



EDITORIAL

Secretary Watt on U.S. Jews

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

Despite his ultimatum to those he termed "liberals of the Jewish community," Secretary of Interior James Watt retains his cabinet position and the blessing of President Reagan.

In a recently revealed letter written to Moshe Arens, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., Watt stated: "If the liberals of the Jewish community join with other liberals of this nation to oppose these efforts (Watt's energy program), they will weaken our ability to be a good friend of Israel."

That is about as close as any conservative could come to attributing dual citizenship to American Jews. It is an intolerable violation of the free speech rights of a people who have served the American cause in arms since the days of Washington.

The White House issued a protocol disclaimer that said Watt was speaking only for himself which means that the policy of a cabinet member on U.S. Jews is his own business.

Three years ago President Carter fired U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young for a breaking of diplomatic discipline which the President believed endangered our "No Recognition" position on the P.L.O.

It was for Mr. Carter the heart-wrenching dismissal of an old friend. Indeed, one of the original "Carter for President" campaigners in the South.

How different the Reagan White House. The presence of Secretary Watt in the cabinet is an affront not only to Jews but to all Americans.

Mr. Watt should be dismissed forthwith.

Anti-Farm Worker Bill Due for Reconsideration

Legislation backed by California's agribusiness interests that is aimed at weakening California's historic 1975 collective bar-

gaining law for farm workers failed to get out of the Senate Finance Committee Monday but

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Balanced Budget Move Hit As Act of Political Cowardice

If Congress approves the balanced budget constitutional amendment it will be "the greatest act of political cowardice and chicanery in modern history," AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland said this week.

If President Reagan really believes that "an unbalanced budget is unexcusable, immoral and outrageous" he should not wait until the amendment is ratified by two-thirds of the states and becomes law, a process that could

take several years, Kirkland said. The AFL-CIO Executive Council, which met in New York City this week, had sent telegrams to all U.S. Senators urging them to defeat the proposal.

But on Wednesday the Senate approved it by a vote of 69 to 31.

If the amendment had been in effect for this fiscal year, the Council said, "the massive cuts required in spending would quickly plunge the entire nation into a disastrous depression."

Kirkland called on Reagan to veto any fiscal 1983 budget deficit and resubmit a balanced budget to Congress.

If Reagan "had any genuine commitment" to a balanced budget, Kirkland said, "he would step up to that responsibility and do it now."

By refusing to act now, Kirkland said, Reagan is engaging in "hypocrisy, pure, raw and naked."

"It is like W. C. Fields giving a temperance lecture — like giving sermons against sin while molesting the choir girls," Kirkland said in referring to Reagan's recent public statements supporting the amendment.

If the full Congress votes to approve the amendment it will be "an act of dishonor that will stand on their records for a long time to come," he predicted.

In a statement adopted by the Council, the AFL-CIO said that the current effort to debate the Constitution "has no higher goal than to provide an easy out for legislators to avoid responsibility for the current record deficit by claiming support for a balanced budget."

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Pregnant Workers' Job Bias Bill Dies in Senate Committee

California AFL-CIO-backed legislation to strengthen the state law barring discrimination against pregnant workers died in the Senate Industrial Relations Committee Wednesday after State Senator John Schmitz (R-Newport Beach) insisted on an amendment that would have made the state law the same as the federal law, a move which would have allowed employers to refuse to pay health insurance benefits for abortions unless the mother's life was in

danger.

The bill, AB 2800 carried by Assemblywoman Maxine Waters (D-LA), was aimed at making it unlawful for an employer to refuse to hire an individual because of pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions and at repealing an existing provision in the California Fair Employment and Housing Act requiring pregnant women workers to be able to complete a training program at least

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'REAGAN LACKS COMPASSION'

Gruhn Hits New Federalism In Urban League Address

Charging that President Reagan's "lack of compassion and understanding of the needs of the people . . . saturates his entire administration," Albin J. Gruhn, president of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, denounced the latest revised version of Reagan's "New Federalism" program in an address to the 72nd Annual Conference of the National Urban League in Los Angeles Tuesday.

Gruhn said that the Reagan Administration's lack of compassion and understanding was indicated, again late last month when the Labor Department an-

nounced that it wanted to extend the permissible hours of work for school children 14 and 15 years old while school is in session from 18 to 24 hours a week and

to permit them to work until 9:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. on school days.

In announcing these proposed

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'PAST THE MORNING STAR'

Drama To Be Presented at Fed Women's Conference

Participants in the California Labor Federation Women-in-the-Work-Force conference to be held at the Amfac Hotel in Los Angeles August 26-28 will be treated to a

special performance of "Past The Morning Star" a dramatization of the contributions made by women to the nation's social, political

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Action Urged to Clarify Women's Pay Parity Rights

Women workers fighting for comparable worth or pay parity legislation will need to devote as much energy in the immediate future to clarifying their rights and remedies under existing state laws such as state ERAs, state Fair Employment Practices Acts and state equal pay acts as they do to the renewed drive for a federal ERA, according to Kathleen Kinnick, director of the California AFL-CIO's Women's Activities Department.

In an address to the 1982 Western Regional Summer Institute for Women held at the University of Oregon in Eugene July 25-30, Kinnick noted that "in light of federal cutbacks by the Reagan Administration in civil rights enforcement, including elimination of previous EEOC guidelines and

policies that supported actions to address comparable worth pay inequities," proponents of the concept of equal pay for work of comparable value to the employer are "looking closely at alternative sex

discrimination remedies under state ERAs and other state laws" which address the issue.

She pointed out that "Congress expressly provided that state statutes defining sex discrimination more comprehensively than Title VII (of the 1964 Civil Rights Act) are not preempted or superseded by Title VII."

"Thus, it is clear that state FEP laws can be as important as Title VII in case law developments defining unfair employment practices to include comparable pay," she said.

To point up the "positive socio-economic effects" to be won by implementing the comparable worth concept, Kinnick said that closing the wage gap between men and women workers by setting wages on a basis that reflects the value of the work to the employer rather than on the sex of the worker would:

- ✓ Reduce job segregation by attracting men into traditionally female occupations;
- ✓ Draw more people to areas of work where there have been critical shortages of skilled employees; and
- ✓ Raise the social and economic status of women and their ability to support themselves.

But she indicated that the pay parity battle will have to be fought on several fronts, including:

- 1—Civil service laws governing the wage-setting practices and policies for particular groups of public employees;
- 2—Laws and regulations governing the employment policies and practices of private employers to contract with state or local

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Plant Closures Bill Referred to Interim Study

Legislation sought by the California AFL-CIO to protect workers and local communities from the massive economic and social dislocation caused by abrupt plant closures was referred to interim study this week by Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

The bill, AB 2839 carried by Assemblywoman Maxine Waters (D-L.A.), would require employers of 300 or more workers locally — or 2,000 worldwide — to pay their workers a minimum of one week of severance pay for every year of employment and an additional one week of pay for every five years of service and continue their health benefits for one year or until the former worker lands another job with health benefits.

The legislation, which has stirred up massive opposition from some of the biggest corporations in the state, would also impose \$1,000 fines on companies that fail to give six months advance notice of plant shutdowns for each worker affected.

The legislation would exempt 99 percent of all firms in California and would benefit smaller firms because it would give them time

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Union Federal Workers' Pay Is 26% Above Non-Union

Blue-collar federal workers who are members of unions and whose wages are fixed through collective bargaining agreements earn an average of 26 percent more than non-union federal employees whose wages are set administratively, a government report has disclosed.

The report, prepared for Congress by the General Accounting

Office, said that a study of 1981 wage levels disclosed that in 46 of the 48 comparisons made in the study the workers whose wage level was set through collective bargaining got more than his counterpart whose wages were set administratively.

The differences ranged from \$491 to \$13,583 a year and averaged \$4,857, the report said.

Court Bars Reagan Move To Gut Prevailing Pay Law

Legal action by building trades unions and the AFL-CIO have succeeded in winning a preliminary injunction to bar the Reagan Administration from implementing changes in the Davis-Bacon Act

that the unions charge are aimed at wiping out the law's prevailing wage protections for millions of U.S. workers.

The new regulations, which were to have gone into effect on July

27, were blocked by an injunction issued July 22 by U.S. District Judge Harold H. Greene.

Judge Greene said that the labor organizations had shown a "strong likelihood" that they will prevail in gaining a permanent injunction against the regulation.

The new regulations, the judge said, should be invalidated because they are clearly contrary to the intent of the law.

The Davis-Bacon Act requires contractors on federally funded construction projects to pay prevailing wages and benefits.

But the new regulations advanced by the Labor Department seek to lower pay scales by changing the method of determining area wages and letting employers hire low-paid "helpers" instead of journeymen and apprentices.

Robert A. Georgine, president of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department, submitted a 12-page affidavit to the court to back up labor's position that the regulations promulgated by Labor Secretary Raymond J. Donovan would have repealed the Davis-Bacon Act and related laws "without a vote" of Congress.

Federal construction contracts should not be a vehicle for undercutting local wage and benefit standards, Georgine said.

Firms are constantly being formed and dissolved that require little capital investment since most necessary equipment can be leased. Workers generally are hired "only for the duration of a particular job" and the industry is "plagued by persistently high unemployment," Georgine pointed out.

"It is very easy for a fly-by-night operator to go into the construction industry, pick up some semi-skilled or unskilled workers at rock-bottom wages and make a quick profit," he said.

Prevailing wage requirements give reputable contractors "a fair chance to compete for government projects" on the basis of skills and efficiency instead of "on the basis of the low wages they pay," he explained.

This provides protections for taxpayers because a dam or a missile silo shouldn't be entrusted to unskilled workers "hired off the streets simply because they are willing to work at substandard wages," he said.

Donovan's regulations seek to achieve by "administrative fiat" what unscrupulous anti-union contractors have been unable to accomplish through the legislative process, he said.

For example, the new regulations would have permitted the wholesale employment of workers as helpers and in other subjourneymen classifications at depressed wage rates regardless of local practice, Georgine noted.

Changing the definition of prevailing wages from the rates paid to the largest number of workers in the craft involved as long as it is at least 30 percent of the total would have "substantially diminished" the law's protection, he said.

The existing 30 percent rule has been in existence since 1935.

In addition, the changes in the area base for computing wages and the abolition of weekly payroll record-keeping requirements sought by the Reagan Administration would also undermine the prevailing wage law, Georgine said.

DON'T BUY COORS BEER

WORK & HEALTH

Skin Diseases Lead List of Work-Related Afflictions

BY PHILLIP L. POLAKOFF, M.D.
Executive Director

Western Institute for Occupational/Environmental Sciences

What is the No. 1 occupational disease in the United States?

Not lung disease. Not heart disease. Not job-related cancer nor any of the other more dramatic life-threatening illnesses that can strike down workers in our industrial nation.

Skin disease heads the list, accounting for four out of 10 occupational illnesses in this country, according to recent figures from OSHA, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

In 1979, the U.S. Department of Labor calculated that skin problems made up 60 percent of all work-related illnesses. The actual percentage may be even higher, since many workers do not report such illness or injury.

These facts become more understandable if we remember one thing that is often overlooked or misunderstood. The skin is the largest organ of the body. It is the first to come into contact with various physical and chemical elements. Just about every job involves touching something. And those "somethings" can cause trouble.

CAUSES OF DERMATITIS VARY

There are several direct causes of industrial dermatitis. These are classified as mechanical, physical, chemical, biological, and in some occupations contact with poisonous plants.

Almost every job requires a worker to grasp, squeeze, push or otherwise manipulate a tool or machine of some sort. The actual physical exertion is of less concern here than is the contact. Pressure and friction may cause blisters or calluses. Even more serious, pneumatic tools may affect not only the skin, but bring on bone and nerve damage as well.

Physical factors in skin problems can range from extremes in temperature to radiation. Workers around furnaces, molten metal and in bakeries are subject to "heat rashes." Ionizing radiation may injure skin and predispose persons so exposed to cancer. This risk is found in such health fields as dentistry and radiology. The same risk may also be present in industries that use X-rays to test for flaws in castings.

TOO MUCH SUN IS A HAZARD

Far more prevalent as a physical agent is sunlight which can damage the skin of persons with chronic exposure, such as farmers, construction workers and all persons with fair complexions. Skin malignancies may occur in these cases.

Chemicals cause dermatitis by direct damage to normal skin at the site of contact, if the concentration is high enough or the exposure is over a period of time. The "absolute" irritants that will affect most or all persons exposed to them include acids, alkalis and solvents. The damage usually will appear immediately, although occasionally it can show up days later.

Biological agents that can cause skin infections include bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites. These are often the villains in such afflictions as anthrax, folliculitis, ringworm, creep eruptions and various itches.

WATCH OUT FOR PLANTS

Plants and plant products are major causes of disabling dermatitis. During the spring and summer, poison oak or poison ivy dermatitis is particularly common among outdoor workers, such as farmers, telephone linemen, letter carriers and forestry workers. It's not a funny business, as any victim can tell you, and ranks as a major source of disability in this country.

Among the larger plants, various woods are sources of dermatitis to workers in logging camps, sawmills, agriculture and furniture manufacturing. In some cases, workers may be able to handle the whole wood, but will break out with skin rashes or eruptions when exposed to wet sawdust or freshly cut surfaces.

Other likely candidates for plant-caused skin problems are workers involved in picking, packing and canning of fruits and vegetables, as well as those handling various grains.

If you have a question about health and safety risks on your job or in the environment, address your inquiry to Dr. Phillip L. Polakoff, Western Institute for Occupational/Environmental Sciences, Inc., 2520 Milva Street, Berkeley, CA. 94704.

Anti-Farm Worker Bill Due for Reconsideration

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may be taken up for reconsideration next week.

The anti-farm worker bill, SB 1840 carried by Senator James W. Nielson (R-Woodland), would prohibit the Agricultural Labor Relations Board from ordering those employers who have engaged in unfair practices by refusing to bargain to make their employees whole from the loss of pay resulting from such a refusal to bargain.

Voting for the bill and against

farm workers' rights last Monday were:

Senators Dan Boatwright (D-Concord); Jim Ellis (R-San Diego); Ken Maddy (R-Fresno); Neilson; Robert B. Presley (D-Riverside); and Robert G. Beverly (R-Redondo Beach).

Supporting farm workers rights by voting "No" were:

Senators Ralph C. Dills (D-Gardena); John Garamendi (D-Stockton); Bill Greene (D-LA); John Holmdahl (D-Hayward); and Alfred E. Alquist, the committee's chairman (D-San Jose).

Fresno FORUM to Act on By-Laws at Meeting Aug. 11

A general membership meeting of the Federation Of Retired Union Members (FORUM) sponsored by the Fresno and Madera Counties Central Labor Councils will be held at 4831 East Shield Street in Fresno at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 11 to act on by-laws for the new organization, according to Earl "Speck" Goss, former business agent for Ironworkers Local 155 who is serving as temporary chairman of the new organization.

"With the Reagan Administration now obviously intent on attempting to slash Social Security benefits and other federally financed programs vital to the welfare of retirees, it's clearly a simple matter of self-preservation for retired union members to play an active role in the critical general election on November 2, Jim Patton, director of the California AFL-CIO's retired members Department who helped set up the FORUM, said.

The function of the FORUM, Patton explained, is to represent the interests of union labor and the welfare and interests of retired union members at the local level by, among other things, participating in the voter registration, education and get-out-the-vote efforts in behalf of labor-endorsed candidates.

"It's not a policy making organization but a nuts and bolts, get-the-job-done outfit," Patton, former president of the National Farmers Union, said.

FORUMs already established include those in Alameda; Contra Costa, Solano and Napa; Los An-

geles; San Diego; Santa Clara; San Joaquin; Santa Cruz; San Francisco; and San Mateo Counties.

A number of others are in the process of organization including those in Sacramento, Modesto, Monterey and Sonoma Counties, Patton said.

Ray Shilling, secretary-treasurer of the Fresno-Madera Central Labor Council, has held several meetings with the FORUM's organizing committee and said he is counting on the FORUM to play a key role in Labor's political efforts this Fall.

"We will be probably be stuffing a lot of envelopes, making phone calls and really getting out the vote for the November election," Paul Gitchell, a member of IBEW Local 100's retirees' club who took part in an earlier organizational meeting for the Fresno-Madera FORUM, said.

Other temporary offices of the new organization include: Roy Whiteley, former directing business representative for the Machinists, vice chairman; and Wilbur Dowd of Sheetmetal Workers Local 309, secretary.

Serving on the committee to draw up the FORUM's by-laws are: Lannard Mosmeyer, of Sheetmetal Workers Local 252; Jack Osborne, of the Teamsters; James Campbell of Sheetmetal Workers Local 252; Troy Green of Ironworkers Local 155; and Ann Manis of UFCW Local 1288.

Participation in the FORUM is open to all interested unions and union members.

Pregnant Workers' Job Bias Bill Dies in Senate Committee

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three months prior to the anticipated date of departure for pregnancy leave.

Senators voting for the bill, which died on a 2 to 2 vote, were: Bill Greene, committee chairman, (D-L.A.) and Joseph B. Montoya (D-El Monte). Opposed were: Senators Schmitz and Newton R. Russell (R-Glendale).

California AFL-CIO-sponsored legislation designed to protect culinary workers by requiring their employers to post a bond sufficient to pay the wages and

fringe benefits of their workers for one pay period or two weeks which ever is longer, AB 1822, also died in the committee Wednesday.

Plant Closures Bill Referred to Interim Study

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to arrange for alternate suppliers or customers and thereby avoid costly disruptions when major plants closed, experts in economic development and urban planning said in testifying in support of the bill last month.

The motion to send the bill to interim study was approved by a vote of 13 to 8 after it was clear that there were not enough votes to move the bill out of committee.

John F. Henning, executive officer of the California AFL-CIO, said he expects interim hearings to be held in September and October that will give trade unionists and other interested parties an opportunity to drive home to the public the need for such legislation.

If the measure had been killed, there would have been no legislative activity on it until sometime next year.

Publisher's Notice

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LABOR'S SOLIDARITY with the efforts of professional football players to win better wages and working conditions from the 26 National Football League's team owners is symbolized as Gene Upshaw, president of the National Football League Player's Association, AFL-CIO, joins hands with John F. Henning, executive officer of the California Labor Federation, and Albin J. Gruhn, the Federation's President, following Upshaw's address to the California AFL-CIO biennial convention in Anaheim. Upshaw said that although his union has only 1,500 players, "as a member of the AFL-CIO we have strength." Each football game, he said, will gross \$25 million but the players share is only \$5 million. Noting that a professional football player's career lasts an average of only 4½ years, Upshaw said that the union is seeking 55 percent of the gross. "Players want to have a say on the type of fields we play on, the doctors that treat us, and on the way we are compensated," he said. He also praised the California AFL-CIO for winning enactment of legislation last year to require athlete's agents to be subject to rules developed by the State Labor Commissioner on form contracts and other matters.

Action Urged to Clarify Women's Pay Parity Rights

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government agencies;

3—Laws which outlaw sex-based discrimination in pay setting by private and public employers, including both fair employment practice laws and equal pay laws; and,

4—Laws which broadly outlaw sex discrimination, including equal rights amendments.

Moreover, Kinnick noted, "because education and information about the breakdown of job classifications by sex and salary assigned and about the way in which jobs are ranked in a workplace are so important to raising and resolving comparable worth issues, laws about access to wage information also impact on this issue."

Much of the current legislative activity, she said, has focused on

Insurance Job Bias Bill Wins Senate Panel OK

California AFL-CIO-backed legislation to prohibit insurance companies from discriminating in their rates on any basis of occupation unless actuarial studies show that it is justified, won the approval of the Senate Insurance and Indemnity Committee Monday and was sent to the Senate floor.

The bill, AB 2007 carried by Assemblyman Herschel Rosenthal (D-LA), won the Senate panel's approval by a vote of 4 to 0 after Dennis Weaver, former president of the AFL-CIO Screen Actors Guild, testified in support of it.

Many companies presently charged bartenders, actors and other workers in certain occupations higher rates solely on the basis of their type of employment.

the enactment of civil service laws on comparable worth for state workers, who are usually a large proportion of a state's total workforce.

But, she said, there has also been some legislative activity at the local level where governing boards of municipalities and school districts have adopted comparable worth studies for pay policies for their employees.

Noting that California is one of only six states that have so far adopted some form of comparable worth legislation, Kinnick said that the California legislation enjoyed the vigorous support of the of the California AFL-CIO during its passage through the legislature.

John F. Henning, the Federation's executive officer spelled out labor's stand on the issue, she said, when he declared at one of the hearings that:

"The principle of equal pay for work of comparable value is one of the most important issues facing the working men and women of America during the 1980's. The goals of organized labor are inseparably tied to the continuing struggle for women's rights; a victory for women workers is a victory for all workers."

The California law establishes a state policy of setting salaries for female-dominated jobs on the basis of the comparability of the value of the work.

It does not allocate money for wage adjustments or require a job evaluation study of state classifications. Instead it requires the state's Department of Personnel Administration to "review and analyze existing information, including those studies from other jurisdictions relative to the setting of salaries for female-dominated

jobs" and provides that this information be set forth in an annual report to bargaining representatives of state workers.

The first report under the California law, which was issued last April, includes information on how eight selected state classifications — Librarian, Office Assistant II, Stenographer, Key Data Operator, Food Service Worker I, Registered Nurse I and II, and Licensed Vocational Nurses would be ranked by job ranking studies in other jurisdictions and where they are currently placed in the state's pay structure.

Kinnick credited Virginia Dean, an Oakland attorney associated with the Comparable Worth Project headquartered at 488 41st Street, No. 5, Oakland, Ca. 94609, with supplying a great deal of the information she was able to present to the conference. The Oakland project can be reached by phoning (415) 658-1808.

The week-long institute was sponsored by the University and College Labor Education Association in cooperation with the AFL-CIO Education Department. It was also supported by contributions from the California Labor Federation, the Education Department of AFSCME, IBEW Local 1245, and the Centers for Labor Research and Education at both UCLA and UC Berkeley.

The Institute also featured plenary sessions on "The Effect of the Changing Economy on Women;" "Sexual Harassment;" and "Technological Change" as well as workshops on Grievance Handling, Collective Bargaining, Newsletters and Public Relations, Political Action and Community Services, Internal Organizing, Leadership Skills for Union Women, and Organizing the Unorganized.

'PAST THE MORNING STAR'

Drama To Be Presented at Fed Women's Conference

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and economic progress.

Written, directed and performed by Dorene Ludwig, the show won a standing ovation when it was presented at the Southwestern States Council of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union in Monterey last June.

Featured speaker at the opening session of the conference on Friday, August 27 will be Dorothy Shields, director of the AFL-CIO Department of Education, who will discuss "The Effect of Reagonomics on Our Nation's Educational System."

The conference will also feature a series of workshops on both Friday and Saturday, including a two-part workshop that will include the theory of creative negotiations and costing out contracts proposals titled "Dynamics of Collective Bargaining and Collective Bargaining Mathematics."

Other workshops include: Working with Media/Communication with Members to Build Support for Union Programs; Organizing; Sexual Harassment; Human Relations; Communications Skills; and Lobbying Effectively for Legislative Objectives.

Dan Curtin, Assistant State COPE Director, will give a report on Political Action during the Friday afternoon session and Cynthia McCaughan, coordinator of Women's Activities in the AFL-CIO Civil Rights Department, will give an address on "The Reagan Administration Depression and Directions of the Women's Movement."

The conference will also include a panel discussion on plant closures with emphasis on their impact on women workers.

Registration fee for the conference is \$30 per person and in-



DORENE LUDWIG

cludes two meals and conference materials.

It does not include hotel accommodations, reservations for which must be made directly with the reservations manager at the Amfac Hotel at 860 Lincoln Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90045 (213) 670-8111. Registration requests received after August 12 will be accepted only on a space available basis. To get the guaranteed conference rate of \$48 single or twin, participants must specify they will be attending the conference.

Registration for the conference will be open from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 26 and will resume at 8:30 a.m. Friday, August 27.

Kathleen Kinnick, the California AFL-CIO Director of Women Activities, urged trade unionists planning to attend to mail in their pre-registration form as soon as possible in order to have the best choice of workshops.

**Protect Your Job:
Look for Union Label**

Winpisinger and Henning to Speak At San Mateo COPE Banquet

Two top union officials — William W. Winpisinger, president of the International Assn. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, and John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation — will be featured speakers at the Fourth Annual COPE banquet to be held by the San Mateo County Committee on Political Education, Friday night, September 10, at the San Francisco Airport Hilton Hotel.

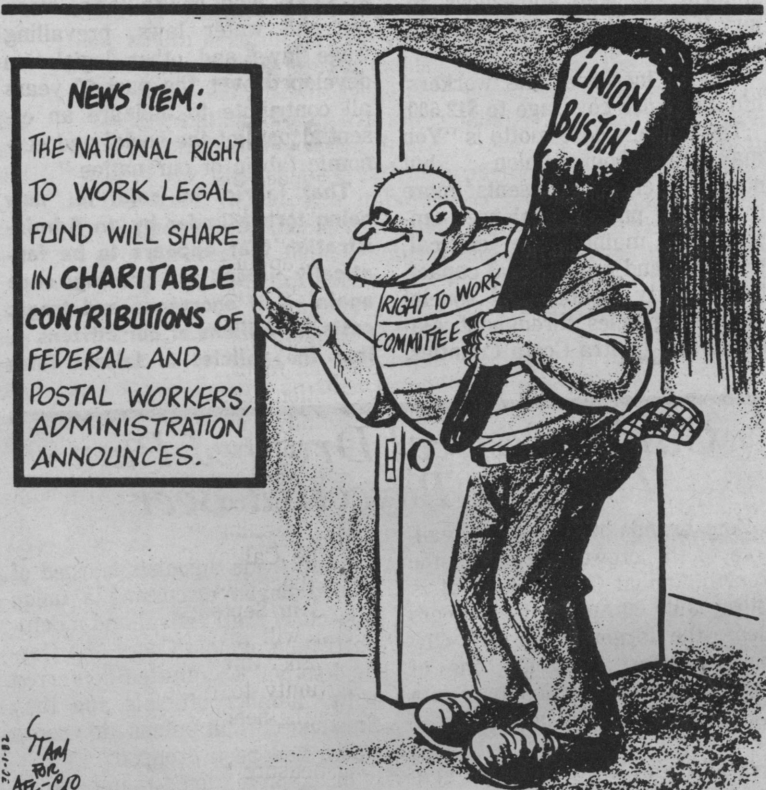
The banquet will be San Mateo County COPE's major fund-raising event in preparation for the

critical November 2 general election.

Another special feature of the banquet will be a presentation to Harold Rossman, editor of San Mateo County Labor, in recognition of his 45 years of service to the trade union movement.

Donations for the banquet, which will start with no host cocktails at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30, are \$35 each or \$350 for a table.

Reservations for the banquet may be made phoning the Labor Council's office at (415) 343-4569.



NEWS ITEM:
THE NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK LEGAL FUND WILL SHARE IN CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FEDERAL AND POSTAL WORKERS ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES.

STAN FOR AFL-CIO

'Sure I'm a Charity... for the Rich!'

Gruhn Hits New Federalism In Urban League Address

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changes, Gruhn said, William Otter, the Reagan official in charge of the Labor Department's Wage and Hours Division, contended that there had been indications of "a very substantial frustration with current limitations on the employment of 14- and 15-year olds in seemingly safe employment."

"Beyond any doubt," Gruhn said, "Mr. Otter was referring to employer frustrations. But what about the frustrations of the children?" he asked.

"When are they going to find time to do their homework and get a decent education and socialize with their families and friends if they're not going to get off their jobs until 9:00 p.m. and arrive home dog-tired after an 11 or 12 hour day of school and work?"

"And whose jobs are these 14- and 15-year-old children going to take when unemployment among black teenagers is already over

52 percent — more than 25 percent higher than it was in June 1981 when it was already bad enough at 40.9 percent.

"And what wages do you think the employers want to pay such children?" he asked.

"Not the minimum wage of just \$3.35 an hour. That's too much. They want to pay them just 85 percent of the minimum or \$2.85 an hour while they lose their opportunity for a free public education because in many cases they have to work to help keep their families afloat," he said.

"If that kind of proposal isn't unAmerican, it sure as hell ought to be," Gruhn declared.

(Almost as Gruhn was speaking, the Labor Department was announcing in Washington that it had decided to postpone action on the proposal to weaken child labor laws by extending the public comment period from 30 days to 180 days. The action, clearly a response to earlier protests from labor, education and other groups has the effect of putting the issue on the shelf until after the November elections.)

SOCIAL SECURITY IN PERIL
Gruhn also charged that the Reagan Administration is clearly intent on seeking to undermine the nation's social security program.

"Despite Reagan's repeated public pledges that social security wouldn't be slashed, his Administration has already reduced the last cost-of-living increase to the lowest full dollar amount," he said.

This amounts to "taking away from the elderly and the disabled an extra two cans of soup or a half of gallon of milk while at the same time bestowing the greatest tax cut in the history of the nation on those who need it the least — those earning \$50,000 or \$100,000 or more a year," Gruhn said.

"Surely that's unAmerican or ought to be!" he said.

REAGANOMICS RIPPED

Before spelling out labor's concerns about the Administration's "New Federalism" program, Gruhn said "it's important to look at what the Reagan Administration is doing — or attempting to do — to the nation's basic social security programs in the broad sense — in the sense that protective labor laws, occupational safety and health laws, clean air and water laws, prevailing wage laws and other legislation developed over the past 50 years all contribute to and are an essential part of the social and economic fabric of our nation."

That fabric, he said, is "now being torn asunder by an Administration that appears to be fanatically intent on proving once again — at enormous and tragic costs to millions of our citizens — that the policies of laissez faire

economics championed by Herbert Hoover are the wrong policies for this nation in 1982 just as they were from 1929 to 1932."

In his address to a luncheon session of the Urban League's Conference which attracted some 8,000 delegates, Gruhn noted that California's State Controller Ken Cory has already warned that the "New Federalism" program would cost California half a billion dollars in just its first year of operation and asked:

"Is it any wonder that this so-called 'New Federalism' of Mr. Reagan's was almost immediately termed the 'New Feudalism'?"

As revised, the "New Federalism" program calls for:

- Federal takeover of all Medicaid (Medi-Cal) costs in exchange for the states taking over \$40 billion in federal responsibilities including Aid to Families with Dependent Children;

- Shifting responsibility to the states for some 35 federal programs in education and training, community development, revenue sharing, transportation, health and nutritional services;

- Continued federal funding for food stamps;

- Creation of a "super revenue sharing trust fund" formed from the proceeds of excise and other taxes to reimburse the states for their added responsibilities; and,
- A set of options to let state and local governments get federal grants to continue some of the turned back programs.

Gruhn said that it is "important to remember that the reason these programs were taken over by the federal government in the first place was that state and local office holders didn't want to have to face the politically sensitive problem of having to go to their electors — the voters of their state or local communities — and push for the increases in taxes necessary to finance these needed, indeed often vital, programs.

"It was easier to let the federal government collect the taxes," Gruhn said.

It was also "much fairer" because federal income taxes despite their shortcomings and unfair loopholes, were based on the ability-to-pay principle that those who benefit the most from a nation's economy should pay the most to support that economy, he explained.

The trouble with the New Federalism scheme, he said, "is that the state would be free to cut or eliminate any of the programs transferred to them after October 1, 1982."

In addition, he noted, many federal protections for workers such as the Davis-Bacon (prevailing wage) Act, OSHA, and the Fair Labor Standards Act would no longer apply to the defederalized program.

"The end result would be that the burden of the cost of these programs would be shifted to the states' more regressive tax base and this means that low- and middle-income wage earners would pay more taxes and the rich less. And a lot of the programs that most benefit low and middle income families would go down the tube," he warned.

During the opening session of the conference last Sunday, John E. Jacob, the National Urban League's executive officer, urged President Reagan to abandon his current economic policy and launch a \$100 billion national public works program to reduce un-



'And Now for My Next Trick'

employment and revitalize the nation's economy.

In praising Jacob's suggestion, Gruhn said that one of the nation's foremost needs right now is for "immediate, emergency federal action to create jobs."

Gruhn also attacked the Reagan Administration's repeated defense of so-called "free trade" despite the fact that most U.S. trading partners have set up substantial barriers to U.S. goods and U.S. tax and trade laws still encourage multinational corporations to shift U.S. jobs both overseas and to low wage areas in this nation.

"What this nation needs is fair trade," he said, "and increases — rather than cuts — in trade adjustment assistance and retraining programs for displaced or jobless U.S. workers."

Earlier, William Kiesick, president of the Atlantic Richfield Oil Company (ARCO), had discussed

the need for a partnership between business, labor and government to help solve the nation's pressing economic and social problems.

Commenting on his remarks, Gruhn said:

"I wish to point out that it is difficult for these partnerships to be effective when certain corporations give aid and comfort to the proponents of a 'union free environment.'

"These same corporations whose officials talk about partnerships would be screaming their heads off if organized labor proposed a 'corporate free environment,'" Gruhn said.

"In this day of conglomerates and multinational corporations we believe that free enterprise should be fair enterprise — that international free trade is a misnomer. Actually what we need is international fair trade," he declared.

Balanced Budget Plan Hit as Act of Political Cowardice

(Continued from Page 1)

The Council charged that Reagan is "just attempting to divert attention from that deficit which he himself proposed by trumpeting the balanced budget amendment."

The amendment, the AFL-CIO warned, "would severely undermine the Congress' ability to address key national priorities: inflation, unemployment and national security, which would become secondary goals. The overriding goal would be to balance the budget."

On Tuesday, the balanced budget amendment was made even more stringent when it was amended in the Senate to require a three-fifths vote of both houses of Congress to increase the public debt limit.

Senator Alan Cranston, the Senate's minority whip and a leading opponent of the balanced budget amendment, said:

"I flatly predict the thing will never become part of the Constitution. It is absolutely unworkable."

The public debt limit rider to the balanced budget amendment was submitted by Senator William Armstrong (R-Colo.), a strong Reagan supporter.

The House has not yet acted on the issue.

To become effective, the balanced budget amendment would need to be approved by two-thirds of the members of the House (290) and ratified by three-quarters of the states (38) within seven years.

1 in Every 5 U.S. Workers Was Jobless Sometime Last Year

One of every five American workers was unemployed at some point during 1981, a total of some 23.4-million workers, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

BLS also reported separately that unemployment rose sharply in 47 states and the District of Columbia over the year ended in May, with jobless rates of 10 percent or higher recorded in 13 states.

The 23.4-million workers who encountered some unemployment in 1981 represented 19.5 percent of all persons in the labor force for

at least one week. The level was higher than the 18.1 percent who experienced some unemployment in 1980 but lower than the 20.2-percent peak level in 1975 during another severe recession.

"Men were not only more likely to become unemployed," said BLS. "They generally remained unemployed longer than women."

Overall, 78 metropolitan areas reported jobless rates of 10 percent or higher, compared with only 28 in May 1981, the report said.

13% to 23% HIKES

Oakland City Workers OK New Wage Pact

Some 1200 City of Oakland employees have ratified a new, two-year contract providing wage increases ranging from 13 to 23 percent, Paul Varacalli, executive secretary of United Public Employees Local 390 of the Service Employees International Union, said this week.

The Oakland City Council approved the contract at its meeting Tuesday.

All workers will get at least a 7 percent increase retroactive to July 1 and a number of workers will receive special adjustments of up to 10.8 percent at the same time, he said.

Another across-the-board 6 percent increase will go into effect on July 1, 1983, he said.

"We've also managed to avoid having any layoffs as a number of other public agencies are experiencing, he noted.

The new pact, ratified July 28, also provides improvements in fringe benefits that include the addition of orthodontia coverage in the union dental plan, vision care insurance and increases in uniform and auto allowances, injury leave and other time off provisions.

It also increases the workers' life insurance coverage to \$12,500.

The union, whose motto is "You may live without a union . . . but not so well," represents more than 6,000 public employees employed in maintenance, clerical, technical and professional capacities by city, county and special district agencies throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Garlic Festival Dropped Plan To Serve Boycotted Beer

Four brands of beer were available to the crowds thronging the Fourth Annual Garlic Festival in Gilroy July 30-August 1 but Coors Beer, the target of an AFL-CIO boycott effort, was not one of them, thanks to action by Santa Clara County trade unionists.

Although Coors had not been served at the last two Garlic Festivals, the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce, which runs the beer concession, had planned to serve

it this year.

When trade unionists learned of it and began discussing a union boycott of the Festival and a demonstration against Coors, the Garlic Festival Committee conferred with Chamber officials and then announced that plans to serve Coors had been dropped.

In appreciation, members of Santa Clara County Building trades unions volunteered to help staff the beer booth.