

Biggest State U.I. Rise on Record is Voted Approval

The California Labor Federation's 1982 legislative program this week achieved the largest weekly benefit increases since the beginning of the state's unemployment insurance program in 1936. Effective Jan. 1, 1983, the maximum weekly benefit will be raised a total of \$30, from \$136 to \$166.

Twenty dollars of this came

with passage of **AB 2901** by former Assemblyman Matthew Martinez (D-L.A.), now a member of Congress. Ten dollars additional was embodied in **AB 3154** by Assemblyman Alister McAlister (D-San Jose), when amended by State AFL-CIO influence.

UNEMPLOYMENT UP

John F. Henning, executive officer of the State AFL-CIO, speak-

ing in support of the substantial increases in jobless benefits, reminded legislators that the last improvements in the benefits structure occurred in 1979. The state's unemployment rate has since climbed to 10.5% of the work force as of Aug. 1, 1982, and is estimated to be approaching the 1.5 million mark.

AB 3154 passed the Senate last

week 38 to 0, the Assembly gave final approval this week 63 to 0 and sent the bill to Governor Brown for signature. **AB 2901** received final passage votes of 58 to 1 in the Assembly and 36 to 1 in the Senate.

TRAINING BILL

Another part of the California AFL-CIO's unemployment insurance package, **AB 3461** by Assem-

blyman Patrick Johnston (D-Stockton), implements a \$55 million training fund provided in **AB 3154**, creating an employer-financed program to pay for the training under a program administered by the state.

The Senate adopted the Johnston bill 24 to 2 and the Assembly gave it a final 64 to 0 to put the bill on the Governor's desk.

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EDITORIAL

Labor Day Message

By JOHN F. HENNING
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

America's continuing unemployment crisis emphasizes the necessity of liberal control of our government's economic and social policies. Labor must open the way. Yet, even within labor's ranks there is a remnant of the tradition that the lords of industry know best about the economy and that the union destiny should be confined to wages, hours and conditions of work.

Much of the tradition of "pure and simple" unionism perished in the Great Depression and certainly whatever remained should have died these past two years as the strongest unions in the nation were obliged to watch with impotence the tragedy of plant shutdowns and the paralysis of the construction industry.

Child-like faith in the invincibility of the American economic system has no serious place in rational debate. The system is of value only if it serves the interests of the masses of workers and answers the limitations of those who require the care of a civilized people.

The pure and simple myth has it that if workers are organized all will be well. It is true that union existence begins with organization but the reality is that massive membership without control of government simply means a movement hostage to corporate power. Despite our numbers it means a society barren of economic democracy or social conscience.

Through the past five decades the evolution of labor thought in America has moved more and more to the realization that we are helpless if not hopeless without the authority to direct government. Even in times of "friendly" administrations we are strangers in the house.

We have not accepted the abuse of capital in silence but actually labor's tough talk is absurd in a system where the sole power of job creation remains with those for whom dollar profit is the sole purpose of economic existence.

Within the confinements of the American system unionism has brought heroic advances in wages and security over the long years of conflict.

And yet, all of this is as nothing when millions of our members are thrust jobless on the streets like so many expendable, inanimate parts of production.

Only political action can give labor the controls it requires. But in politics as in economic action the experience of the past tells us that nibbling is a useless exercise. Nibbles don't count.

Women Workers' Peril Seen in Plant Closings

In her welcome to the 1982 California AFL-CIO "Women in the Work Force" conference in Los Angeles, following its convening by Chairperson Loretta Mahoney, Kathleen Kinnick, director of the State Federation's women's activities, explained that the enthusiastic response to a "greater variety of workshops" at the 1981 conference led to expanding on this conference feature this year.

"It is vital," she said, "to the continued effectiveness of our trade union movement that priority be given to developing means of organizing women workers. They have over the past decade been entering the labor force in dramatic numbers and this trend is expected to continue."

She regarded this as the "greatest challenge to the labor movement" aside from survival under the current Reagan Administration in Washington.

Joyce Hawe, head of the Wellington and Taranaki, New Zealand, Clothing Workers Union, brought greetings from her country's workers. She said she found many of the "problems that you have are not too different from the ones that we experience in New Zealand."

In "plant attritions" for instance, she points out, women are the first to be laid off.

Peggy Baker of Machinists' Lodge 620, a panelist on the discussion of the impact of plant

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Blue Shield 'Runaway' from S.F. Faces Fight by OPE Local 3

George W. Davis, secretary of Office & Professional Employees Local 3, San Francisco, said the union is asking the National Labor Relations Board to block an announced move by Blue Shield of California out of The City into the hinterlands in what he described as an open "attempt to break the union."

Blue Shield's projected exodus would move more than 500 jobs with a total annual payroll of \$6.6 million from its San Francisco headquarters to locations away from the metropolitan area within the next nine months.

The insurance firm's representative said they are considering such sites as Ukiah, Sonoma, Merced, Modesto and Red Bluff but "no firm decision has been made at this point."

Only union jobs will be affected, the company said. The firm's executives and their key aides will stay in San Francisco. Union members losing jobs will have no guarantee they would find employment by following their positions outside the San Francisco area. Key executives whose departments are moved will be offered transfers to new locations.

Davis contends Blue Shield is making this move "in an attempt to break the union" and declares the firm is deliberately considering areas "in which they would be assured of not having to hire minority workers."

Local 3 and Blue Shield have

Major Victory for Women Workers

With concurrence in a conference report by both the Senate and Assembly on Tuesday, **AB 1985** by Assemblyman Patrick Johnston (D-Stockton) was sent to Governor Brown for signature.

AB 1985 would broaden State Code relating to fair employment practices by prohibition of sexual harassment of workers and to make it illegal for employers to "knowingly permit or fail to take reasonable precautions" to prevent such harassment.

AB 1985 was sponsored by the California Labor Federation.

Manville Chapter 11 Move Seen As Stalling Asbestosis Liability

Filing under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Act by the giant Manville Corp., the nation's largest producer of asbestos, late in August is seen by thousands of victims of industrially caused illness and injury from the substance, as well as congressional and legislative leaders, as a blatant attempt to evade its responsibility for compensating asbes-

tosis victims and to shift the burden to the government.

Manville and other asbestos companies have been sued by thousands of people suffering from health problems attributed to exposure to the substance.

Some of the victims, including an estimated 3,000 in the San Francisco Bay area alone, faced the news with feelings of helplessness and frustration.

An attorney, whose firm is handling 200 cases in northern California, told the San Francisco Examiner that Manville would have "a massive fight in bankruptcy courts in New York to establish that this is not just a fraud to get out from under claims."

John A. McKinney, chief executive of the corporation, claimed his firm was not seeking a "government bail-out" from the lawsuits but went on to say that creation of a federal program to compensate victims of asbestos related illnesses, with the government picking up some of the tab, would be in everybody's interest.

A group of asbestos companies has sought legislation which would take away from workers the right to bring lawsuits due to asbestos related health problems. Bills now

in congress would create a federal workers' compensation fund that would provide the sole remedy for injured asbestos workers.

The coalition is circulating a proposal to establish a federal trust fund, with the government putting up half the funds and the companies the other half, arguing that many of the victims were exposed working in government shipyards during World War II

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Anti-Job Bias Car Insurance Bill Adopted

A California Labor Federation measure, **AB 2007** by Assemblyman Herschel Rosenthal (D-Fairfax), to prohibit discrimination on the basis of occupation in providing automobile insurance was adopted by the legislature this week as it moved toward the close of the 1982 session Tuesday.

AB 2007 was passed by the Senate 21 to 2 and given final Assembly approval 50 to 15. It has been sent to the Governor for signature.



A WIDE RANGE of issues, ranging from political action to sexual harassment and including plant closures, communications skills, union organizing and collective bargaining among other workshop topics, featured the 1982 California AFL-CIO Women in the Work Force conference in Los Angeles Aug. 26-28. Shown above are Loretta Mahoney, State Fed vice president and chair of the committee in charge of the conference; Jack Henning, head of the State AFL-CIO; Dorothy Shields, national AFL-CIO director of education, conference keynote; Joyce Hawe, president, Wellington and Taranaki, New Zealand, Clothing Workers; and Gloria Busman of the Center for Labor Research & Education, UCLA.

Women Workers' Peril Seen in Plant Closings

(Continued from Page 1)

closures on women workers, declared that when plants shut-down employment gains made by women and minorities through affirmative action are wiped out.

"Plant shut-downs," she pointed out, "are becoming an important contributing factor to the growing 'feminization of poverty.' Women also suffer when their spouses lose their jobs through plant closures."

Baker explained that women must frequently contend with their husbands' depression, alcoholism, drug abuse, increased marital stress and many other problems that develop from unemployment.

In the same seminar, Charles Jeszeck, State AFL-CIO research director, discussed the provisions of AB 2839, sponsored by the State Federation and carried in the legislature by Assemblywoman Maxine Waters, to ease the impact of closures by providing for prior notice to the community and employees.

He said that worker protections in the bill only gave them rights which have been enjoyed by European workers for up to three decades. He stressed that there is a growing national movement on this issue and that "a progres-

sive response to plant closures is a key labor issue of the 1980s."

Charles Sohner from the UCLA Labor Center discussed the underlying causes of plant shutdowns.

Some plants close, he declared, because the firms are unprofitable and facing bankruptcy but in many cases U.S.-based multinational firms are actually closing profitable facilities or "running them into the ground" in order to "restructure their world-wide production systems."

Sohner told the conference, "The use of profitable plants as 'cash cows' to finance overseas is a growing phenomenon which must be addressed by both the labor movement and the government."

In the plenary session on political action, Daniel M. Curtin, assistant director for State COPE, emphasized that political action is an extension of the basic goals of the organized labor movement.

He cited the remarks of Jack Henning, California Labor Federation executive officer, at the opening of the conference which dealt with legislative gains this year in such areas as workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, protection from sexual harassment and other issues.

"Political action is essential to protect and improve the economic well-being of workers in the legislative halls on 'bread and butter' issues," he pointed out.

Curtin also dealt in detail with the need for concerted, pragmatic approaches to the 1982 General Election on Nov. 2. This involves voter registration before the Oct. 4 deadline, and building grass roots coalitions with other liberal communities to rebuild a progressive majority and to increase the internal political sophistication of trade unionists.

"Reaganomics are not working; our people know it," he said. "Ask the teacher about tuition tax credits. Ask the construction worker about the impact of high interest on construction. Ask the industrial worker about the epidemic of plant closures."

We have the opportunity to turn it around on Nov. 2, he said, adding that if we can defeat Reagan's hard-core in Congress and the big-money interests, "we'll get his attention."

"The tools are there," was the conclusion, "but winning depends on the energy, hard work and dedication of thousands of union members around the state and nation."

Appeals Board Sets Precedent Pregnancy Disability Decision

The California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board on Aug. 17 issued a "precedent decision" on the disability insurance program of the State of California relating to pregnancy.

The prime issue in the case was whether lay testimony may be utilized for the purpose of establishing the date of onset of a disability.

Resolution of this issue was determinative of whether the voluntary plan or the State plan would be required to pay the disability benefits. It was clear that the claimant, a Menlo Park woman, was entitled to disability compensation.

The facts disclosed that the claimant was pregnant and experiencing considerable pain. It became necessary that she terminate her employment. Her doctor advised her to cease work in early April 1981.

Because of the necessity to train someone to replace her, the claimant agreed to try to work until the end of April. Accordingly, she gave notice March 31, 1981 that she was quitting effective April 30, 1981.

The claimant continued to experience physical difficulty and was obliged to take sick leave several times during April.

Had she not given the month's notice she would have left work two weeks earlier due to the pain she was suffering. Ultimately, because of her deteriorating physical condition she left several hours early on April 30, 1981, and did not return to work.

Under the terms of the voluntary plan an employee's coverage ends on the date of termination of employment.

The claimant filed for disability benefits. The Employment Development Department determined that the voluntary plan and not the State plan was on the risk.

In a hearing before an administrative law judge it was disclosed that the claimant and her physician both reported that the first day the claimant was unable to work because of her disability was May 1, 1981. The claimant testified that the reason she made that entry was because that was the date she and her physician knew she had stopped working.

However, the claimant main-

tained that she actually became disabled during the month of April while still employed, and that she had carried on through sheer determination.

The voluntary plan contended that May 1, 1981 was the first day the claimant was disabled. The voluntary plan relied on the statement filed by the claimant and her doctor to that effect.

The administrative law judge held that the claimant was entitled to disability benefits from the State Fund rather than from the voluntary plan.

The State Fund appealed to the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, which reversed the prior determination and found that there was ample lay evidence to establish that at some time in April 1981 the claimant became unable to perform her regular or customary work.

The board decision points out that the claimant was required to take sick leave several times and that had she not given one month's notice she would have quit her job at least two weeks sooner than she did because of her physical condition.

Consequently, based upon her lay testimony concerning when she was actually unable to perform her regular duties it was established that she became disabled during the month of April. As this was prior to termination of employment the voluntary plan was on the risk rather than the State Fund.

Accordingly, the precedent decision reversed the administrative law judge and held that benefits are payable by the voluntary plan.

This decision is binding on the Employment Development Department and all administrative law judges of the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, according to Lionel L. Riave, chief counsel to the board.

Members of the board signing the decision are Don Blewett, chairman; Marilyn H. Grace, Herbert Rhodes, Loretta A. Walker and James J. Hagarty.

Halt Medicare Payments to Union-Busting Consultants

Congress overruled the Reagan Administration and barred hospitals and nursing homes from charging the cost of hiring union-busting consultants to the Medicare program.

The policy reversal, urged by the AFL-CIO and unions in the health care field, was accomplished by a three-paragraph item in the 400-page tax bill Congress passed before starting a two-week recess.

Under the heading, "Prohibiting Payment for Anti-Unionization Activities," the provision specified that the "reasonable costs" that health care institutions may charge to Medicare may not include expenses "incurred for activities directly related to influencing employees respecting unionization."

That's the policy that had been set by the Dept. of Health &

Human Services in the Carter Administration after congressional hearings spotlighted the increased use of management consultants to thwart union organizing efforts or to bring about the decertification of an already established union.

Last March, the department scrapped the regulation instead of defending it against a court challenge brought by the American Hospital Association.

The new Reagan Administration policy specified that reimbursement would now be allowed for any consultant services that did not actually violate the National Labor Relations Act. The department further agreed to make the change retroactive so that hospitals could recoup expenses for past anti-union activities.

The labor movement protested vigorously.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland termed the policy change-over "outrageous" and scored the Administration claim that allowing reimbursement for management consultants in campaigns against unions represented a "neutral" policy by the government on labor-management issues.

It's not "neutral," Kirkland protested, to use federal funds to discourage workers from joining unions.

Service Employees President John J. Sweeney told a news conference that professional union-busters have been hired by management in at least 75 percent of union organizing campaigns at health care institutions with billings averaging about \$100,000 a campaign. The SEIU and other unions in the health care field mounted a campaign to block such payments.

CWA Local Stages Play Sept. 7 for Nat'l Stewards Week

On Tuesday, Sept. 7, CWA Local 11510, Santa Ana, will sponsor a performance of the play "Silkwood" as a highlight of its observance of National Shop Stewards Week. The performance will be staged in the Plaza Room of the Hilton at the Park in Anaheim, adjacent to the Anaheim Convention Center. It begins at 7:00 p.m.

Jobless Rates Soar in Bay, Capital Areas

The jobless rates in metropolitan labor markets in California continued their upward spirals in July, compared with June, according to the State Employment Development Department.

In July, the unemployment rate in the San Francisco-Oakland Metropolitan area rose to 8.8 percent of the labor force, up significantly from June's figure of 7.6%. This was the highest unemployment rate in the last six years and represents over 156,000 workers without jobs. One year ago, the unemployment rate stood at 6.4%.

The jobless rate for the Sacramento metropolitan labor market area jumped from 10.7% in June to 12% in July, the highest percentage since the current form of setting the rate was adopted.

The figure means that 454,900 people were working while 61,800 were looking for jobs during July. As an indication of a deepening recession in Sacramento, the July rate of 12% is significantly higher than the 8.8% rate in July 1981.

The Sacramento area report covers Sacramento, Yolo and Placer counties.

IWC to Name Wage Board On Sept. 17

The principal item of business on the agenda for the Sept. 17 meeting of the State Industrial Welfare Commission will be appointment of members of the 1982 State Minimum Wage Board, the IWC announced this week.

Prior to making the appointments at a public meeting in Room 101 at 525 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, the commission will hold a closed session with its counsel on legal issues related "to the charge, rules, wage board selection and scope of issues for consideration by the wage board."

After that the IWC will consider matters related to the minimum wage on which it may request recommendations, consider rules governing wage boards and then proceed with the appointments.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m. Sept. 17.

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Labor Day-1982

By President Lane Kirkland, AFL-CIO

This is the 88th observance of Labor Day since the Congress made it an official holiday, 12 years after the fact. It is the 100th anniversary of Labor Day as proclaimed and celebrated by the labor movement itself.

On Monday, September 5, 1882, New York trade unionists stopped traffic on Broadway, raised their banners and stepped off in a march that will never end as long as workers continue to assert and validate their own existence and to pursue their own goals through their own democratic institutions,

the Pacific and doubling back again almost to the Mississippi. That's how long is the file of jobless individuals by the government's own statistics.

Or think of the unemployed workers as residents of a single community — call it South Succotash. That, you will recall, is where the President told us that "some fellow has been laid off from his job," but that it is not news. That population of nearly 11 million is bigger than New York and Los Angeles rolled together. It is bigger than the total

tial, to send their roots as deep and spread their branches as wide as nature permits. They want to prepare the way for their children to surpass their parents' limits.

There never was, anywhere on earth, any resource to be compared with this great living reservoir of talent, capability and aspiration. And it is highly perishable. It can't be put in cold storage or warehoused like its products and artifacts. Either it grows and develops, or it withers.

Unemployment is the disease that withers the human potential. With every day that passes, more and more of its victims are becoming less employable.

Since the first colonies were planted, work has been the central fact of life in the United States. All our lives revolve around it.

The first question a child is asked when he starts school is "What does your father do?" The second is "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Throughout life, "What do you do for a living?" will be the first question of nearly everyone he meets, and the answer will govern his credit rating, his place in the community and the future of his children, as well as the length and prominence of his obituary.

For better or worse, in our own eyes and in the eyes of others, we are what we do. The work we do, how well we do it and how it is rewarded, is the basis of the

"Unemployment is a disease that withers the human potential. With every day that passes, more and more of its victims are becoming less employable."

with or without the blessing of office-holders.

On this one day of the year, by long custom, our national leaders feel obliged to issue formal statements attesting to the dignity of work and the value of those who do it.

So President Reagan, on Labor Day 1982, tells us that "this occasion brings deserved attention to those who have toiled to build our nation and to shape a prosperous life out of dreams of early immigrants."

"Today," says the President, "we recognize the honor and the value of all work and the great satisfaction that flows from a job well done."

Workers deserve at least some attention from their President on the other 364 days of the year, but they do not get it. By his actions and policies, President Reagan has treated workers as wholly expendable.

There is, God knows, little to celebrate on Labor Day 1982. The number of workers who can say that they are better off today than on Labor Day of last year or the year before is close to zero. There is not a working family in the land that has not been injured to some degree by the destructive policies of the Reagan Administration and the recession that is part and parcel of those policies.

Because of the cold-blooded decision to instigate mass unemployment as a weapon against inflation, 10 million 800 thousand Americans are without a means of livelihood, according to the government's means of tabulation.

The statistics are easy to recite, but the human facts behind them are almost impossible to grasp.

Imagine an unemployment line more than 4,000 miles long, stretching from the Atlantic to

population of Ohio or Pennsylvania, bigger than all of Sweden, twice as big as Denmark, 3½ times the size of New Zealand.

There is nothing these jobless men and women can't do. They can divert rivers and rearrange mountains. They can turn trees into lumber or paper. They can mine ore, smelt it and fabricate it into anything you like. They can build houses, hospitals, factories and skyscrapers. They can make, maintain and operate cars, trucks, railroads and ships. They can spin, weave and sew; grow, preserve, prepare and serve food. They can keep books, run com-

"To lose one's livelihood instantly breaks some of the links that bind us to others. It calls into question our personal identity. . . ."

puters or build them; they can comfort the sick, teach the young, keep order and protect the public safety.

They make up a population of extraordinarily diversified skills because they are, in fact, a cross section of the American people. In education they range from the lower grades to the highest academic degrees. In experience they range from youngsters looking for their first foothold in the world of work to master craftsmen who have been perfecting their skills over richly productive lifetimes.

Overwhelmingly, they are work-oriented and work-disciplined, able to outwork and outproduce any other labor force on earth. What they have in common is a passionate desire to work, to earn their keep, to pay their way and support their families in decent comfort by their own efforts.

Like all of God's creatures, they want to grow to their full poten-

sense of personal worth that engenders both self respect and respect for others — the bedrock of social stability and order.

To lose one's livelihood instantly breaks some of the links that bind us to others. It calls into question our personal identity and puts severe strains on all of our family and economic and social relationships.

And sooner or later, if it continues long enough, it undermines our mental and physical health, and spreads its infection to the society of which we are a part.

Because of its disruptive and disintegrative effects, unemployment is the most dangerous force,

"Reaganomics is a blind cave. There is no light at the end of the tunnel of recession, unemployment and national decline. . . ."



PRESIDENT LANE KIRKLAND

short of famine, pestilence, war and death, that can be let loose in the world. A rational society, in sheer self defense, should strive to overcome it with all the resources it can find or invent.

The ultimate goal of the American labor movement is, and always has been, to help bring about the healthiest, best-educated, most creative and most productive society that it is possible for human beings to achieve.

The place to start, in our view, is to give every human being access to the world of work. That means providing a job worth doing for every man and woman who is able and willing to work. It means making a start toward carrying out the goals of the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act, which has been the declared policy of the United States since it was adopted by Congress in 1978.

In the last year of the Carter Administration, a National Accord was reached between the AFL-CIO, leaders of business, and the Administration that would have made a strong start toward full employment.

It laid the groundwork for a massive reindustrialization program through which government, labor and industry could work together as partners to restore the country's eroded industrial capacity, starting with the industries

and regions where unemployment is highest.

It would have established rational priorities for allocating money and credit to the most constructive uses. It would have brought new and better housing within reach of those who need it. It would have reversed the steady deterioration of highways, bridges and public facilities of all kinds that are now falling to bits because of neglect.

And it would have brought hope and self-sufficiency and stability to millions of families by making breadwinners once again able not only to put bread on the table but to make solid contributions to the federal treasury and promote the public welfare.

That National Accord and the strong economy and healthy society it aimed at have played no part in national policy since the Reagan Administration took office.

But all around us we see growing evidence that the National Accord, or some version of its direct approach and its human values, must ultimately prevail.

Reaganomics is a blind cave. There is no light at the end of the tunnel of recession, unemployment and national decline and deterioration into which Reaganism has led us.

It is our hope that before next Labor Day the people of the United States will see the truth and that they will turn their backs once and for all on the premise that the right to increase wealth carries with it the right to diminish human life.

And we will nourish that hope with the hardest work we can deliver.

Sacramento CLC Sponsors Picnic On Labor Day

The Sacramento Central Labor Council with the Sacramento Democratic Central Committee and the Harry S. Truman Club is co-sponsoring a Labor Day picnic on Sept. 6 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Sacramento's Southside Park. Tickets are \$5 each and proceeds will help fund a massive "get-out-the-vote" effort for the Nov. 2 election.

There will be live music, games, old-fashioned political speeches and food booths. Thomas Kenny, secretary of the labor council and vice president of the State AFL-CIO, will be master of ceremonies.

September 3, 1982

Firms Cited in Explosion Death at Berkeley

One Bay Western Industrial Maintenance Inc. worker was killed and three others nearby were knocked to the ground on July 27 when welding being done to the catwalk above a three-story storage tank containing about 200 gallons of solvent ignited the solvent vapors and caused the tank to explode.

The workers were relocating a catwalk and installing an agitator on the large storage tank at DeSoto Inc. in Berkeley. DeSoto manufactures water-based paint for retailers.

The California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal-OSHA) investigation into this accident was concluded Aug. 26 with citations for serious violations of occupational safety and health standards and civil pen-

alties issued to both DeSoto Inc. and Bay Western Industrial Maintenance Inc.

DeSoto Inc. was issued a \$1,500 civil penalty and cited for failure to advise a contractor that tanks contained flammable liquids, failure to test for flammable vapors, failure to have vapor-tight roof connectors on top of a tank, and failure to have vapor-tight gaging caps, or in one case, any caps at all, on tanks.

FAILURE CITED

Bay Western Industrial Maintenance Inc. was issued a \$750 civil penalty and citations for failure to adequately survey the jobsite prior to work in order to determine hazards and steps necessary to proceed safely, and failure to isolate ignition sources

from flammable vapors.

Art Carter, Cal-OSHA's chief of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, states, "The increasing use of contractors to perform maintenance and other work for companies mandates the company hiring contractors to be extremely conscientious about informing them about any 'hidden' hazards posed by the job the contractors are working on. It's unconscionable for any company to fail to give a contractor complete information prior to the job bid. Safety and health must be figured into the cost of a job. It's equally imperative that when contractors submit bids, they ask questions about potential hazards and look the site over carefully as part of their pre-job planning."

SAG Activist Named on Motion Picture Council

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. has appointed Timothy Sharon Blake to the State Motion Picture Council. She is a member of the membership education and relations committee of the Screen Actors Guild and has served as a delegate to the American Federation of Television & Radio Artists' national convention.

A television and movie actress, she was a producer of "The Evening of the Stars at the Hollywood Bowl" benefit for the Screen Actors Guild and a coordinator for the Musicians Benefit at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium.

Manville Chapter 11 Move Seen As Stalling Asbestosis Liability

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and the Korean War.

The AFL-CIO has successfully opposed several bills that attempted to deny workers the right to sue.

U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-Martinez) called Manville's recent action "a ruthless" act to escape their liability "to the victims they've created." The firm's action, he fears, "could show the way for any company involved in hazardous materials to go through Chapter 11. It's the height of social irresponsibility."

"They expect to jettison these victims," Miller said, "and go on their merry way."

He said he favors a compensation program funded only by the companies. Miller said he hopes the action by Manville "will not terrorize the Congress into sug-

gesting that the federal taxpayer should bail these people out."

The Manville action automatically puts a stop to the lawsuits pending against the corporation until the court decides how Manville should reorganize its operation and pay its creditors.

Victims who have obtained settlements and favorable verdicts that have not yet been paid by the company will have to stand in line like thousands of other general creditors. Lawyers, politicians and industry representatives said many plaintiffs could be left with little, if any, compensation.

UNR Industries, a Chicago-based firm heavily involved in asbestos damage claims, took similar action a few days before Manville.

Bob Speake of Brentwood retired from Manville's plant in Pittsburgh, Cal., in 1975 with asbestosis. This February he was awarded \$150,000 by a Contra Costa County superior court jury.

After the recent Chapter 11 filing, Mrs. Speake declared, "We haven't got a penny of it. And I doubt we ever will." Speake, the judgment being held up on appeal, stated, "They're going to do everything they can to keep from paying me. I think they're hoping we all die off. There's nothing I can do."

State Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-S.F.), who carried the California AFL-CIO bill to provide asbestos victims temporary financial relief pending final outcome of court cases, branded the Manville filing "a dirty trick. I will immediately look into what legislative remedy can counter this."

Warning labels were first placed on asbestos materials in this country in 1964, after studies by Dr. Irving Selikoff and his colleagues at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York showed vastly higher proportions of lung cancer and other lung diseases in individuals who had worked with asbestos than in the general population.

Since that time it has been demonstrated that persons who have been exposed to asbestos for as short a time as a month or two have developed asbestos-related diseases, including the wives of workers who washed their husbands' asbestos-laden clothes.

The first legal claim for damages by an asbestos worker in this country was filed in 1927 but it was not until the last five years that the suits began to be filed in large numbers.

Normally it takes 15 to 35 years after initial exposure for asbestos-related diseases to appear, and by then it is too late to arrest the diseases. Since many individuals were first exposed to the materials at their jobs during World War II, "the harvest time of the disease has now arrived," noted Dr. Philip Polakoff of Berkeley, Cal., an occupational medicine specialist, in 1978 when the suits began to proliferate.

Until recently, another group of workers who were directly involved in the manufacture of asbestos products could only be compensated for injuries through state workers compensation programs.

But within the past two years, court decisions including one by California's State Supreme Court, have given a plant worker the right to sue his employer directly if he can show the company deliberately concealed information about health hazards that resulted in the worker's injury.

This legal change considerably increased the companies' exposure to damage suits. Lawyers for injured workers have been presenting to juries throughout the country 45-year old documents discovered in 1978 and 1979 indicating that the asbestos industry had suppressed scientific data that would have warned asbestos workers of dangers they faced in toiling with the material.

The companies contend that they had no responsibility to warn workers of health hazards from asbestos until 1964, when the landmark Selikoff study was completed. But the documents indicated that the companies were aware of the dangers 30 years earlier.

Currently about 8,200 Americans a year die from asbestos-related diseases, according to Dr. Selikoff. He estimates that by the year 2000, the figure will rise to 9,700 deaths a year.

Last January, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Navy shipyard workers exposed to asbestos could sue under federal admiralty laws, thus getting around the statute of limitations. The number of lawsuits against the firm has increased substantially since then.

Earlier this year, hearings were held on a bill sponsored by Congressman Miller that would establish a federal system for compensating victims.

Miller's bill, and similar legislation in the Senate sponsored by Sen. Gary Hart, (D-Colo.), would set up a federal "White Lung" program for asbestosis victims.

Brown Asks Reagan Aid in Border Area Economic Disaster

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. recently wired President Reagan, calling on the administration to declare the area along California's boundary with the Republic of Mexico an economic disaster area, "as was done in the early 1970s."

The Governor asked that the President join him "for a firsthand look at the economic suffering of communities" along the border. Unemployment has risen as high as 27% there and commercial enterprise has fallen off 40% and 60% due to devaluation of the Mexican peso.

"This area is in need of temporary financial help," Brown told Reagan. "I have written you asking that the Economic Disaster Loan Program be reestablished. Immediate attention to this matter would be most appreciated."

FORUM Chapter Instituted in Fresno Area

The Federation of Retired Union Members (FORUM) chapter in Fresno became official when the members approved the charter by-laws Aug. 11.

Interim officers chosen to serve until an election is held are Earl Goss, former business agent, Iron Workers Local 155, chair; Roy Whiteley, former IAM directing business representative, vice chair; Wilbur Dowd, Sheet Metal Workers Local 309, secretary.

The new FORUM chapter was instituted with the cooperation of Jim Patton, coordinator of the retired union members department of the California AFL-CIO, and Ray Shilling, secretary-treasurer of the Fresno-Madera Counties Central Labor Council.

A registration and get-out-the-vote campaign will involve many FORUM members prior to the Nov. 2 General Election.

San Mateo COPE Fund Raiser Due, Hails Labor Editor

A major fund raising event of the San Mateo Central Labor Council's COPE will be held Friday evening, Sept. 10, at the San Francisco Airport Hilton. "No host" cocktails will be served at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is at 7:30.

As part of the program, Harold Rossman, editor of **San Mateo County Labor** will be honored for 45 years' service to the trade union movement. Principal speakers will be Machinists International Union President William W. Wimpinger and John F. Henning, executive officer of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO.

Also featured on the program will be an appearance by former California Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown.

Tickets are \$35 each and tables of ten are \$350, according to Richard Holoher, secretary of the San Mateo County council.

Tickets may be ordered by telephone to the San Mateo council, (415) 340-0418.



NO LAUGHING MATTER brings cartoon favorites to the picket line with local unions representing striking technicians and production workers at Group W Cable in Santa Monica, and the motion picture screen cartoonists who are on strike against major Hollywood studios. The five affected Theatrical Stage Employees local unions joined forces at the cable company's doors to dramatize the refusal of the Westinghouse Broadcasting affiliate to bargain with its employees and the insistence of the animated film studios on broad rights to contract out work to overseas studios and to non-union shops.

Blue Shield 'Runaway' from S.F. Faces Fight by OPE Local 3

(Continued from Page 1)
purported to show they could employ in the suggested alternative locations "non-union people at tremendous savings. . . And they wouldn't have to provide certain benefits enjoyed by workers in San Francisco, such as dependent health coverage paid by the employer, long-term disability plans, sick leave, etc."

Some months before Local 3's difficulty with Blue Shield arose, the firm called on the union to help it secure multi-million dollar state MediCal contracts. Not only Davis but San Francisco Labor Council Secretary Jack Crowley and Jack Henning, head of the State AFL-CIO, worked side-by-side with them in presenting Blue Shield's case to the Governor and to the Legislature.

The union's present collective bargaining agreement with Blue Shield runs out Nov. 14, 1983.

Local 3 will act to fight the threatened job flight all the way, Davis says, "We claim the company is running away from the union and this amounts to a clear-

cut violation of federal labor laws, that this is an unfair labor practice under the National Labor Relations Act."

Local 3 is moving ahead on its legal plan, Davis says, "which will go into action when Blue Shield attempts to run away."

Blue Shield contends the reason it's planning to move is the high cost of doing business in San Francisco, Davis says, "but this is a smokescreen for the company's true intent."

"It's the tone of the times; unions and their members are in an era when employers are very bold in illegal attempts to flee unions," Davis emphasized.

The company says the shift of jobs might be necessary to make it more competitive with other medical insurers, Davis says. "That's their official line for talk of relocation to places such as Sonora, Red Bluff, Modesto, Merced and Ukiah.

"We think their claims are baloney and I've offered to show them why," Davis says. "While rental space here is high and our

members' wages are better than those of non-union insurance workers elsewhere, balancing this out is the proven fact that productivity is at a very high level here when compared to other sections of the state."

At the same time, measured quality of insurance claim processing at the San Francisco office is at a very high level, Davis says, "but quality control doesn't seem to be much of a concern with Blue Shield management at this time."

Blue Shield workers won their first collective bargaining agreement in 1972, covering up to 1,700 workers in the bargaining unit. In 1980, Blue Shield lost the Medi-Cal contract to a lower bidder and 600 jobs were shipped out of The City to Southern California. The unit was struck another blow in 1981, when, during a prolonged strike, 448 union jobs were permanently sent out of San Francisco.

Following the 4½-month strike starting December 9, 1980, Local 3 members returned to work in April 1981 under a new contract that upped their wages 25 percent over a three-year term.

The strike was the first by Local 3 members in the eight years Local 3 had represented employees at Blue Shield.

UCLA Labor Center Charts Extensive Discussion Series

Tuesday evenings between Sept. 28 and Nov. 16, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. labor representatives from various backgrounds and organizations will explore together with staff of the Center for Labor Research & Education, UCLA, and other campus academics several aspects of industrial relations and other major issues affecting the work of trade union members.

The group will be limited to 30 enrollees. The cost of the series is \$60 per registrant.

Registration and other data is available from the Institute of Industrial Relations, Room 9351 Bunche Hall, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

As last year, the group will convene in Bunche Hall, home of the Labor Center on the UCLA campus. For those whose schedule

permits, resource persons and participants will gather earlier at the Faculty Center for dinner.

Scheduled topics for discussion include:

- ✓ Worker Participation in Decision Making.
- ✓ The Rhetoric vs. the Reality of Quality of Working Life.
- ✓ New Approaches to Problem Solving.
- ✓ Team Building Within Union Hierarchy.
- ✓ Human Resources — How Do We Use Them?
- ✓ America's Growing Underclass.
- ✓ Psychological and Social Costs of Unemployment and Plant Closings.
- ✓ U.S. Immigration Policies—Their Impact on Labor Relations.

Stepping on Fingers

"Women had only begun to climb up the ladder of success when Ronald Reagan lowered the boom. And it is not easy to climb up the ladder of success, brothers and sisters, when the President of the United States is stepping on your fingers."

—President Joyce Miller, Coalition of Labor Union Women, 44th Annual CWA Convention, 1982