it legal to hire convicts out to work for private business.

At the same time, the council reaffirmed AFL-CIO support for the California Prison Industries program, which produces goods and services for public agencies, and the prison apprenticeship program, which aims at helping convicts return to freedom as skilled craftsmen.

The federation vice presidents, meeting at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, reaffirmed in the

strongest terms organized labor's historic and deep-rooted opposition to any program that could displace free workers.

Also during its regular quarterly meeting this week, the Executive Council:

- Pledged support to the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in that union's nationwide strike against Eastern Air Lines and urged affiliates to mobilize pickets. (See story below.)

- Endorsed the stand of the Communications Workers of America against demands by the General Telephone Co. and promised sup-

port in the event the union is forced into a strike. (See story, Page 4.)

- Heard former Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr., new chairperson of the California Democratic Party, outline a political involvement and voter registration keyed to participation by the labor movement.

- Called upon the Legislature to immediately appropriate \$50 million from federal grants to prevent a shutdown of "citizenship" classes necessary for immigrants trying to qualify for amnesty and permanent residence status. (See story, Page 3.)

The Executive Council's action

on convict labor reiterated objections and warnings voiced by Executive Secretary-Treasurer John F. Henning last week during the first legislative hearing on Gov. George Deukmejian's proposal to eliminate the 110-year-old constitutional ban on exploitation of prisoners by private businesses.

And while the state AFL-CIO leaders renewed their support for the Prison Industries program, they served notice that organized labor will fight any proposal to put convict participants in direct competition with free workers by trying to

(Continued on Page 4)



Owen Marron

Marron Elected Fed V.P.

Owen Marron, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alameda County Central Labor Council, was elected a vice president of the California Labor Federation last Tuesday.

Marron was elected to the District 11A seat on the federation Executive Council vacated by the resignation of Steve Martin. Marron also succeeded Martin as head of the Alameda County local central body.

The Executive Council vote was unanimous after John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the state federation, announced Martin's retirement and nominated Marron during a regular council session Tuesday through Wednesday at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

Marron was sworn in immediately and participated in this week's Executive Council deliberations.

The new vice president is a native of Buffalo, N.Y., who attended high school and college in Southern California before going to work at Kaiser Steel in Fontana and joining Local 2869 of the United Steel Workers.

He was the fourth-generation of his family to work in the steel mills.

Marron had war-time service with the U.S. Army in Korea in 1952 through 1954.

He then returned to Kaiser Steel and by 1957 had become active in the leadership of Local 2869. He was strike committee chairman during the 116-day walkout in 1959 and served also as local recording secretary and incentive committee chair.

He became a full-time represen-

(Continued on Page 4)

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Unity Foils Lorenzo

Corporate raider Frank Lorenzo wound up in bankruptcy court yesterday with his entire airline industry house of cards in jeopardy because he mistakenly believed he could divide and conquer the unions at Eastern Air Lines, labor leaders agree.

The Machinists who struck a week ago and the pilots and flight attendants who honored their picket lines wanted a presidential panel, a 60-day delay in economic actions and an investigation into Lorenzo's management of Eastern.

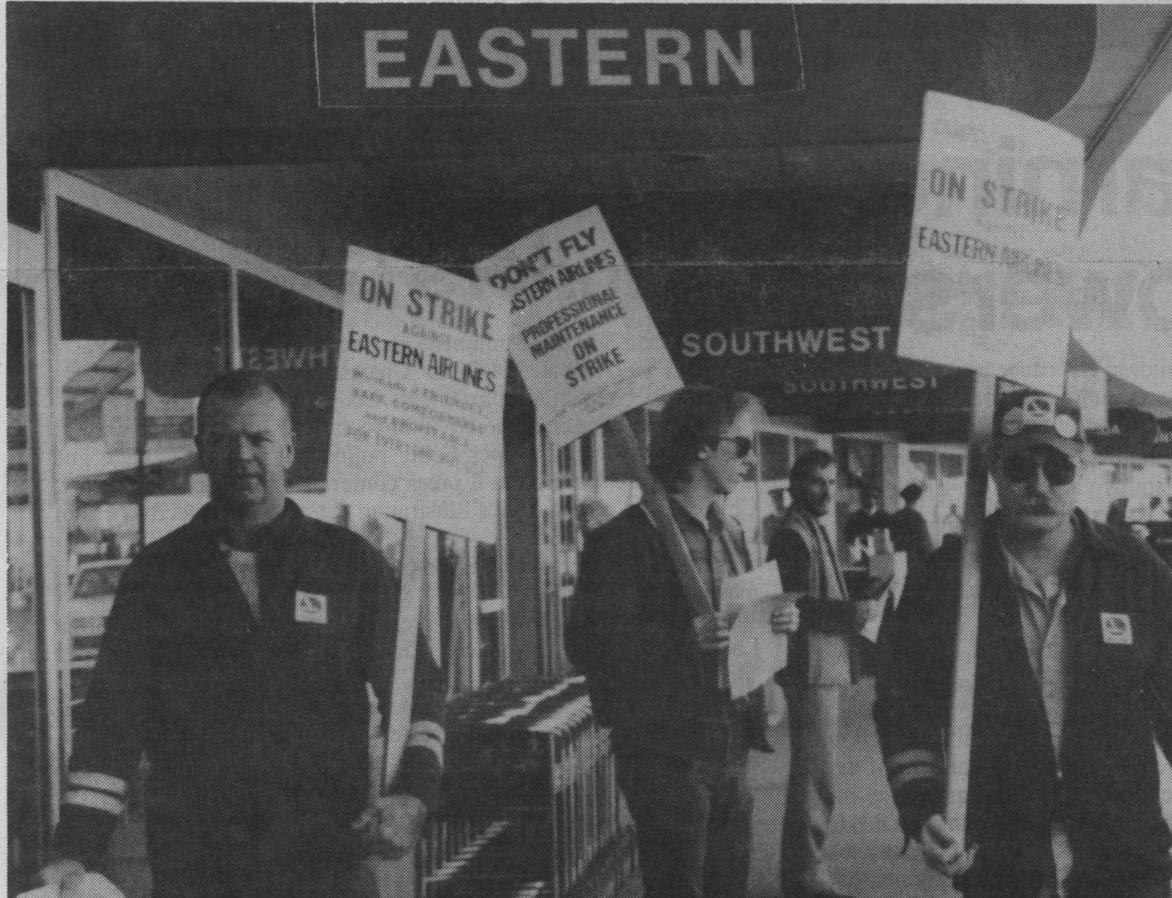
But they readily accepted the bankruptcy move after President George Bush refused to grant them the panel and after a week of labor solidarity demonstrated that Loren-

Solidarity inspires song.
Page 4

zo could not win the strike he thought he wanted.

"They are fed up with the way they have been treated," Machinists President William Winpisinger said yesterday of his union's 8,500 members at Eastern. "If (bankruptcy) is the result, they'll accept it."

President Lane Kirkland of the AFL-CIO praised the solidarity of the Eastern Air Lines unions and the support of the entire labor movement Monday as he prepared to urge Congress to halt the strike and order fact-finding "to expose the truth" about Lorenzo and



Machinists Lodge 1781 members on the picket line at San Francisco International Airport are, from left, Bob McNeil, Greg Larson and Bob Stellato.

Eastern Air Lines.

"What fact-finding would show is that Mr. Lorenzo found it worth his while to purchase a good company and strip its assets rather than operate it fairly and decently," the AFL-CIO chief declared.

Corporate debt incurred to

finance Lorenzo's takeover of Eastern is the basis of the problem, Kirkland said.

"Difficulties at Eastern are not the result of labor costs, which are lower than those at other airlines that operate profitably and efficiently," Kirkland declared. "If any-

thing, Eastern's labor costs are less."

"Eastern is in trouble because it is two and a half billion dollars in hock to the banks that financed its takeover," Kirkland said.

"The interest on that debt is

(Continued on Page 4)

Cop Cleared in Huerta Beating

No action will be taken against the officer who put Dolores Huerta of the United Farm Workers in the hospital with a ruptured spleen and two broken ribs, the San Francisco Police Commission decided Wednesday by a vote of 4-1.

A multi-million damage suit remains to be tried, but Wednesday's action apparently ends any possibility of disciplinary action against Officer Frank Achim of the tactical squad, identified as the one who clubbed Huerta outside the St. Francis Hotel last Sept. 14 while George Bush was addressing a

\$4,000-a-plate Republican dinner inside.

Huerta, a 58-year-old grandmother, was passing out leaflets explaining the UFW's boycott of California table grapes. Bush, campaigning for the presidency, had mocked the boycott and the UFW during speeches in the central valley.

She was herded into a crowd that the tactical squad was forcing away from the front of the hotel. Television news tapes show the policeman swinging his 36-inch baton with both hands in a spearing motion.

They also show Huerta doubling over in pain.

Cries of "shame, shame," echoed through the crowded meeting chamber as the commissioners voted. Others applauded. The audience included a number of off-duty policemen. The tactical squad, helmeted and carrying its 36-inch batons, guarded the commissioners.

The S.F. Office of Citizen Complaints recommended that Achim be disciplined for using excessive force. Police Chief Frank Jordan

said he'd refuse to punish the officer if the commission ordered him to do so, but the commission's vote forestalled a confrontation.

Ironically, Wednesday had been declared "Dolores Huerta Day" in San Francisco by action of the Board of Supervisors. Mayor Art Agnos and others denied that the declaration had anything to do with the Police Commission ballot.

The district attorney gave his findings on the beating to the grand jury, which refused to indict

(Continued on Page 2)

Performers Bid to Block Strike

Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists have moved boldly to head off another crippling entertainment industry strike by opening negotiations two months early with key concessions already on the table.

The unions have told motion picture and television producers that they are ready to meet any time after Monday, March 13, even though talks are not scheduled to start until May 15. Contracts expire

June 30.

The unions propose to avoid opening up the entire contracts for renegotiation, shortening the bargaining process.

"An early agreement of this nature would solve contract problems on both sides and allow production to continue uninterrupted without a 'de facto' strike caused by production cancellations and delays during lengthy negotiations," said Ken Orsatti, chief SAG negotiator and a vice president of the Califor-

nia Labor Federation.

"We are attempting to greatly accelerate the bargaining process in order to keep production going at full steam," Orsatti declared.

"After last year's painful writer's strike, we don't believe the industry can withstand another major work stoppage. That's why we're doing everything we can, as early as we can, to avoid that possibility."

Orsatti said the unions are prepared to act immediately on the producers' key demands.

"The producers have made clear their desire for a flexible five-out-of-seven-day work week and a revision of the residual formula for one-hour network series in TV syndication," Orsatti said.

"We are prepared to address those industry needs in exchange for our own limited package of proposals."

The stripped-down union proposals, adopted by the Joint SAG-AFTRA Boards on March 6 in Hollywood and March 8 in New York,

include:

- A four percent increase in minimum wages in each year of a three-year contract, applying also to certain residuals.

- A one percent increase in producer contributions to pension and health plans.

- Minimum salaries for TV series guest stars based on a multiple of minimum day player scale.

- Increases in performers' residuals for shows released to basic cable.

- A new method of calculating residuals for foreign distribution.

- Establishment of a cooperative commission to study and issue a report on residuals.

The unions propose picking up all other terms and conditions of the old contracts, which went into effect in 1986.

Presidents Barry Gordon of SAG and Frank Maxwell of AFTRA said they "applauded the courageous action of the SAG-AFTRA Boards" and the creativity of their chief negotiators.

"We believe it is in the best interest of the industry and all who depend upon it to dispel the strike rumors and the anxiety and business disruptions they cause," Gordon said. "We hope to achieve a rapid solution to the mutual problems of performers and producers."

Negotiators ready to meet immediately with the producers include Orsatti, Gordon and John McGuire for SAG, and Maxwell and John Hall for AFTRA.

Kaplan Leads AFTRA, Urges Merger

Marvin Kaplan has begun his term as president of the Los Angeles Local of American Federation of Television and Radio Artists with a call for merger of AFTRA and Screen Actors Guild.

"Hopefully merger, which has been circling the field for about nine years, will finally land and a merger plan will be submitted to the national boards of both unions and eventually to you by referendum," Kaplan told the Feb. 22 general membership meeting of the 30,000-member Los Angeles AFTRA Local.

"What the merger committee is trying to do is not just merge the two unions; it is creating a new third union with a new kind of government, dues structure and health and pension plan," Kaplan said.

The actor, best known for his eight-season run as Henry the



Marvin Kaplan

telephone repairman on the "Alice" situation comedy, was elected last month to succeed K.T. Stevens, who did not run again.

Also elected were Frank Aletter, Les Tremayne, Donna Davidson and Jay Gerber, first through fourth vice presidents respectively; Timothy Blake, recording secretary, and Susan Boyd, treasurer.

Kaplan also told members meeting Feb. 21 at the Sheraton-Universal Hotel that he wanted to expand AFTRA's services to them. He cited the plight of unemployed performers.

"This union must do a job not just for the member who is working in terms of safe and lucrative working conditions and contract enforcement, but also for the member who is not working," he declared.

Also introduced at the membership meeting were members of the

Local Board of Directors.

Board members representing actors are Peter Leeds, Alice Backes, Norma Connolly, Fritz Held, Cindy Howard, Pat Li, John Randolph, Jean Bruce Scott, Bill Zuckert, Kaplan, Tremayne and Aletter.

Announcer representatives are Barbara Barri, Regis Cordic, Ted Meyers and Larry Van Nuys. Stan Mazin and Tara Sitser represent dancers. Sally Stevens represents singers, and Geoff Witcher represents sportscasters. Leslie Hoffman fills a new stuntperson board seat.

Named to represent the Los Angeles Local on the AFTRA National Board of Directors were Joe Barone, Bobbi Bates, Howard Caine, Robert Easton, Marilyn Jackson, Paul Napier, Joseph Ruskin, Jackie Ward, Backes, Gerber, Howard, Randolph, Stevens and Kaplan.

Apple Warning Riles Growers

Move over, Cesar Chavez! Actress Meryl Streep is joining you as a target of criticism from farmers who want nothing said about dangerous chemicals on the foodstuffs they produce.

Washington state apple growers are angry with Streep for telling television talk show audiences how chemicals in apples they feed their

Huerta Case Cop Cleared

(Continued from Page 1)

anyone. The FBI investigated but concluded that Huerta's civil rights had not been violated.

The Police Department conducted its own investigation and found that the officer's actions fell within "acceptable crowd control procedures." This finding was cited by the police chief and commissioners who voted with the majority.

Huerta left town after her day of honor ceremony at City Hall, predicting the commission would exonerate the policeman. She flew to Los Angeles to participate in a testimonial banquet at Studio City honoring Cesar Chavez and benefiting the grape boycott.

children can cause cancer. Red apple sales are said to be down.

California grape growers are continuing to focus a costly public relations campaign at Chavez and the United Farm Workers because sales have been reduced sharply by the boycott in protest against dangerous chemicals used on grapes.

Apple growers for years have used the chemical daminozide to make their apples nice and red.

The Environmental Protection Agency says it will ban use of the chemical in 1990 because tests indicate it breaks down into UDMH, a carcinogen.

The EPA warned last month that 5,500 to 6,200 children currently in their pre-school years will contract cancer sometime in their lives because of childhood exposure to chemicals used on fruits and vegetables. Daminozide, sold under the trade name Alar, is the worst of the lot, EPA said.

Streep, founder of Mothers and Others for Pesticide Limits, has appeared on "Today," "Donahue" and other television talk shows to warn against feeding kids apples treated with Alar.

A spokesperson for the Washington apple industry criticized Streep

Labor Dinner Honors Chavez

More than 300 trade unionists and supporters of the United Farm Workers paid tribute to Cesar Chavez Wednesday evening at a testimonial banquet at Sportsmen's Lodge in Studio City.

The event benefitted the UFW boycott of California table grapes.

Photos of unsold grapes being pulled out of cold storage and dumped were featured at a press conference prior to the banquet. Chavez cited new statistics illustrating the growing effectiveness of the boycott.

Bruce Lee, director of Region 6 of the United Auto Workers, was master of ceremonies.

John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, introduced Chavez for the honoree's banquet speech.

Dolores Huerta, first vice president of the UFW spoke on the controversy over the injuries she suffered last fall at the hands of San Francisco police.

Huerta was introduced by Gwen Newton, business manager of Local 30 of the Office and Professional Employees, international vice president of the OPEIU and vice president also of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Also speaking were Al Hernandez, business representative of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; Vern Watkins, international union director for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Richard Floyd, business representative and organizer, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers; and Bill Demers, former District 11 vice president of the Communications Workers and former vice president of the California Labor Federation.

for speaking out even though she "is not a Ph.D. from Harvard" and "is not knowledgeable about why farmers use products or what would happen if they were not used."

Streep admitted she was not a scientist but pointed out that scien-

tists issued the warning about apples.

"I'm not interested in beating up on farmers," the actress said. "I'm interested in farmers being supported to grow things in ways not threatening to health."

L.A. Herald Examiner Staff Ratifies Contract

A new collective bargaining contract at the Los Angeles Herald Examiner has been ratified by a five-vote margin.

The "wall-to-wall" contract covers about 550 workers at the newspaper, including reporters, editors, photographers, secretaries, advertising personnel, printers, mailers and press operators, all of whom are represented by District Council 2 of the Graphic Commun-

ications International Union.

The three-year contract provides annual raises of 5, 4 and 5 percent. Health plan and sick leave provisions are improved, and an additional holiday are gained.

Employees also sought a commitment from the Hearst Corporation, owner of the Herald Examiner, to make capital improvements in the newspaper, particularly in the editorial computer system. No

guarantee was exacted, although the general manager said he had requested funds for new computer equipment.

Members of the union had voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike. Contract terms were hammered out in a subsequent 17-hour negotiating session, and ratification was voted on Tuesday.

The Herald Examiner was the largest afternoon newspaper in the United States with circulation of

more than 700,000 before 1967, when the Hearst Corporation forced its workers into a strike and broke The Newspaper Guild, International Typographical Union and Mailers at the newspaper. Organized labor responded with a boycott that greatly reduced the newspaper's circulation before the GCIU brought the workers back under a collective bargaining contract. Today the Herald Examiner sells about 242,000 papers a day.

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Lumber Union Had a Hammer

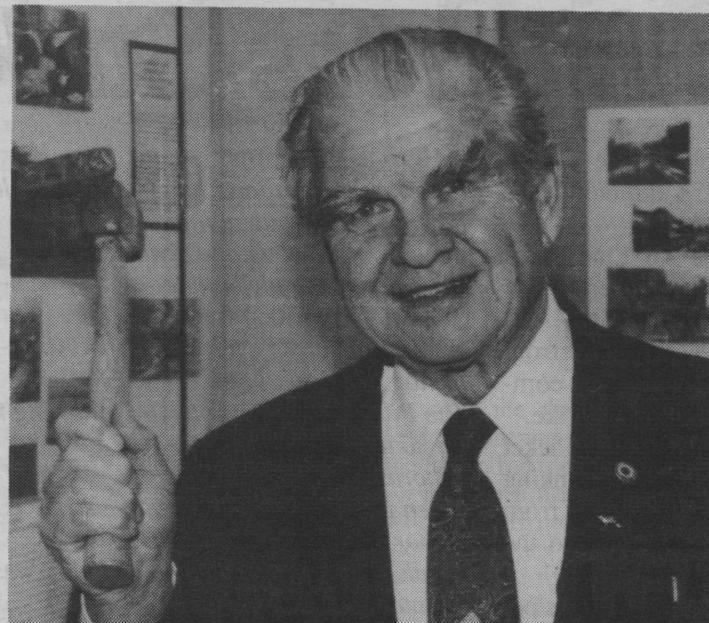
Three persons thoroughly familiar with the subject were on hand last week to help launch the "Lumber and Labor in Humboldt County" exhibit at the Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University.

Greeting guests at the opening reception and commenting on the display of photos, documents and artifacts were Albin J. Gruhn, president of the California Labor Federation, former head of the Humboldt-Del Norte Central Labor Council and onetime lumber worker; R. Jeffry Lustig, director of the Timber Unions of Humboldt County History Project, and Daniel A. Cornfield, author of the newly published history, "Workers and Dissent in the Redwood Empire."

A die hammer in the display brought back memories for Gruhn. The face of the hammer bears the raised letters "AFL 8," a union label that was struck onto the ends of finished pieces of lumber.

"This tool was developed during the historic 1946-47 strike by the Redwood District Council of Lumber and Sawmill Workers," recalled Gruhn, who that year was secretary-business manager of the Humboldt-Del Norte council.

"Union carpenters were supporting the strike, so the sawmill workers began marking lumber to identify what had come out of



Albin J. Gruhn displays Sawmill Workers' union label hammer.

union mills."

The exhibit includes items assembled by the Humboldt Timber Unions History Project under Lustig's direction. It will remain on display through March 31 at the archives, 408 Winston Drive on the S.F. State Campus. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m.

Information can be obtained by phoning Lynn Bonfield, archives director, at (415) 564-4010.

Labor's Plea to Archdiocese

The Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles was urged this week to grant its cemetery workers the union representation they have voted for.

William R. Robertson, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, said that the archdiocese was "apparently using a handful of workers at cemeteries owned by the church to embark on a campaign to fight the rights of all labor."

The archdiocese, Robertson said, "seems to be at war with the tens of thousands of union families in its flock." He added, "Organized labor is shocked and saddened by this."

Robertson said labor shunned a "war" with the archdiocese.

"We would like to think the door remains open," the Los Angeles labor leader said. "But there can be no door without a threshold, and the archdiocese seems to have opted to tear that threshold down."

Workers in the diocese-owned cemeteries recently voted narrowly

for representation by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers. This came after nearly two years of attempts to organize.

The archdiocese has indicated it will challenge the ballot. Union leaders said this was a continuation of a "pattern of delays and obstruction" by the archdiocese.

"We find it extremely regrettable that the archdiocese does not see that the goals of the church and the social and economic goals of its working people — whether union or non-union — are the same,"

Robertson said.

"The archdiocese thus wraps itself in the discredited robes of the recalcitrant employer. It forgets that the church is not the employer of the people but the servant of the people," he added.

Robertson said labor was "frustrated and mystified" by the stand on cemetery workers, especially in view of the fact that the archdiocese has in recent years "been a constant friend of the causes of the underprivileged and the deprived."

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles is headed by Archbishop Roger Mahony.

He cited the successful campaign to increase the California minimum wage, in which the church fought alongside labor and community groups.

"But now the attitude of the archdiocese seems to rival that of the Merchants and Manufacturers Association in its cold disdain for the laboring man and woman," Robertson said.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles is headed by Archbishop Roger Mahony.

Oxnard Eatery on Boycott List

Opus I Restaurant in the Embassy Suites Hotel at Oxnard was placed on the "We Do Not Patronize" list this week by unanimous vote of the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation.

The action was requested by the Tri-Counties Central Labor Council on behalf of Culinary Alliance Local 498 of Hotel Employees and

Restaurant Employees, which has filed a series of unfair labor practices charges over worker rip-offs and anti-labor tactics encountered during an organizing drive that began last October.

Pat Sundberg, executive secretary-treasurer of Local 498, reported that resolution of the first of the charges resulted in substantial

payments to a worker. The National Labor Relations Board is expected to rule shortly on additional charges, Sundberg said.

The organizing drive will continue, Sundberg said, even though the restaurant has gotten rid of nearly everybody who worked there last fall.

Fed Backs Amnesty Class Funds

Funds to keep alive English classes that aliens need to qualify for amnesty and legal residence were approved by an 8-0 bipartisan vote of the State Senate Education Committee on Wednesday.

The action came only hours after the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, meeting at Los Angeles, had voted unanimously to support new appropriations from federal grants authorized under the Immigration Reform Act.

William R. Robertson, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, asked the Executive Council action, pointing out that the Labor Immigration Assistance Project, which is guiding thousands of immigrants through the maze of regulations surrounding permanent residence, is running out of money with uncounted immigrant workers still in need of help.

Bill Honig, state superintendent of public instruction, warned this week that the \$121 million already set aside for "citizenship" classes this year will be exhausted next month, jeopardizing the futures of as many as 1.9 million aliens who have applied for permanent residency under the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act and

who must complete courses in civics and English language.

The Education Committee acted on SB 109 by State Sen. Art Torres, D-L.A., which calls for appropriation of \$50 million immediately from federal grants received for this purpose by the State Department of Education.

Torres' bill would tap a \$1.8 billion fund allocated to California by the federal government to provide health, education and welfare services to newly legalized citizens. Honig said the money would enable classes, many of them organized by the AFL-CIO, to handle some 100,000 more immigrants this year.

SB 109 was one of a series of labor-backed bills approved this week by committees of the Legislature.

Another bipartisan vote of the Senate Education Committee gave 10-0 approval to Torres' SB 259, which would require the Department of Education to prepare a master plan for meeting the state's child care needs.

The Senate Industrial Relations Committee voted unanimous, bipartisan approval for two labor-backed measures.

One of these was a bill to close the stable door through which the horse escaped in last year's state

Supreme Court Foley Decision striking down protections against wrongful discharge.

SB 324 by Bill Greene, D-L.A., the committee chair, would prohibit retaliation against workers who report arrests, convictions or investigations of wrongdoing to their employers.

The Supreme Court ruled that a banker fired for reporting that a new supervisor was under investigation for occurrences at a former place of employment had no legal recourse because the public interest was not involved.

Also approved unanimously by the Senate Industrial Welfare Committee was SB 288 by Torres, which would guarantee non-teaching school employees the right to bump back to former jobs if they are promoted and fail to pass probation in the new job.

The measure is aimed at putting a halt to "promote and fire" tactics allegedly used in some school districts to get rid of long-time workers.

On a strictly partisan 6-2 vote, the committee approved SB 47, which Sen. Bill Lockyer, D-Hayward, said was intended to serve as a "vehicle" for any changes in workers' compensation that may emerge from negotiations currently

in progress.

The bill in its present state specifies increases in temporary weekly benefits for workers injured or sickened on the job, along with limitations on medical-legal reports required in settling workers' claims. These provisions were vetoed in 1985. A similar bill, also intended as a vehicle for workers' compensation reform, bogged down and failed in the closing days of the 1988 Legislature.

The vote was 6-2 on SB 47, with Republicans Royce and Campbell voting against it.

Voting for it were Democrats Bill Greene, Leroy Greene, Lockyer, Montoya, Petris and Rosenthal.

SB 240 by Bill Greene, which would improve wage claim procedures followed by the Labor Commissioner, passed the committee 6-1 with Republican Royce voting "no." Campbell voted with the committee Democrats, and Leroy Greene was absent when the vote was called.

On the Assembly side of the State Capitol, the Labor and Employment Committee voted 6-2 on party lines in favor of a bill to prohibit discrimination against persons who test positive for the AIDS virus but are not diagnosed as having the disease.

The author, John Vasconcellos,

Back Pay for Player

The Seattle Seahawks management was guilty of unfair labor practices when it fired wide receiver Sam McCullum just four days before the 1982 players strike, the National Labor Relations Board has ruled.

McCullum was the National Football League Players Association team representative on the Seahawks.

The union, backed by the Washington State Labor Council, insisted at the time that McCullum was fired for union activities.

Now, after six years, the NLRB agrees. The board, in a 2-1 decision, ordered the Seahawks to pay McCullum back wages and offer him a job "substantially equivalent" to the one he had.

McCullum now is 36 years of age and long gone from professional football.

"As always in the case of labor law, justice delayed is in fact justice denied," Washington State AFL-CIO Reports comments in its latest edition.

"How can the Seahawks make him whole?" the publication asks. "When they cut McCullum from the team they took away more than his paycheck; they shortened his career as a pro football star."

McCullum's long wait for justice at the hands of the NLRB is far from a record at Seattle.

Employees of the Seafirst Bank in that city, who are represented by Local 1182 of the United Food and Commercial Workers, have begun the second decade of their struggle for union recognition and a collective bargaining contract.

"Back in 1982, the Seahawks' anti-union actions were obvious," said President Larry Kennedy of the Washington State AFL-CIO.

"The tactics of Seafirst Bank have been obvious for years. The need for labor law reform should be obvious too."

D-San Jose, said the protection was necessary in order to encourage voluntary testing for AIDS.

Similar legislation was vetoed last year. The measure would assure those who test positive but who are not diagnosed as having AIDS the same protections against job discrimination that currently are guaranteed to the handicapped. Ironically, such protections are afforded to AIDS sufferers under different legislation, it was pointed out.

The two 'no' votes came from Republicans Harvey and Wyman.

Voting in favor were Democrats Condit, Epple, Klehs, Murray, Tanner and Hayden. Absent were Republicans Allen and Lewis and Democrat Floyd.

By the same party-line vote, the committee approved AB 254 by Sally Tanner, D-El Monte, which would permit workers to file private suits for recovery of wages and to collect attorney fees and other costs as well as interest in cases where the Labor Commissioner fails to act within 150 days of the filing of a complaint.

A similar bill passed both houses of the Legislature last year but died when the Assembly failed to concur with Senate amendments in the closing hours of the session.

Song Honors Strike Solidarity

Unity on the Eastern Air Lines picket line has inspired a new labor song by Peter Baird, director of the Sacramento Labor Chorus.

"It is wonderful, the way that the Air Line Pilots Association and the flight attendants, members of the Transport Workers Union, are supporting the Machinists," Baird said. "There is great support from the entire labor movement and from the general community as well. This is what it takes to win a strike."

Baird's new song is entitled "Honor the Picket Line." It is sung to the tune of "Follow the Drinking Gourd," a traditional melody with verses dating from the days of the Underground Railroad prior to the Civil War.

"We want to get the Sacramento Labor Chorus out to sing it in support of the Machinists," Baird said. "In the meantime, other groups may want to sing it on the Eastern picket line."

Here is the chorus:
*Honor the picket line; honor the picket line,
For if we all stand up united
They won't beat us and divide us
If we honor the picket line.*

Baird has written four verses:
*When Machinists walk at Eastern Air,
Honor the picket line
The Pilots and Attendants are following there,
To honor the picket line.
(Chorus)
When the sun comes up and the strike is called,
Honor the picket line
Frank Lorenzo is a-shaking and his plans are stalled
Because they honor the picket line
(Chorus)
Ol' George Bush don't like to hear:
Honor the picket line*

When all the workers stick together we got nothing to

*fear
If we honor the picket line.
(Chorus)*

*Union brothers and sisters will show us the way:
Honor the picket line
For Solidarity is bringing in a brand new day
As we honor the picket line.*

Baird hopes others will add additional verses to "Honor the Picket Line."

That's what happened two years ago when he wrote the Cal-OSHA fight song urging workers to unite behind the campaign to restore California's worker health and safety agency.

"People from all over the state added verses to that song," Baird said. "The campaign ended with the passage of Proposition 97 more than four months ago, but additional verses are still coming in."

Unity In Air Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

almost exactly equal to Eastern's labor costs. The airline must pay \$800,000 a day in interest.

"What is really happening here is that the cost of carrying that debt is being squeezed out of the workers."

Kirkland pointed out that members of the Machinists had personally invested \$1.5 billion in the airline through concessions. It was money he said, that was theirs through contractual agreement.

"How much of his own money has Mr. Lorenzo invested in Eastern Air Lines?" the AFL-CIO chief asked.

Labor support was strong in California.

A rally called on short notice by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor brought more than 300 demonstrators from three dozen unions to L.A. International Airport last Saturday in the first hours of the strike.

A rally Monday at San Francisco International Airport was joined by



Trade unionists march on Eastern Air Lines terminal during rally at Los Angeles International Airport.

Photo by Dan Swinton

representatives of a number of unions. The San Mateo County Central Labor Council, its Airport Coalition and Machinists Local 1781 have scheduled a demonstration for noon Saturday, March 18, that is expected to draw participants from half a dozen Bay Area counties.

The Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, meeting Tuesday at Los Angeles, called upon all councils and locals of the state to give the striking Machinists whatever help they may need.

Solidarity took shape before the strike began last Friday.

Kirkland met news reporters along with leaders of the Machinists, the Pilots and flight at-

tendants of the Transport Workers Union shortly before the hour at which Lorenzo was free to force the strike by imposing wage cuts.

The AFL-CIO chief urged President Bush to declare an emergency, call a panel, impose a delay on Lorenzo and order fact-finding.

"It is of paramount importance to the workers of Eastern Air Lines, workers everywhere and the American public that methods of corporate buccaneers like Mr. Lorenzo be stopped," Kirkland said.

"That is why you are seeing such an outpouring of support from the rest of the AFL-CIO and all its affiliates."

Mary Jane Berry of the TWU flight attendants said her members

would not allow Lorenzo to divide and destroy.

Capt. Jack Bavis, chair of the Air Line Pilots Assn. Master Executive Council at Eastern Air Lines, denounced "gimmicks" with which Lorenzo had attempted to lure the pilots across the Machinists picket lines.

Bavis said Lorenzo in reality was asking the pilots for concessions worth \$64 million a year.

ALPA's position was clear weeks before the strike, even though Lorenzo apparently thought he could persuade significant numbers of pilots to cross the picket lines.

A financial consultant working for ALPA had laid it out two weeks earlier, and the union had reported it to the news media across the

country.

The consultant, Farrell Kupersmith of Touche Ross & Co., reported that the deteriorating financial conditions of Lorenzo's Texas Air Corporation, Continental and Eastern had put stockholders, bond holders, creditors, passengers and employees at risk.

He warned then that many of the pilots had become convinced Eastern would face bankruptcy no matter what the unions did unless it got an infusion of capital.

"Pilots may find they are only postponing the inevitable if they back the company against a machinists' strike only to find themselves in the same situation in their own contract talks," the consultant advised.

Fed Executive Council Acts

(Continued from Page 1)

sell products of forced labor on the open market.

This would be the aim of one of the proposed bills outlined by officials of the Deukmejian Administration during testimony last week before the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee at Sacramento.

The plan, first outlined by the governor in his state-of-the-state address in January, calls for stripping away the prohibition against hiring out convicts that was placed into the Constitution in 1879 to halt exploitation by some businesses and abuses of prisoners.

The plan would rely on supplemental legislation to establish new safeguards. One of the pieces of legislation described in this regard would allow the Prison Industries program to sell goods anywhere, rather than restricting it to public agencies such as hospitals, prisons and a host of governmental agencies.

The Council members cited evi-

dence that the market for Prison Industries under existing legislation has scarcely been scratched.

Some 7,000 convicts currently are in the program, and council members agreed that number could be greatly increased.

The Council took issue with the Deukmejian administration's argument that hired-out convict labor could make a significant dent in the soaring California prison budget.

AFL-CIO affiliates throughout the state were urged this week to be ready to support the Communications Workers of America if that union's negotiations break down with the GTE Corporation in Southern California.

The word came from the Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, which held its regular quarterly meeting Tuesday and Wednesday at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel.

It was pointed out that the administration's own figures put the maximum possible income at a mere fraction of one percent of the prison budget, without any consideration of the program costs, losses of tax revenue through employer incentives and unemployed workers, increases in welfare and unemployment, and social liabilities of worker displacement.

In a separate matter, Henning an-

nounced that the federation would file a friend of the court brief in the First District Court of Appeal on behalf of Donna Levitt and Cathy Labriola, members of the Rank and File Committee Against the Two-Gate System, who have been sentenced to jail and fined for refusing to tell a San Francisco Superior Court judge the names of persons appearing in a video of a demonstration outside a two-gate construction project.

Contracts covering some 15,000 CWA members in California expired March 14. There has been small progress toward a new contract, Harry Ibsen, CWA vice president and state fed executive council member, reported.

The price of GTE stock has risen by 68 percent in the three years since the last contract was negotiated, Ibsen pointed out.

Shareholders' dividends went up 31 percent, and managers enjoyed

raises and other incentive increases amounting to 16 percent.

Workers, meanwhile, had a raise of seven percent.

Wages and health and welfare benefits are the main issues in the bargaining, Ibsen told the Executive Council.

The company is demanding that about 6,000 operators work longer shifts with no increase in pay and is seeking also to eliminate overtime provisions, Ibsen said.

Marron Fills Martin's Old Council Seat

(Continued from Page 1)

tative for public service unions in 1964, serving with Locals 660, 700 and 616 of the Service Employees.

He was elected a delegate to the Alameda County Central Labor Council in 1976 and was made a council trustee three years later before being hired as a member of the council staff in 1982. He was named assistant secretary in 1985.

Marron is a member of Local 28 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees and of SEIU Local 616, the United Service Employees.

He was appointed by former Gov. Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and was the only labor person to serve on that body.

Marron has six grown children. His wife, Judy, is a member of California State Employees Assn., Local 1000 of the Service Employees, who works in the San Francisco offices of Caltrans.