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## California AFL-CIO News

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# Labor Lobbies in Legislature

## Delegates Confront Lawmakers

More than 500 California trade unionists lobbying this week for labor's bills found themselves being lobbied in turn by the legislators they had traveled to Sacramento to see.

The legislators' message was loud and clear in scores of meetings at the Capitol during the annual Joint Legislative Conference:

- Turn out the vote for Tom Bradley, who lost the governorship by a fraction of one percent of the ballots cast four years ago.

- Find volunteers and register voters in the districts where Republicans have pledged to spend millions of dollars to defeat legislators allied with labor.

- Recognize labor's stake in an independent Supreme Court and reject the right-wing campaign to unseat liberal justices so that the governor can name new justices who share his conservative, anti-labor philosophy.

Conference delegates, representing AFL-CIO unions throughout California, scored points of their own.

Three of the most heavily-lobbied measures on the conference agenda won approval by committees while the delegates were still in Sacramento. Two of the bills advanced with no dissenting votes. (See story in Column 5.)

The conference, sponsored by the California Labor Federation and the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, was called to order Monday morning at the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn in Sacramento.

David A. Roberti, president pro-tem of the California Senate, gave the opening address and laid the critical importance of the 1986 elections on the line for the delegates.

"I assure you that any significant loss of Democratic seats in either

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TWU lobbyists rendezvous on Capitol steps under watchful eye of International Rep Larry Martin, left.

## Workers' Comp Reform Unveiled

State Sen. Bill Greene gave the delegates to the Joint Legislative Conference a glimpse of his long-awaited workers' compensation reform proposal this week and promised to put all aspects of the legislation on display starting today.

Greene, the Los Angeles Democrat who chairs the key Senate Industrial Relations Committee, spoke Monday at the opening session of the annual conference at Sacramento.

He said he'd present his proposals to labor leaders today, to

employer groups over the weekend and to representatives of the insurance industry and medical care providers during the coming week.

Much research has gone into this latest effort to provide meaningful relief for injured California workers and to survivors of those killed on the job.

Benefits in California, for years among the best in the nation, have fallen drastically in relation to benefits paid in other states. Gov. Deukmejian last year vetoed increases that had been sponsored by the California Labor Federation

and approved by both houses of the Legislature.

John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the federation, told conference delegates that Greene's bill was expected to provide the main arena for debate of workers' compensation in the 1986 session of the Legislature. Other workers' compensation bills are pending, including one sponsored by the federation.

Greene said his bill would reduce no benefits, take away no

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## Targeted Bills Get Approval

A residency requirement for participants in public works contracts and establishment of the California Commission on Pay Equity would be required under bills that were approved this week by the State Senate Appropriations Committee.

Both bills were on the agenda of the annual Joint Legislative Conference held this week in Sacramento. Trade unionists participating in the conference were in the Capitol lobbying for passage of both measures when the committee acted.

The residency bill cleared the committee without a dissenting vote on a 7-0 ballot. It is SB 2532 by David A. Roberti, D-L.A., president pro-tem of the Senate.

Its aim is to stem the tide of non-union contractors from other states who have been underbidding union contractors from California for public works projects under the Deukmejian Administration by requiring that half the work time be performed by local residents. Other pending bills also are aimed at the influx of non-union contractors.

The Commission on Pay Equity would be responsible for investigating female- and male-dominated job categories in state employment where there are pay differentials.

Roberti is the author of the bill, SB 1957. A similar measure was vetoed last year, and Roberti told

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## Brown, Roberti Defend the Court

### Speaker Urges Confirmation

Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, defending the California Supreme Court Tuesday night at the Joint Legislative Conference, said, in part:

"...there is no question in any of your minds about (the constitutional qualifications) of Joe Grodin, Cruz Reynoso, Stanley Mosk or Rose Bird.

"They match any judge sitting anywhere in the nation in terms of those qualifications. They are beyond the pale of criticism for hard work...what they really need is a union so they can get better wages and working conditions and some job protection.

"But in view of the fact that they have neither, they are required to go to the polls every 12 years for reconfirmation. Ordinarily it is

routine.

"But in 1986, some tin-horn politicians have decided they don't want a referendum on the justices' conduct. They don't want a referendum on whether the justices have been good at their office. They don't want anybody deciding whether the justices have handled their duties according to the rules in a fashion that would require them to be reelected.

"They have hit upon a diversion, and that diversion is to attack the court.

"You all know that in the old days, the judges were appointed by the king and any judge that displeased the king simply got fired. And you understand that everytime a new king got elected, all the judges got fired. Clearly justice was in whether or not you were with the king. If you were with the king and you pleaded in

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### Pro-Tem Cites Past Decisions

David A. Roberti, president pro-tem of the California Senate, included these remarks about the California Supreme Court in his speech to the Joint Legislative Conference on Monday:

"Some would have you believe that the issue is the death penalty. Surely that is an aspect of any debate.

"But I remind you that Chief Justice Donald Wright, a Republican appointed by then-Governor Ronald Reagan, overturned more death penalty cases than Rose Bird has overturned and yet there was no hue and holler and cry to oust him.

"Let's face it: the funding for the hue and holler and cry really has nothing to do with the death penalty."

"It has to do with workers' rights and people's rights. It has to do with the right of public employees to strike. It has to do with the right of women to be able to sue for cancer caused by drug companies when they weren't able to sue previously.

"It has to do with a free judiciary that can speak to cases regardless of the political pressure that is brought to bear on the court.

"If it were otherwise, the same right-wing and the same legions of reaction who want to throw out this court would have been in there fighting to throw out Chief Justice Wright, a Reagan appointee and a Republican.

"But they weren't there because they didn't want to embarrass the Republican Administration and were far more concerned with protection of their image and their appointees."

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# Speaker Speaks Out; Delegates Applaud

Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown Jr. assured Legislative Conference delegates Tuesday night that "the voters of this state are not prepared to make anything except good judgments where we offer them the fair opportunity to do so."

And this, the Democratic leader declared, can be translated into new liberal majorities in the Assembly and State Senate, additional seats in Congress, conformation of the embattled Supreme Court Justices, and a new governor, Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles.

Brown gave the principal address at the conference banquet, and there was humorous by-play between him and master of ceremonies Jack Henning over Brown's "promotion" from the opening morning conference program, where he has spoken for the past five years.

But the speaker wasted little time getting to the heart of his theme: that Democrats and trade unionists have been working "since 1982 for the day when, in 1986, we would get an opportunity to put in place the kind of government that would respond positively... to the kinds of things (labor) has petitioned for and the kinds of things that brought (the delegates) to Sacramento."

Through the 1970s, through the Jerry Brown years and until George Deukmejian took the governorship in 1982, Brown said, "We went through many strug-

gles... but always remained optimistic about the prospect of getting things done.

"Government meant something... that when things are not equal, we can go and have the rules redefined and maybe produce a measure of equality," Brown continued.

"We have been able to know and be comfortable knowing that there would be judges appointed who were fair... We have been able to have a say at every level... and we have put some marvelous things in place.

"The fair housing legislation. The fair employment practices legislation. The whole concept of all the things to do with affirmative action. Everything to do with all the training programs that you are more familiar with than I.

"All of those things of magnificent social policy that you and I put together because we had a government that would be responsive," the speaker continued.

"When we were concerned whether the unemployed were being taken care of, we had a government with appropriate replies. When we were concerned about workers' compensation, we were able to reach accord even with the manufacturers who normally are the enemies of the workers of this state. We have been able to come together and agree upon appropriate increases to allow injured people to exist.

"We put together an Agricultural



Willie Brown makes a point during banquet speech.

Labor Relations Act different from anything in any other state in this union, and we were able to do it because we had a government that would respond.

"We do not now have that kind of government," Brown declared. "Well, 1986 is here, and where are we?"

"The newspapers say Tom Bradley is 16 points behind, that Rose Bird and her Supreme Court are going to be a liability to the good working men and women of this state, the good, progressive people of this state who have been responsible for all the programs I've been talking about.

"In 1982, when we should have defeated George Deukmejian, when we should have retired this lawyer back to Long Beach, when

we should have given him the opportunity to distinguish himself in some other field, for some reason we didn't do all we should have done...

"I take my share of the blame, and in 1986 I intend to reverse that against all odds.

"Now, so that you are not confused and think that Willie Brown has taken leave of his senses... let me roll back with you to 1984."

"In 1984 Ronald Reagan was on the ballot. The most awesome politician: this man who could take American's children and send them off to slaughter, who could take the opportunity for all of us to earn a living and screw it up with the biggest deficit in the history of this country, who could destroy a labor union, one of the few unions to en-

dorse him, and get away with it with impunity, who could go on the tube and make us enjoy him.

"He was on the ballot. He beat our brains out in the presidential election campaign. He turned Democrats around like no Republican person has turned Democrats around.

"But yet you in the state of California took one look at the congressional delegation and reelected all but one of the 28 Democrats running. You took a look at the State Senate and reelected every single, solitary Democrat seeking reelection. And you took a look at my house... and reelected every Democratic Assembly member seeking reelection... You also defeated Prop. 39, Prop. 40 and Prop. 41, all slated to follow Reagan and Deukmejian leadership.

"Let me tell you: the voters of this state are not prepared to do anything except make good judgments where we offer them the fair opportunity to do so."

The 1986 election is more important than the election of 1984, Brown said, because Republicans hope to use it as a stepping stone to control both houses of the legislature.

"Nineteen eighty-six requires us to rethink the whole process of how we reelect people," Brown said. "We literally have to think that this is 1958 and right to work is on the ballot.

"We have to think that this is the time period when they are aiming for 1991. You have to understand," he said, "how important it is that both houses of the Legislature remain Democratic."

He said the California Supreme Court confirmation election is of overwhelming importance. (See accompanying story on Page 1.)

"The court system in a democracy has always been the last resort. The court system has always been the refuge. The court system has always been the place where we can get relief, the place where negotiation occurred and fairness was demonstrated."

## Datebook

A. Philip Randolph Institute National Conference: May 14-18, Sheraton St. Louis Hotel, St. Louis, Mo.

1986 Convention, California State Building Trades Council: June 11-13, Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento.

1986 Convention, Consumer Federation of California: June 21, Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles.

California Labor Federation Executive Council pre-convention meeting: July 23-25, Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento.

Sixteenth Convention, California Labor Federation: July 28-August 1, Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento.

Trade Union Summer School: September 21-25, Woodlake Inn, Sacramento.

## Publisher's Notice

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# Waters: Don't Play Offshore Game

Maxine Waters, Democratic Caucus leader in the California Assembly, urged trade unionists this week to recognize that the 1986 elections are crucial.

"It is extremely important, if we are to claim our rightful place in the development of public policy in the state of California, that we elect and reelect people who are sympathetic to working men and women.

"Legislators and those who want to be legislators," she said, "should be evaluated on the basis of whether they are ready to move forward the agenda for working men and women in the state of California."

Waters' audience of more than 500 AFL-CIO union delegates at the annual Joint Legislative Conference rose for the first of a series of ovations.

Republican leaders, she said, are hoping to take advantage of this year's elections to gain the relatively few seats that would put them in control of the Legislature in 1987.

"We cannot afford to have that happen," Waters warned. "We cannot afford to have that happen because we are seeing what they will do to us.

"Why do you think we are in desperate straits in the Department of Industrial Relations? They are trying to dismantle Cal-OSHA.

"Why do you think we are losing state employees? They are trying

**'I am personally going to take out Dave Stirling's salary'**

—Maxine Waters

to contract out everything they can get their hands on.

"We cannot allow that to happen. Therefore, we must come together and work as we have never worked before," Waters said. "We cannot think that someone is going to do the work for us out there in the precincts.

"Labor: we have got to get back



Jack Henning, left congratulates Maxine Waters as Albin Gruhn applauds.

out there in the precincts and work. We've got to knock on doors. We've got to tell the story... in 1986, '87 and '88 we are going to write the story about our strength and about our ability to give direction to this country."

Waters listed other issues for 1986.

"As far as I'm concerned the plant closures issue is still important and one that we must deal with. It is important because more and more plants are closing down. They are exporting those jobs to third world countries, to cheap labor markets. Those jobs have gone to Taiwan, to Japan, to Juarez, Mexico, and, yes, even to South Africa.

"I am telling the corporate heads and business persons in the state of California and in America that they are less American than I am. They may sit under the flag in the chambers of commerce talking about how much they love this country, but by the same token they are stealing your jobs and they are taking them off-shore.

"If they loved America, they would want to make sure that Americans have jobs. They would want our plants and factories to

buzz with people who want to work. But they are not doing that. Those jobs are off-shore, and some of the people in those countries are laughing at us.

She said the huge trade deficit is aggravated by the drain of American jobs overseas. She said she would tell workers who spend their wages for products that used to be made in America but now are manufactured abroad: "Watch what has happened, not only in South Central Los Angeles, but in many places.

"Atari sent their jobs to Taiwan. They are making Pacman in Taiwan and are sending it back here for your children and your families to play with. Don't play with Pacman unless you can make Pacman."

Waters said labor's strength requires constant retelling of the story of the history of organized labor.

"Many of our younger people who are now enjoying the benefits that your ancestors, your grandfathers, and in many cases you yourselves worked for, don't have an appreciation of it," she said. "We need to be back outside on the streets teaching people that

organizing is the name of the game.

"Many of our younger people now are being fooled because they misunderstand what is happening in some of the newer industries that are talking about making their environment a nicer place. (These industries) don't want to pay the wages and the salaries and the benefits, but they say they have built a tennis court or a swimming pool or a Jacuzzi where people can go at lunch time. I say to those younger workers and all those who don't understand this history: tell those employers, 'You give me good wages and good benefits and I'll build my own tennis court.'"

Waters promised to maintain a hard line when Deukmejian's budget proposals come before her as chairperson of the State Administration Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee.

"We are going to do some tough business. We are going to augment the budget in places the governor has cut. We are going to take a look at the Agricultural Labor Relations Board and what has been going on.

"And I am personally going to take out Dave Stirling's salary."

# Trade Unionists Turn Lobbyists At Sacramento

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house will return California to the reactionary days of the Bill Knowlands and the right-wingers who at one time controlled our state and who labor and progressives were able to defeat." (See story, Page 4.)

It was the first of a number of comparisons between 1986 and 1958, the year U.S. Sen. William F. Knowland led the forces of the



William Ward

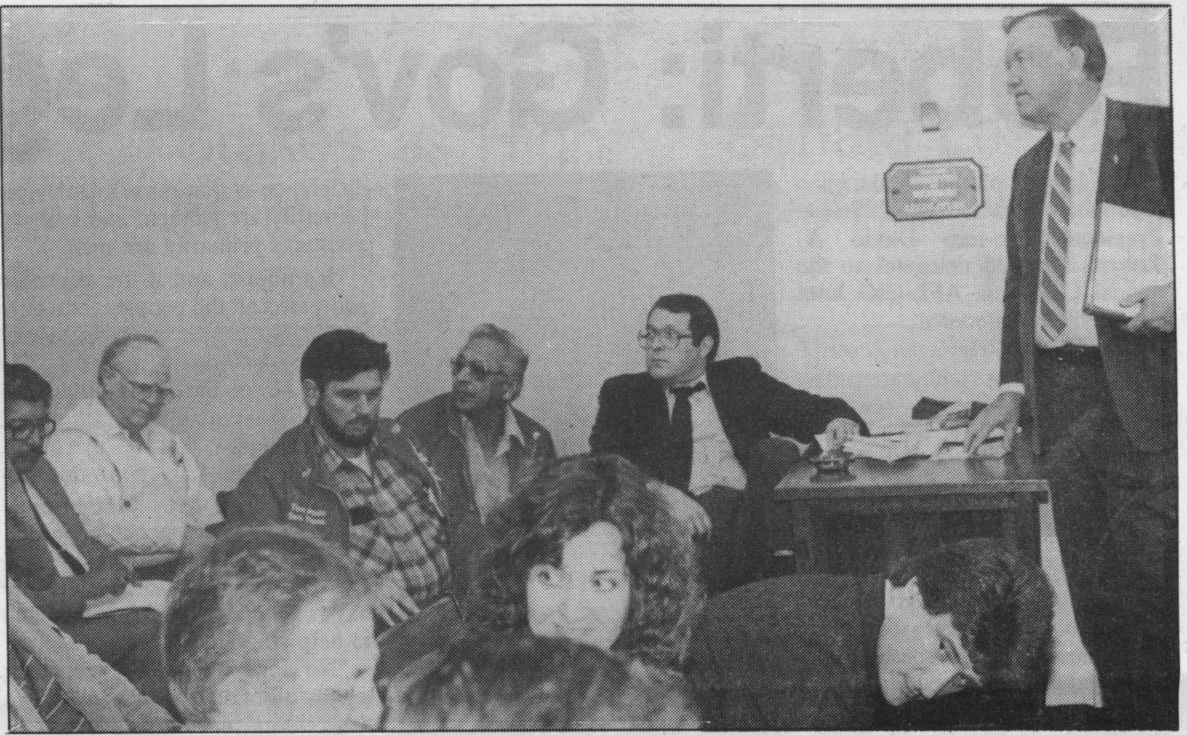
right in their strongest effort to turn California into a right-to-work state.

Maxine Waters, Democratic Caucus leader in the Assembly, continued the theme with a warning that union members must recognize that the 1986 elections are crucial. (See Page 2.)

The delegates heard Sen. Bill Greene, chairperson of the Industrial Relations Committee, describe the workers' compensation reform bill he is introducing today. They heard John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the state federation, predict that Greene's bill would be the principal arena for debate of workers' compensation in the 1986 Legislature.



Bud Mathis, gesturing, and Jim Tatum discuss lobbying assignments with Los Angeles building trades and labor federation delegates.



Sen. Dan McCorquodale, right, fields one question as delegates discuss the next one.

compensation in the 1986 Legislature.

Jerry P. Cremins, president of

the state building trades council took the microphone to make an impassioned plea for support of Bradley in the gubernatorial race.

The speakers were pulling no punches. Cremins told the delegates the choice was election of Bradley or a massacre of trade unions in this state.

Assembly Speaker Willie Brown renewed the call for campaign involvement when he addressed the conference banquet on Tuesday evening at the hotel. He also sounded a note of optimism, saying that California voters have made "good judgments where we offer them the fair opportunity to

do so."

But it was lobbying that brought the delegates to Sacramento, and that process began with the opening of the conference on Monday morning.

Measures on the lobbying agenda were described by Henning and by William Ward, secretary-treasurer of the state building trades council. Visitations with lawmakers began that afternoon and continued all day Tuesday. On Wednesday, delegates met again to report results of their meetings and to share ideas of keeping up the pressure for crucial bills.

## Cremins: The Stakes Are as High as in 1958

Jerry P. Cremins, warning that the Deukmejian Administration "will massacre the labor movement unless Tom Bradley is elected," told delegates to the Joint Legislative Conference that they have as large a stake in the 1986 elections as they did in 1958 when right to work was defeated.

Cremins, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California and a co-host of the conference, said people in the labor movement still talk about the 1958 election after 28 years because it was a hard, bitter race that labor and its allies "were not supposed to win."

In 1958 Californians rejected a right-to-work proposition bankrolled with contributions from anti-union groups throughout the nation. Voters, led by labor, confounded polls and ended the political career of U.S. Sen. William F. Knowland, the arch-conservative who was running for governor on a right-to-work platform, and put Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Sr. in the governor's office.

"I think that is what we are confronted with this year," Cremins said. "Victory is good when it is hard."

"Polls say Tom Bradley is behind, and as far as I am concerned that's great. Tom Bradley has been behind all his life.

"When you are a black cop in the 1930s in Los Angeles, you are behind. That's my city, the one I was born in, but let me tell you that it is the same city where the Ku Klux Klan marched in the 1920s. That's the city Tom Bradley went into. There was one precinct where black cops worked, and if they were lucky enough to get jobs, that's where they stayed the rest of their careers. Tom Bradley didn't stay there, and he ended his career as a lieutenant, which was unheard of," Cremins said.

"That is the kind of guy we have



Jerry Cremins

as our candidate," Cremins declared. He recounted how Bradley lost a race for city council and was elected on the second try, and lost

an election for mayor but was elected on the second try. Now Bradley is going to be elected governor on his second try, Cremins said.

Cremins cited Deukmejian's appointments of anti-union persons to key positions dealing with rights of working people, the governor's hostility toward unions, his vetoes of labor bills, and his fostering of union-busting through contracting-out of state jobs and encouragement of non-union, out-of-state contractors for highway jobs and other public works projects.

"We do not have a governor with a philosophy anywhere near ours," Cremins said. "It is 180 degrees from ours... and the power of the veto stings us every time."

Cremins told of a phone call to his office by one of the governor's top staffers when he accompanied Bradley on a trip to announce candidacy throughout the state. The Deukmejian aide, upon being told that Cremins was in fact the Democratic candidate's co-chair-

man for labor, said:

"Tell Cremins he doesn't need to bother phoning the Capitol until 1990."

That, Cremins declared, "was an insult to 400,000 building and construction trades members I represent. If someone treats us like that, we are going to take him on."

Construction worker injuries have increased 20 percent and the number of Cal-OSHA inspectors in the field has decreased 74 percent since the Deukmejian Administration took over, Cremins said.

Deaths on construction job sites rose from 214 in 1984 to 321 in 1985 while the ranks of Cal-OSHA inspectors were thinned to the fewest in the history of the agency, he added.

"Do you think I exaggerate when I say the labor movement is in trouble if we lose the governor's race?" Cremins asked.

"Thirty-four percent of those who enter California high schools fail to finish," Cremins continued.

"What is Deukmejian doing about that? He has vetoed 32 bills providing support for education."

Bradley also has a record, the speaker said, a record of demonstrated concern for working people, schools and social issues extending back two decades to the days when he stood with labor on the plastic pipe question before the Los Angeles City Council and continuing into 1986, when Bradley suggested residency requirements for public works contracts to stem the tide of out-of-state, non-union builders encouraged by Deukmejian and helped to draft legislation now pending at Sacramento.

"This is the kind of man I want for governor," Cremins said. "These are some of the reasons we have to work for Tom Bradley and persuade our trade union brothers and sisters and our relatives and our neighbors to vote for Tom Bradley. These are some of the reasons we have to defeat the people in the current state administration."

## Henning: We Defend Right to Dissent

Jack Henning responded Tuesday night to the warning, reported earlier to Legislative Conference delegates, that labor leaders campaigning for Tom Bradley would be unwelcome at Gov. Deukmejian's office if they came to plead their members' cause.

He said that such an attitude could be based only upon an assumption that political opposition constituted a personal attack upon the governor. Such an assumption, he said, would be erroneous.

Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, spoke as master of ceremonies at the conference banquet. The warning from the governor's office was reported to delegates by Jerry Cremins, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council. (See story above.)

"The truth is, we do not wage a vindictive personal campaign against George Deukmejian. . . . We attack certain of his policies and certain of his appointees. We are not in blind and thoughtless opposition," Henning said.

"When he vetoed our workers' compensation benefit increase, he was attacking the policies of the AFL-CIO. When he vetoed the unemployment insurance benefit increase, he was assaulting the policies of the AFL-CIO. When he vetoed the measure that we sponsored, introduced by Sen. Petris, that would have required posting of pesticide warning signs on the agricultural properties of the state, he was attacking our policies.

"We understand the system. We would not exchange it for a system that would deny the governor the right of attack or deny us the right of attack.

"It is a system that does not prevail in the Soviet Union. We know it does not prevail in many countries with which Reagan has allied us. Free exchange does not apply in South Korea, where an authoritarian government puts into prison professors who write mocking poems about the government of the day. It certainly does not apply in Chile, which is more and more moving from an authoritarian position to totalitarianism, and we know it did not apply in the Philippines, where Benigno Aquino paid with his life for daring to dissent.

"It doesn't apply, either, in that other nation with which Reagan insists we have a special understanding: the blasphemous government of South Africa.

"Our right of dissent is a constitutional legacy given to us by the founders of the republic."

Henning introduced Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown Jr., who gave the principal address of the evening, with a reference to the speech a day earlier by Maxine Waters, Democratic Caucus leader in the Assembly.

He said, with jesting deference to Brown, that Waters was "the greatest female orator on the floor of the Assembly."

# Roberti: Gov's Legacy is Zilch

The legacy of the Deukmejian Administration is "zilch," Senate President Pro-tem David A. Roberti has told delegates to the annual California AFL-CIO Joint Legislative Conference.

"The legacy of the state is zero," Roberti told the opening session of the conference Monday. "It's zilch. No humanitarianism. No concern. No passion. No compassion. No progress. No programs."

"Look around you for the first four years of George Deukmejian, and there is very little to be proud of, very little that will go into the history books, except stinginess, miserliness and preferential treatment for a few fat cats who are in chemical industries and insurance companies, as Tom Bradley has so adequately indicated."

"He is not even making the attempt to give the appearance that under his umbrella everybody can find some protection from the rain. He won't even address large numbers of people who don't see eye-to-eye with him."

Roberti said there was a time when California trade unionists supported an occasional Republican, believing that the Republican Party was the party of Earl Warren, Goodwin Knight and other moderate leaders who once marched in the ranks of the GOP in this state.

"I assure you that if the Legislature is any guide, or if the Deukmejian Administration is any guide, those days are long gone," Roberti declared.

"The Republican Party in the state of California is reactionary and overtly hostile to the aspirations of working people."

"There used to be a time when it was considered natural for the



Sen. David A. Roberti

governor to show that he was evenhanded and cared about everybody enough to address in the same year the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Federation of Labor.

"But this governor does not pretend to any kind of evenhandedness."

Roberti cited the plight of farm workers in California, where the Deukmejian Administration is putting "the full weight of government on one side, the side of the growers alone."

What's happening in this one area—farm labor—is happening in many other areas as well, Roberti said.

"There is no reason why in California a nurse's assistant is paid \$1,000 a year less than a forestry assistant, even though their work is comparable. The only

difference is that nurse's assistants primarily are women, and forestry assistants primarily are men.

"It's unjust, and if the governor addressed all the people... then he would not be the obstacle to pay equity for women workers. He would be in the forefront of the fight to guarantee them a just and honest wage."

"What's the legacy of this administration after nearly four years? The legacy of someone who has had the chance to be in a Camelot position, so to speak, to have the opportunity to do so much to help so many?"

"No legacy at all except the legacy of increased toxic pollution, the vetoing of comparable worth, vetoing of unemployment insurance benefits, the vetoing of disability insurance benefits. A legacy in which insurance rates have increased astronomically and the governor has not searched for a solution."

"A legacy in which there are homeless, not by the dozens in our state, but by the hundreds of thousands, and no initiation of a program at all. A legacy in which kids can't get a decent education and that the opportunity for growth, based primarily upon education, as it is, is thwarted because the public school system can't function under a reactionary attitude by the governor toward kids in kindergarten through 12th grade."

Roberti turned to the 1986 elections with a warning to trade unionists.

"People say that if the Republicans take over control of the Legislature there'll be no great change, that things somehow move along the way they've always

moved.

"I assure you that's not going to be the case. There is no party that is as reactionary as the Republican Party in the state of California."

"If you think that right-to-work legislation doesn't pass in this state simply because you gave its proponents a thrashing in 1958, you've got another think coming."

"Right-to-work legislation doesn't pass in this state simply because labor has friends in the Democratic Party and in the important committees in both the Senate and the Assembly to make sure the legislation does not pass."

"If you think legislation abolishing prevailing wage legislation does not pass in this state because it would be backward to push that kind of legislation, let me assure you that's not the case. That kind of legislation does not pass in this state simply because the committees are controlled by Democrats who are and are concerned about labor."

We have a two-fold concern during these elections, Roberti said.

"One is to push a progressive and forward-looking agenda. The other is to keep the dam so high that the forces of reaction can't overrun it with the kinds of legislation they are proposing."

"I assure you that any significant loss of Democratic seats in either house will return California to the reactionary days of the Bill Knowlands and the right-wingers who at one time controlled our state and who labor and progressives were able to defeat."

"That's our agenda for the coming year," Roberti said.

"First of all, we've got to win the elections..."

"Also on the agenda is the retention of the California Supreme Court, not really for any specific decision that the court has rendered, but because our overall liberties and our rights as a free people are dependent on a free judiciary..."

"And on our agenda besides winning the election and retaining the Supreme Court, is the pushing forward with an agenda that speaks to all the needs of all Californians."

"Let's talk about a little law and order and a little law and order legislation... We can start with safety in the workplace."

"Why is it we have fewer inspectors monitoring law-breakers on safety in the workplace now than ever before? It is because the governor has vetoed appropriations to provide for those kinds of inspectors..."

"Cal-OSHA has been weakened by this administration... and we must strengthen it. Our agenda calls for better disability insurance... for reforms in unemployment insurance, but only with better benefits..."

"And our agenda recognizes that the reasons California has attracted more businesses and industry has a little to do with the weather, may have something to do with taxes, may have something to do with the infrastructure, but most important of all has a lot to do with superior education and the superior trained personnel we have in our state..."

Roberti said that in trying to adjust the Democratic Party, care must be taken to avoid copying the Republicans. We cannot, he said, forget whence we came and we cannot forget "what the Democratic Party is all about."

## Greene Unveils Workers' Comp Plan

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freedom of choice of physician, and interfere in no way with an injured worker's right to choose legal counsel.

He strongly denounced what he called "false representations" of the work his committee staff was doing and the conclusions that were being reached.

"Contrary to anything that might be implied or that might have been said to you, there will not be, never has been, any consideration of a reduction in the total amount of benefits paid to injured workers," Greene said. "To the contrary, the maximum weekly benefit will be increased under this proposal, as will the total value of the benefit package."

Green said, "We got approval to go beyond the action of any other legislative committee in this area, to the best of my knowledge, and get the benefit of 11 years of history in workers' compensation in the state of California."

"On that basis, I was able to tell the leadership that we could get up to speed to make a comprehensive and overall reform of workers' compensation."

As the work began, Greene said, Senate Democratic leaders agreed to proceed on the premise "that the system exists to serve injured workers, and the only other major party in that system besides the worker is the employer... All other services, all other aspects of it were deemed ancillary."

Greene said the new legislation provides for:

- Indexing of benefits to conform with variations in the level of wages in California.

- No change in procedures for choosing physicians, but encouragement of cost-containment procedures that have affected dramatic savings for some union health and welfare plans.

- Automatic penalties to eliminate payment delays or payments in amounts less than is owed.

- A labor-management advisory commission with authority to investigate and advise on all aspects of the workers' compensation system.

- Penalties for employers and insurance carriers who force injured workers into unnecessary litigation to obtain benefits that should have been provided without dispute. The penalty, Greene in-



Sen. Bill Greene

dicated, could include an order for payment by an employer or insurance company of the worker's attorney fees.

"I am proud to be standing at a crossroads where workers' compensation problems will be solved," Greene said.

## Brown Raps Court's Critics

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court, you won. If you were not, you lost.

"Well, that is not the kind of justice we want in this country. That's not the kind of justice we are entitled to."

"These tin-horn politicians have decided that this and every court must be taught a lesson. They've decided that judges must put a finger up to test the wind before they render a decision."

"Since there obviously is no basis for attacking the court on the

merits, these politicians have decided to make the issue the death penalty and a whole lot of other things that are unrelated to whether or not you are qualified to be a judge."

"And let me tell you, they've got the public dreaming in that direction. They've got a whole lot of your members dreaming in that direction. I suspect even some of your leadership might be dreaming in that direction."

"Let me wake you up and hope you wake your membership up. I don't care where you have been on

## Delegates Applaud As Labor Bills Win

(Continued from Page 1)

delegates in his speech at the opening of the Joint Legislative Conference that he would continue to submit the bill until it got the governor's signature.

A number of other measures on the conference agenda were before legislative committees while delegates lobbied for them this week. Included were:

- SB 1651, the so-called Song bill by Sen. Nick Petris, D-Oakland, was approved 7-0 by the Senate Industrial Relations Committee. It requires that specified seats on the Cal-OSHA Standards Board be assigned to persons "from organized labor," rather than simply "from the field of labor," to preclude repetition of the battle a year ago over the governor's appointment of Alfred H. Song, a former senator, to such a labor seat.

- SB 2424, by Torres, which

would attack California's growing toxic waste disposal problems, cleared the Appropriations Committee. It would revise the powers and responsibilities of the state director of public health to issue orders and injunctions and impose civil penalties.

- SB 2100, by Rosenthal, this year's attempt to get an increase in unemployment insurance benefits past the governor's desk, was placed in the Appropriations Committee suspense file for action after the budget is approved.

The measure seeks a one-time raise in the maximum weekly benefit from \$166 to \$186. A more comprehensive bill was vetoed at the end of the 1985 session of the Legislature.

- AB 3238, Tanner, the measure sponsored by the California Labor Federation to require Cal-OSHA standards for indoor air pollution, was approved by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

- AB 3333, Areias, which began with far-reaching controls on credit card interest and charges, was approved by the Assembly Finance and Insurance Committee after being amended to merely require that card-users be told what interest they will have to pay.

- AB 2864, Klehs, which would require the Department of Fair Employment and Housing to record pay equity complaints, won Assembly Ways and Means approval.

- AB 3789, Robinson, providing fact-finding in state employee disputes, was approved by Ways and Means.