



## Brown Signs Fed Bill Easing D.I. Benefits for Pregnancy

California AFL-CIO-backed legislation to permit pregnant women workers to receive disability benefits for any six week period of a normal pregnancy was signed into law this week by Governor Brown.

The legislation, AB 121 authored by Assemblyman Howard Ber-

man (D-L.A.), changes existing sections of the Unemployment Insurance Code that provide disability benefits for three weeks before and three weeks after birth.

The bill, which won unanimous approval in both the Senate and (Continued on Page 4)

## AFL-CIO Cites Perils in Convention Drive

A Fact Sheet just issued by the national AFL-CIO's Department of Legislation spells out the threat to the nation's economy posed by the ill-considered, right-wing-led campaign for a Constitutional Convention to fashion an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced federal budget.

The Fact Sheet reproduced below is a followup to a statement issued by the AFL-CIO Executive Council on February 19 (See California AFL-CIO



### AFL-CIO DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATION

#### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR A BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET

##### 1979 Fact Sheet No. 1

Right-wing and political opportunists have joined together in a campaign which threatens to undermine constitutional and economic stability. This effort, which has been rammed through 28 state legislatures, is an attempt to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of constructing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution mandating a balanced federal budget. If six more states follow, the nation will face the prospects of only its second constitutional convention in nearly 200 years.

##### The Constitutional Amending Process

Article V of the Constitution provides that amendments can be initiated in two ways: by a two-thirds affirmative vote of Congress; or, by a constitutional convention, called by Congress, at the request of two-thirds (34) of the state legislatures. Amendments initiated by either process then must be ratified by three-fourths (38) of the state legislatures in order to achieve final adoption. Of the 26 constitutional amendments adopted thus far, all have been approved first by Congress and then by the states. That process is now under way on two pending amendments—Equal Rights and Congressional Voting Representation for Washington, D.C.

A constitutional convention has not been called since the founding fathers met in Philadelphia to initially amend the Articles of Confederation and ended up drafting an entirely new Constitution. While several attempts since then have been made to call a convention, all have failed.

The most recent occurred during the 1960s when an effort was made to overturn the "one man—one vote" decisions of the Supreme Court, mandating that all state legislatures must be equally apportioned according to population. After congressional rejection of a constitutional amendment to reverse the court decision, supporters turned to the states and the convention call mecha-

## Limit Exposure to Cancer's Causes, Gruhn Tells Parley

"We must pursue policies which will systematically limit exposure to cancer-causing substances. Public relations is not enough."

That's what Albin J. Gruhn, president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, told a sym-

posium on "Carcinogens in the Workplace" held at the Kaiser Center Auditorium in Oakland last Friday.

To drive his message home, Gruhn pointed out that only one out of every 25 Americans who

died in 1900 died of cancer while today the ratio is one in five.

Gruhn recited the details of a series of studies and reports by the asbestos workers, the meatcutters, the steelworkers, the chemical workers and the rubber workers' unions which all pointed up the need for specific standards to protect millions of U.S. workers from needless exposure to deadly carcinogens in the workplace.

He also took sharp issue with industry-paid "scientists" who have been hired to attempt "to discredit the quality and credibility of research" by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health into the effects of beryllium on workers' health.

Gruhn also called the attention of the more than 400 participants at the symposium, which was sponsored by the Northern California section of the American (Continued on Page 4)

## San Mateo Labor Seeks Volunteers For Holsinger

Organized labor in San Mateo County appealed for volunteers this week to help get out the vote next Tuesday for Joe Holsinger, the California AFL-CIO-backed candidate for the 11th Congressional District seat vacated by the murder of the late Congressman Leo Ryan in Jonestown, Guyana, last year.

"Holsinger's opponent has the backing of multinational oil companies and is substantially outspending Holsinger," Ross A. Webber, Jr., executive officer of the San Mateo Central Labor Council, said.

"The primary results showed (Continued on Page 3)

### LIVES AT STAKE

## S.F. Fire Fighters Launch Drive For 100% Budget

San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798 has appealed to San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein and San Francisco's citizens at large not to impose any further cuts on the fire department because to do so will mean "dangerously compromising our city's fire protection and greatly increasing the risk of injury to fire fighters."

In full-page newspaper ads and radio spots as well as a brochure sent to 100,000 San Francisco residents, Local 798 pointed out that San Francisco Fire Chief Andrew Casper "got the Proposition 13 message three years ago" when he instituted economies that saved the city \$2.6 million in the 1979 fiscal year.

"We think the overwhelming (Continued on Page 3)

## Force for Progress Report Issued — See Page 2

Other procedural aspects are also in a legal limbo. For example: What constitutes a valid state petition for a convention? Is there a time limit on such petitions? Could a state rescind its convention call? Is Congress obligated to call a convention after 34 states request it? If so, what are the congressional legislative procedures for dealing with a convention? How would the convention be apportioned, delegates chosen and what rules would govern its deliberations? Who would pay its costs?

These and other unanswered questions have divided constitutional scholars and raised fears of potential constitutional chaos.

### Constitutional Confrontation

By demanding a balanced budget, the states would severely cripple Congress' enumerated powers to "... lay and collect taxes... pay the debts and provide for common defense and general welfare of the United States... to borrow money on the credit of the United States."

To add the rigid straightjacket of a balanced budget requirement would handcuff Congress' ability to use its taxing and fiscal powers to address national needs in times of economic instability or crisis. This constitutional tampering will certainly provoke struggle over constitutional powers which could wreck the delicately balanced federal-state relationship.

Advocates of a balanced budget show little regard for the Constitution as a flexible and enduring framework of the structure of government. A balanced budget requirement would transform the Constitution from a framework to a statute book, exposing it to repeated intrusion by single issue groups or by those who are dissatisfied with the functioning of representative democracy.

### Deficit Spending

If the economy had operated at the unemployment levels of the 1978 Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Act—defined as 4 percent of the labor

(Continued on Page 2)

# 'Force for Progress—1978' Reviews Labor's Gains

"Force for Progress—1978," the California Labor Federation's review of last year's legislative accomplishments which was sent to all state AFL-CIO affiliates this week, cites the extension of collective bargaining rights to employees of the University of California and the California State University and College System as one of the major accomplishments of the 1978 session.

But the report warns that "increasingly, under the weight of Proposition 13, government officials and legislators are focusing their concern on public spending at the expense—to the point of exclusion—of public needs" and declares that "the upsurge of right-wing, anti-union measures and political forces already witnessed in the 1978 elections will add to the pressure on Labor's forces" in the current session.

Some 25 California AFL-CIO-sponsored or backed measures enacted in 1978 are covered in the report, which also carries the California AFL-CIO's voting record of the state's 120 legislators on key issues affecting California workers both in legislative committees and on the Senate and Assembly floors.

## 'BETTER THAN AVERAGE'

Describing the session as "better than average" by the standards of the state's legislative history, John F. Henning, the Federation's executive officer, said that "the pace of legislative progress slowed in the 1978 session . . . from the unprecedented advances of the previous three sessions" but nonetheless "produced laws of significant importance for all California workers."

As in the previous three years, he said, "labor drew heavily on the support and understanding" of Governor Brown, Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy and Senate President Pro Tem James Mills. But he warned that it was a session "that saw the clouds of conservatism darkening once liberal skies."

## ROUNDED OUT GAINS

In reviewing the accomplishments of recent years, the report says that last year's gains "rounded out much of the accumulated backlog of legislation sought for more than a generation by California Labor."

Specifically, it cites the extension of bargaining rights to farm workers, state government employees, public school employees and finally, last year, enactment of AB 1091, which extended bargaining rights to UC and CSUC employees.

But the report declares that "unemployment insurance payments still lag unreasonably behind decent and adequate levels and behind the benefits paid in 36 other states."

In the women's rights field, the report notes that legislation barring discrimination in employment or promotion on the basis of pregnancy also won enactment last year.

## PROGRESS NOTED

In summarizing some of Labor's recently won gains, the report observes:

"Workers injured on the job have been freed from the clutches of today's 'company doctor'; they now enjoy a free choice of physicians. Rehabilitation of industrially-injured workers is now mandatory. In addition, conformity legislation extending unemployment insurance to all local government employees was enacted in 1978" and "other improvements strengthened and speeded up procedures for claiming benefits."

"Professional strikebreakers are barred by state law. State legislation now imposes restraints on state courts in issuing restraining orders and injunctions in

labor disputes.

Postcard voter registration opens the way to expanded registration and voter turnout.

A new law bans industrial homework in the garment industry. The minimum wage has been raised. Labor-sponsored and labor-supported measures helped to create new jobs in California and to reduce inexcusably high levels of unemployment."

But the report says that "the danger to programs supporting education, health and welfare is real and present" and charges that the reliance on regressive and unjust taxes is growing "heavier and more burdensome."

The report also credits the leadership of California's local unions, central labor bodies and regional organizations with "invaluable and essential" help in mobilizing support for labor's critical legislative battles.

Here is a thumbnail description of some of the major California AFL-CIO measures enacted last year:

✓ **Public Employee Collective Bargaining.** AB 1091 (Berman) extends collective bargaining rights to employees of the University of California and the Cali-

fornia State University and College System.

✓ **Employee Monitoring.** AB 2761 (Levine) requires investigators hired by private employers to report on their employees to be licensed. It also prohibits the payment of bonuses for the discovery of alleged violations of the employer's rules.

✓ **Unemployment Insurance.** AB 644 (McAlister) extends unemployment insurance coverage to all the employees of state and local government, to certificated local public school employees, to non-profit elementary, secondary and vocational school employees, and to domestics working for private households which pay at least \$1,000 per quarter in wages.

✓ **Unemployment Disability Insurance Benefits.** AB 2707 (Greene) provides for employee contributions to the disability fund so that employee tips may be treated as wages in determining disability insurance benefits for off-the-job injuries.

✓ **Workers' Compensation.** AB 3028 (Agnos) extends workers' compensation coverage to persons providing in-home supportive services under county programs.

✓ **Temporary Disability.** SB

1851 (Greene) removes the 240 week limitation on total temporary disability benefits under the state's workers' compensation program.

✓ **Pregnancy Bias.** AB 1960 (Berman) bars discrimination in employment or promotion on the basis of a female worker's pregnancy or related condition.

✓ **Retaliatory Dismissals.** AB 2945 (Lockyer) provides protection under the state Labor Commissioner's office for workers who believe that they have been discharged or discriminated against because they exercised their legitimate right to file a complaint against their employer with the Labor Commissioner.

✓ **Employee Records.** SB 251 (Robert) extends to employees of the University of California the same access rights to their personnel files as those secured by state university and college workers and all other state employees.

✓ **Toxic Substances Repository.** AB 3413 (Kapiloff) sets up a research data bank relating to toxic materials and harmful agents in use in places of employment.

✓ **Occupational Health Centers.** AB 3414 (Kapiloff) requires

the state Department of Industrial Relations to create Occupational Health Centers to train personnel and perform research functions in the field of occupational health and medicine.

✓ **Labor Commissioner.** SB 2033 (Marks) expands the scope of the claims that the state Labor Commissioner may take up on the filing of a claim by an employee representative.

✓ **Directory Assistance.** AB 43 (Robinson) continues, with certain exceptions, the limitation against the assessment of a separate charge for telephone directory assistance.

✓ **Rape Prevention.** AB 2807 (M. Waters) requires the state to set up a rape prevention educational and training program for state workers.

✓ **Low income housing.** ACA 47 (Brown) places on the June 1980 ballot a constitutional amendment to ease the current requirement for local referenda on low-rent housing projects.

✓ **Alcoholic Beverage Liability.** SB 1645 (Ayala) protects culinary workers from civil liability in places where an intoxicated customer inflicts injury upon a third party.

force—the nine-year total deficit of \$270 billion accumulated since 1969 would have been wiped out in its entirety. But inadequate economic growth, resulting from the near back-to-back recessions in 1969-70 and 1974-75, prevented this.

The federal budget is more a result of economic conditions than a cause. According to the Congressional Budget Office, every percent in the jobless rate costs the federal government \$15 to \$20 billion in lost tax revenues and increased social costs.

If, during recent recessions, the federal government had cut spending or increased taxes to balance the budget and eliminate the deficit, the economic consequences would have been far worse. The most recent study of a balanced budget by the Joint Economic Committee in 1976 bears out this point. The study evaluated the impact of different fiscal strategies between mid-1965 and mid-1974. During that time, the committee reported, a balanced budget requirement would have substantially reduced economic growth, increased unemployment, and had little, if any, effect on inflation. In some cases, according to the report, the balanced budget strategy would have worsened inflation.

To illustrate the importance of fiscal flexibility, an historical footnote is useful. To pull the nation out of the Depression, President Roosevelt used the federal budget and deficit spending. Such programs as the Works Projects Administration, the Agriculture Adjustment Act, Civilian Conservation Corps and others used federal funds and huge deficits to help put the country back to work. In 1937, after the economy started to show signs of recovery, President Roosevelt reverted to traditional balanced budget concepts by cutting expenditures and trying to eliminate the deficit. An economic relapse resulted, and unemployment went from 14 percent to 19 percent by 1938. Roosevelt reversed the gears, widened the deficit and economic recovery began again.

## Economic Impact

The economic fallout of a mandated balanced budget could be catastrophic. If such an amendment had applied last year, for example, the current fiscal year 1979 budget would have been cut by nearly \$40 billion. Federal programs would have been devastated, unemployment would have increased and the national security threatened.

The right-wing objective of the balanced budget is, of course, the crippling of the federal government. Its impact, however, will be felt at all levels of government—federal, state and local. State and local governments would be forced to finance services required by the public but no longer funded by Washington. From 1973 to 1978, federal aid to state and local governments rose from \$35.7 billion to \$77.9 billion. Today, federal aid represents 25 percent of total state and local expenditures.

If federal aid is slashed, state and local govern-

ments will face the Hobson's choice of increasing taxes to maintain programs, services and jobs or simply eliminate them. The programs that will suffer the most will be the "people" programs in education, housing, transportation, job creation and training, public works, agriculture, law enforcement and others.

But the cuts won't end there. Federal enforcement of civil rights, labor, antitrust and other laws would also suffer, as would regulatory programs such as OSHA, environmental and consumer protection. Federal research and development funds for health, science, energy, agriculture and defense would be reduced. Overall unemployment in the public and private sectors will worsen considerably, costing the federal government needed tax revenues and driving up the cost of unemployment programs. This will in turn unbalance the newly balanced federal budget.

## Conclusion

The promoters of this simplistic, quick-fix gimmick are banking on the fallout from Proposition 13 anti-government sentiment, as well as voter discontent with inflation and increasing taxes. Citizens and legislators alike should recognize that gadgets, and quick fixes don't solve complex economic problems; they only make them worse.

The elected representatives of the people—the Congress—has recognized the fallacy of the simplistic balanced budget approach and rejected it. Unable to achieve their goal through the normal representative process, the right-wing now seeks to end run the system by amending the Constitution through an untested and dangerous method.

Unfortunately, state legislators have given little thought to the fiscal or political implications of forcing a balanced budget amendment on the Congress or on the Constitution. The states, instead, are "passing the fiscal buck." If successful, the economic effect will injure not only the states and their taxpayers, but the people that can least afford it—the poor, the handicapped, the uneducated, minorities, low- and middle-income workers.

This end run tactic by the far right is nothing new. The campaign for the Dirksen amendment was a similar attack on the Constitution, the concept of representative democracy, and the judicial branch of government. The AFL-CIO, its affiliated unions and its state and local organizations helped defeat that ill-conceived proposal.

The current balanced budget threat is a similar attack on the Constitution. With more than a majority of states now apparently supporting this new demand for a constitutional convention, the AFL-CIO calls on all union members and their allies to meet the challenge again. Nothing less than the constitutional and economic stability of the nation are at stake.

We therefore call on all union members to contact or write their state legislators, U.S. representative and senators opposing the addition of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

## **Southwest Labor Studies Parley Slated April 20-21**

"Labor Problems and the Future of Labor" will be the theme of the fifth annual Southwest Labor Studies Conference to be held April 20-21 at the California State University at Dominguez Hills.

The two-day conference will bring together outstanding scholars in labor studies and active and interested trade unionists.

One of the major goals of the conference program is to tap the resources of both the trade union movement and labor scholars to the advantage of each. Past conferences have demonstrated that such common cause is not only possible but desirable.

Among issues to be taken up at the conference are: Tax Reform; Issues in the Humanization of Work; Union membership; and Relationships Between Labor, Business and Government and Between Labor and its Membership.

The conference is open to all men and women interested in the labor movement and its history.

For further information, contact: John C. Quicker, Conference Coordinator, California State University, Dominguez Hills, Department of Labor Studies, Carson, Ca. 90747.

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March 30, 1979

## **ELECTION APRIL 3**

# **San Mateo Labor Calls for Volunteers for Holsinger**

(Continued from Page 1)

that conservatives go to the polls and liberals don't in special elections and that's why we urgently need union volunteers to help get out the vote for Holsinger next Tuesday, April 3," he declared.

"We can beat the special interest money being lavished on this campaign with our feet. Just four or five hours of walking precincts next Tuesday could mean the difference between victory and defeat," he said.

Webber said that the labor campaign for Holsinger is working out of the Machinists Hall at 1511 Rollins Road in Burlingame.

"Labor's Committee to Support Joe Holsinger" is supported by the U.A.W., the Teamsters and the ILWU, he pointed out.

A phone bank is already in operation calling on union members who are registered to vote to urge them to go to the polls next Tuesday, he said.

Precinct walking on election day will be aimed at union members and their families. Volunteers are urged to phone either 697-8716 or 347-5411 to learn how they can help and to check in at the Machinists Hall by 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, he said. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on April 3, Webber said.

Dwight Justice, California director of Frontlash, a California AFL-CIO-backed organization designed to encourage youth participation in the nation's political process, is working with organized labor in San Mateo county to help get out the vote.

In the course of a KQED interview of the two principal candidates this week, Holsinger charged that his opponent, William Royer, a San Mateo County Supervisor, has opposed Holsinger's call for an investigation of multinational oil corporations for possible anti-trust actions and voted against a resolution to oppose offshore oil drilling off the coast of San Mateo that came before the County Board.

Holsinger has pledged that he would work to cut administrative

overhead but not essential services.

He has also pointed out that, as a result of his service as Ryan's aide, he knows Washington and would be able to carry on Ryan's work there and be a part of the majority party.

Holsinger won the endorsement of the California AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education earlier this month.

The district covers northern San Mateo County and contains some 231,243 registered voters.

## **George Corey, S. F. Culinary Union Leader, Succumbs in S. F. at 71**

George Corey, a veteran union organizer and vice president of San Francisco's Local 2 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union, died March 21 in San Francisco. He was 71.

Brother Corey, a native of Oakland, had served for many years on the executive board of the San Francisco Labor Council and on many special union committees.

Mr. Corey joined Bartenders'

### **Publisher's Notice**

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## **LIVES AT STAKE**

# **S.F. Fire Fighters Launch Drive For 100% Budget**

(Continued from Page 1)

majority of San Franciscans don't want to see a cut in essential services and don't think that that's what Proposition 13 was all about," Jim Ferguson, the Local's president, said.

On Monday the Mayor submitted a \$64.2 million budget which calls for a 5 percent cut for the fire department to the Board of Supervisors. The Board is expected to take it up during the first two weeks of April.

But that figure is \$3.2 million less than the \$67.4 million budget sought by Chief Casper.

The fire chief said that the Mayor's proposed budget would force the closing of fire stations and reduce the Department's personnel roster from 1,634 fire fighters to 1,464 fire fighters.

Ferguson said that the city, which presently has 1,526 fire fighters, is "already short 108 fire fighters as a result of attrition" and that a cut to 1,464 would constitute "an alarming reduction" and compromise the fire fighting services presently provided to San Francisco's citizens.

Pointing out that "last year, we responded to calls for 15,000 emergencies other than fires, from routine rescues to life-saving cardio-pulmonary resuscitations," one of the full page ads published by Local 798 declared:

"No wonder the people are concerned about possible reductions in our services. They count on us to get them out of more than hot spots."

On each of the days the newspaper ads ran, Ferguson said, the Mayor received over 200 calls before noon.

# Limit Exposure to Cancer's Causes, Gruhn Tells Parley

(Continued from Page 1)

Industrial Hygiene Assn., to a study of the long-range effects of asbestos exposure on former San Francisco bay area shipyard workers that was launched with assistance of the state AFL-CIO and other unions, including the Machinists, Asbestos Workers and the ILWU.

This study, which was conducted last summer by the Western Institute for Occupational and Environmental Sciences directed by Dr. Phillip Polakoff, resulted in

the screening of about 2300 workers.

One of the immediate effects of this survey, Gruhn said, was that thousands of workers who have been exposed to asbestos were for the first time placed in a position of being warned of their peril and advised of what steps they could take to offset the threat to their health posed by exposure to asbestos more than a generation ago.

Gruhn also noted that many schools built in California in the

1950's used asbestos tiles and other asbestos materials in their construction and that recently some workers who had been alerted by the state AFL-CIO asbestos disease survey discovered that their children in a school in Sonoma County were being exposed to asbestos.

"**Maybe there's only one chance in a million that a child will get cancer 30 years down the road from such an exposure,**" Gruhn observed. But, he asked:

"**Are we ready to accept that one chance in terms of human life? I don't think so,**" he answered.

"We cannot tolerate obstructions raised in the name of profits and dividends for financial investors," Gruhn said. "Our system requires the ultimate investment by the worker — health and life. We must provide the fullest possible security for that precious investment," he declared.

In closing, Gruhn emphasized that "the fundamental truth is that the primary causes of occupational cancer are not the personal habits of the workers. Workers should not be compelled to accept higher and higher levels of cancer risk in their jobs.

"We know now that management was aware years ago of the cancer risk in several areas, notably asbestos, and sat silent.

"It has taken recent efforts by organized labor, organized science and government to bring these long-hidden and fatal secrets into the spotlight," Gruhn said.

Now, he said, "we must have the means to detect, to inform, to treat, to compensate and to prevent future recurrences."

## Keep Ban on Sale of Alaska Oil Abroad, Labor Urges Congress

The AFL-CIO asked Congress to continue to ban the sale of Alaskan oil to other countries as part of an export control policy necessary to hold down inflation and prevent erosion of U. S. industry.

Research Director Rudy Oswald told a Senate Banking subcommittee that the Export Administration Act, which expires this year, can be used more effectively "to protect the domestic economy from the excessive drain of scarce materials and to reduce the serious inflationary impact of foreign demand."

Domestic shortages and higher prices are generated by "indiscriminate export of raw materials," Oswald noted.

As an example, a shortage of lumber in 1971 caused "the uncontrolled export of logs during a period of rising demand."

As a result, he said, "lumber prices jumped 52 percent between

1971 and 1973, pushing up the prices of houses, furniture, wood products and rental units."

Congress is under heavy pressure from oil producers to let the existing ban on export of Alaskan oil expire in June, and the AFL-CIO warned that such a course would lead to job losses, domestic shortages and inflation.

To sell or swap Alaskan oil would further increase this nation's reliance on imports and jeopardize the national security, Oswald charged.

"The oil on Alaska's North Slope does not belong to the oil companies," he stressed.

"It is an invaluable national resource which belongs to the American people who were promised exclusive use of the oil."

Oswald charged that the multi-national oil companies have been trying to find a way to export Alaskan oil solely to boost profits.

## Brown Signs Fed Bill Easing D.I. Benefits for Pregnancy

(Continued from Page 1)

Assembly, was enacted as an urgency statute which takes effect immediately. Its provisions are retroactive to January 1, 1979.

It was one of a series of measures taken up at the California AFL-CIO's joint legislative conference in Sacramento earlier this month.

Berman said that the new law "will treat pregnancies the same as other non-job-caused disabilities but limit benefits to six weeks."

Women workers will still have to be certified by a doctor that they cannot work, the same requirement for current disability claims, he explained.

Extension of full disability benefits for pregnant women workers

has been a goal of the State Labor Federation ever since the state disability insurance program was first enacted in 1946.

California AFL-CIO-sponsored legislation providing disability benefits for pregnancies involving abnormal complications or disabling conditions was approved by the 1973 legislature.

In 1976 legislation sponsored by the California AFL-CIO to provide three weeks of benefits before and three weeks after delivery won enactment.

The 1979 legislation further liberalizes these benefits by enabling pregnant women workers to take their pregnancy leaves when it best accommodates their health and that of their child, John F. Henning, the California AFL-CIO's executive officer, said.

## Chemical Workers Win Better Safety Precautions in New Pact

American Cyanamid Co. has agreed to improve health and safety conditions at its giant chemical complex at Bound Brook, N.J., and to grant across-the-board wage increases, bringing an end to a seven-week strike by more than 1,000 members of Chemical Workers Local 111.

The local's membership ratified the two-year contract by a vote of 651 to 150, Local President Donald Lore reported.

The economic package provides an immediate raise of 54 cents an hour and a 42-cent increase next Jan. 25.

Lore said that Cyanamid agreed to major concessions on health and safety provisions which had been a major issue

in the dispute.

The company has agreed to provide the union with a list of all hazardous substances that workers encounter on the job. It also must label all containers with generic names so workers may be made aware of health risks.

Results of physical examinations certified by company doctors must be made available to workers or the union, and company representatives are also required to meet with the union's industrial hygienist over questions on hazardous work operations.



# THE CALIFORNIA AFL-CIO'S DIGEST OF BILLS

The measures below introduced in the 1979-80 regular session of the California Legislature are classified by the California Labor Federation as "Good," "Bad," or "Watch†". An asterisk (\*) indicates a bill sponsored by the California Labor Federation. A "Watch†" designation indicates that the Federation will defer to the wishes of affected affiliates on the ultimate classification of the bill. Such bills are printed in the digest to inform affiliates involved. No bill may be taken up until 30 days after the date of introduction indicated in the digest, except by a three-quarters vote. When the abbreviation (H.A.D.) appears in the digest following the author's name, it means that the measure has been held at the Speaker's desk in the House of origin and has not yet been assigned to a committee.

## SENATE BILLS

**SB 263 — Robbins (I. R.)** — Existing law does not specifically require claimants of unemployment compensation benefits to personally appear at an office of the Employment Development Department to receive their benefits.

This bill would so provide. January 25, 1979.

**Unemployment Insurance—Bad**

**SB 279—Alquist (E. & P.U.)** — Existing law requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish lifeline rates for residential customers of gas and electricity and certain persons dependent upon life support equipment supplied by public utilities subject to the commission's jurisdiction, specifying that the lifeline rates shall be the rates in effect on January 1, 1976, and that such rates shall not be increased until the average system rate exceeds the lifeline rate by 25 percent or more.

This bill would revise these provisions to prohibit the differential between the lifeline and average system rates from exceeding 25 percent. January 29, 1979.

**Consumers—Bad**

**SB 309—Nimmo (N. R. & W.)** — Existing law regulates the taking of white seabass and states the maximum poundage which may be possessed on any vessel during specified times of the year.

This bill would require that white seabass be taken only from July 1 to the last day of February, under authority of a commercial fishing license. This restriction would not apply to white seabass taken in specified waters. The bill would prohibit white seabass being sold or purchased from March 1 to June 30, and would provide that not more than 3 such fish per day may be possessed by the holder of a commercial fishing license, as specified. . . . February 1, 1979.

**Labor Unions—Watch†**

**SB 311—Robbins (Ed.)** — The California Constitution has been interpreted by the California Supreme Court to require California school boards to take all reasonably feasible steps necessary to alleviate school segregation, regardless of the cause of the segregation.

S.C.A. 2, if adopted by the people, would amend the California Constitution to impose limitations, among others, on the use of pupil transportation as a mandatory remedy in the schools.

This bill would state a legislative finding that the adoption of S.C.A. 2 will result in savings of substantial amounts of educational funds. The bill would express the legislative intent that such funds be expended within school districts to further equalize the quality of education, on behalf of disadvantaged pupils.

The bill would not become operative unless and until S.C.A. 2 is adopted by the people, and in such case would become operative at the same time as S.C.A. 2. February 1, 1979. **Education—Watch†**

**SB 317—Rodda (Ed.)** — Under current law, the governing board of a school district and a county superintendent of schools may establish and maintain regional educational data processing centers which receive specified allowances from the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

This bill would authorize a community college district to establish and maintain regional educational data processing centers in the same manner.

Current law permits certain local educational agencies within the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Schools of Sacramento County to form an independent data processing center governed by a board

composed of a representative of each participating agency plus one public member.

This bill would permit any combinations of governing boards of school districts or community college districts and county superintendents of schools to establish such an independent data processing center. . . . February 1, 1979.

**Education—Watch†**

**SB 323—Montoya (Ed.)** — . . . Existing law provides for purposes of state apportionments from the State School Fund that apprentices enrolled in a community college be reported separately, and apprentices enrolled in a high school be reported as regular students.

This bill would provide that apprentices shall for purposes of state appropriations from the State School Fund enrolled in either a community college or high school be reported separately in a manner as provided. An amount equal to 1/5 of the statewide current expense per a.d.a. shall be apportioned from the State School Fund for each apprentice reported.

This bill would specify that apprentices, as specified, attending a community college shall be exempt from interdistrict attendance agreements. . . . February 1, 1979.

**Apprenticeship—Bad**

**SB 343—Foran (I. R.)** — Existing law prohibits deductions from the wages of an employee on account of coming late to work in excess of the proportionate wage which would have been earned during the time actually lost, but permits a half hour's wage to be deducted for a loss of time less than 30 minutes.

This bill would delete the provision permitting a half hour's wage to be deducted for a loss of time less than 30 minutes. February 6, 1979.

**Labor Code—Good**

**SB 344—Wilson (Ed.)** — Existing statutes prescribes the extent of access to, and confidentiality of, pupils' or students' records in elementary and secondary schools. Existing statutes prohibit, with certain exceptions, the release of directory information, as defined, regarding any pupil in such schools when the pupil's parent has notified such educational institution that such information shall not be released. Existing law makes the violation of such prohibition a misdemeanor.

This bill would prohibit the release of such directory information of a public or private elementary or secondary educational institution without the written consent of the pupil's parent to whom the information relates. Any such written authorization would expire one year from the date of execution. . . . February 6, 1979.

**Education—Watch†**

**SB 348—Alquist (I. R.)** — The Contractors License Law requires every person licensed as a contractor to report the name and address of his workers' compensation insurance carrier to the registrar of contractors, and requires the insurer to report any cancellation or lapse of the policy to the registrar.

This bill would repeal such provisions.

The workers' compensation law provides that every county or city shall require an applicant for a permit . . . to file and maintain a certificate of workers' compensation insurance or a certificate of consent to self-insure.

This bill would exempt an applicant for such permit who is a licensed contractor from such requirement.

This bill would provide that the Contractors' State License Board

## SENATE BILLS (Cont'd)

shall require an applicant for . . . a contractor's license to file and maintain a certificate of workers' compensation insurance or a certificate of consent to self-insure, and would provide that any such license shall be suspended when such insurance lapses or is cancelled.

This bill would also provide that when a contractor's license is suspended pursuant to the bill, all current permits of the licensee . . . shall be suspended until a valid license is obtained. February 6, 1979.

Workers' Compensation—Good

**SB 349 — Foren (L. Gov.)** — Existing law with respect to the implementation of Article XXXIV of the California Constitution prescribes, among other things, that a "low-rent housing project," as defined in such article does not apply to any development composed of urban or rural dwellings, apartments, or other living accommodations when the development is privately owned housing and is not exempt from ad valorem taxation by reason of any public ownership and is not financed with direct long-term lending.

This bill would prescribe, instead, that such a development is not a low-rent housing project, as defined in such article, when the development is intended for owner-occupancy, as specified, rather than for rental-occupancy. . . . February 6, 1979. Housing—Watch

**SB 370—Mills (P. E. & R.)** — The existing law states the policy of the state that the workweek of state employees shall be 40 hours.

This bill would enact a reduced worktime program to provide that whenever a reduction equivalent to 1% or more of full-time equivalent jobs is contemplated in the personnel of state agencies or departments, employees in such agencies or departments shall be permitted, under certain circumstances, to voluntarily reduce their worktime. . . . February 12, 1979. Public Employees—Watch

**SB 371 — Mills (I. R.)** — . . . This bill would enact an experimental program encouraging employers and employees to establish "leisure sharing" programs whereby employees could voluntarily reduce their hours of work and their employers would hire additional employees in order to maintain production at the same level. Grants would be made to employers in the private sector who voluntarily participate in such program to offset any increase in such employers' labor costs which are directly attributable to participation in the program . . . February 12, 1979. — Unemployment Insurance—Bad

**SB 374 — Holmdahl (Rev. & Tax.)** — The existing Emergency Telephone Users Surcharge Act imposes a surcharge on amounts paid by every person in the state for intrastate telephone communications. The State Board of Equalization is required to set the surcharge rate which shall not exceed three-quarters of 1%.

This bill would provide that the surcharge rate shall not exceed one half of 1%.

This act would go into immediate effect as a tax levy. February 12, 1979. — Taxation—Watch

**SB 375 — Greene (I. R.)** — Existing law provides that no release of liability or compromise agreement of a worker's compensation claim is valid unless approved by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

This bill would, in addition, provide that compromise of benefits for rehabilitation is prohibited unless a referee or the appeals board finds that a genuine issue exists which if resolved against the employee would result in a denial of all compensation benefits . . . .

This bill would provide a limitation on the commencement of [workers' compensation] proceedings of 1 year from the date of last furnishing rehabilitation benefits, and would provide that where an employer has voluntarily provided any workers' compensation benefit, other than specified medical treatment, or where a compensable injury has been established by the appeals board, there shall be no time limitation for the commencement of proceedings for the collection of medical and hospital treatment . . . .

Under existing law, Sections 2231 and 2234 of the Revenue and Taxation Code provide that the state shall reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Other provisions require the Department of Finance to review statutes disclaiming these costs and provide, in certain cases, for making claims to the State Board of Control for reimbursement.

This bill provides that there shall be no appropriation pursuant to Section 2231 or 2234, but recognizes that local agencies and school districts may follow their other available remedies to seek reimbursement for these costs. February 12, 1979.

Workers' Compensation—Watch

## ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTIONS

**AJR 12—Hughes (Rls.)** — This measure memorializes the U.S. Congress to require all advertisements for the purchase or sale of Krugerrands to contain a statement indicating that the federal government has imposed an arms embargo on South Africa due to its racial policies. January 30, 1979.

Miscellaneous—Good

**AJR 15—M. Waters (Rls.)** — This measure would memorialize the Congress of the United States to reduce the imbalance between federal military and domestic expenditures. February 8, 1979.

Miscellaneous—Bad

**AJR 17—Bane (W. & M.)** — This measure would memorialize the Congress of the United States to institute procedures to add a new article amending the United States Constitution, to be submitted to and ratified by the states as Congress may propose. The amendment would require, with certain exceptions, that by the 1983 fiscal year, the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for a fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year. The amendment would also require that by the 1984 fiscal year the total appropriations subject to limitation by the federal government in its discretion, enacted for any year, shall not exceed the appropriations limit for the prior year adjusted for changes in the cost of living and population and adjusted for changes arising from a national emergency, as specified, and adjusted for changes arising from emergencies within one or more of the several states. . . . February 12, 1979.

Miscellaneous—Bad

## ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

**ACR 19 — Papen (W. R. T. C.)** . . . . This measure would grant leaves of absence for more than 60 days to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Controller, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Members of the Board of Equalization and State Personnel Board, Senators and Assemblymen, such persons' successors and any person filling a vacancy in such an office. January 11, 1979. State and Local Government—Bad

**ACR 25—Hughes (Fin., Ins., & Com.)** — This measure would express the protest of the Legislature to the sale of the gold currency of the Republic of South Africa in this state and would urge every citizen of California who advertises an offer to sell or purchase such currency to include in such advertisement a notice to the effect that the United States is presently imposing an arms embargo on the Republic of South Africa due to its racial policies. January 30, 1979.

Miscellaneous—Good

## ASSEMBLY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

**ACA 22—Goggin (G.O.)** — The Constitution presently provides that the state civil service includes every officer and employee of the state and this provision has been construed by the courts to restrict the performance of government work by independent contractors.

This measure would authorize the Legislature to provide for the performance of governmental work by independent contractors where it is to the financial advantage of state government to do so. January 31, 1979.

Public Employees—Watch

**ACA 24—Nestande (Rev. & Tax.)** — Existing provisions of the California Constitution do not limit the total annual expenditures of the state or local government.

This measure would limit annual expenditures, as defined, of state and local government to an amount no greater than the amount expended for fiscal year 1980-81 adjusted by cumulative percentage changes in state personal income. It would permit surplus funds to be appropriated only for reduction, rebate, or refund of taxes or to meet an economic emergency declared to exist by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the Legislature. The measure would become effective if approved by the voters commencing with the 1981-82 fiscal year and would be operative until June 30, 1987. The measure, together with any subsequent changes thereto, would be required to be resubmitted to the voters at the November 1986 General Election. February 12, 1979.

State and Local Government—Bad