

'Fact Sheets' on Issues Before Congress Available

AFL-CIO "Fact Sheets" on key legislative issues before Congress are now available in limited supply from the California Labor Federation office in San Francisco.

The "Fact Sheets" cover eight issues which make up the AFL-CIO's basic legislative program to "Get America Back to Work."

Each fact sheet contains valuable background information in summary form as well as a digest of labor-backed legislation on the subject.

Prepared for the AFL-CIO Economic and Legislative Conference, held in Washington, D. C., January 22-25, 1962, the "Fact Sheets" are an indispensable aid to local organizations in letter-writing campaigns and in communicating generally on issues with representatives in Congress.

Issues covered by the "Fact Sheets" are as follows: No. 1, Health Benefits for the Aged Through Social Security; No. 2, Unemployment; No. 3, International Trade; No. 4, Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin; No. 5, Improving the Federal Tax System; No. 6, The Crisis in the Schools; No. 7, Civil Rights; and No. 8, Consumer Protection.

The series of eight "Fact Sheets" make up a packet. Orders should be directed to Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts, 995 Market Street, Room 810, San Francisco 3, California. There is no charge.

Consumer Group Charges Multi-Million Dollar Steal in Natural Gas Pricing; Billion Dollar Racket in Deceptive Packaging

The Association of California Consumers today called for legislative action to stop "cheating" and "racketeering" on two consumer fronts — natural gas pricing, and the packaging of consumer goods.

Charges of "unconscionable abuses" were made jointly by the Association's secretary, George Brunn, and president, Jackie Walsh.

The Association of California Consumers is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing and protecting common interests shared by consumers. In addition to individual consumers from all walks of life, its membership is composed of labor organizations, credit unions, consumer co-ops, health and welfare groups, home economics and dietetic groups and others dedicated to consumer interests.

NATURAL GAS

Brunn charged that "California



THOS. L. PITTS
Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

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Back Housing and Urban Affairs Dept., California Delegation Urged

Full backing of President John F. Kennedy's Reorganization Plan No. 1 to establish a Department of Urban Affairs and Housing in the federal government was asked of California's 30-member delegation in Congress this week by the state AFL-CIO.

At press time, the stage is set for a showdown battle on the reorganization plan, which goes into effect automatically unless disapproved by either house of Congress within 60 days of submission by the President.

A Republican-Southern Democratic coalition is advancing a resolution to disapprove the plan, charging that President Kennedy has injected a racial issue by declaring that he would appoint Housing and Home Finance Director Robert C. Weaver, a Negro, to head the new Department.

Kennedy offered the Department plan as an Executive reorganization proposal two weeks ago

after the Administration-supported, labor-backed legislation creating the Department had been killed by a 9-6 vote in the House Rules Committee. All five Republicans on the committee and four Southern Democrats voted to block the bill. In support of Kennedy's proposal,

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Hearings Set to Review "Adverse Effect" of Bracero Law

The U. S. Department of Labor has scheduled two hearings in California during the coming week to review a \$1.00 per hour minimum which the Department is proposing to prevent "adverse effect" of bracero importation on domestic farm workers.

Assistant Secretary of Labor Jerry R. Holleman will conduct public hearings in Los Angeles on Monday, February 19, at the Police Department Building Auditorium, and in Sacramento on Wednesday, February 21, in the Auditorium of the Department of Employment. The day-long sessions are scheduled to commence at 9:00 a.m. on the designated dates.

The hearings are an outgrowth of the recent debacle in Imperial Valley, when the Department set a 24 cents a carton piece rate for the importation of braceros, and then back-tracked under grower pressure by amending the piece rate order to allow an alternative flat

consumers are being cheated out of hundreds of millions of dollars through quickie increases in the price of natural gas."

He said that these quickie increases are put through by natural gas companies without any hearing about whether the higher rate is reasonable. "No other utility is allowed to operate in such a high-and-mighty fashion," Brunn said.

Brunn, in accordance with a convention resolution adopted by the

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Hearings Set to Review "Adverse Effect" of Bracero Law

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rate of \$1.00 per hour (see News Letter, January 26 issue).

State AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts announced that the Federation will present its views on the adequacy of the Department proposal and what must be done to prevent adverse risk, at the scheduled Sacramento hearing.

The provisions of the bracero importation law which require protection of domestics from "adverse effect" are contained in section 503 of Public Law 78.

This section prohibits the Secretary of Labor from making Mexican Nationals available for employment in any area unless he has determined and certified that:

(1) Sufficient domestic workers who are able, willing and qualified are not available at the time and place needed to perform the work for which braceros are to be employed;

(2) The employment of braceros will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of domestic agricultural workers similarly employed; and

(3) Reasonable efforts have been made to attract domestic workers for such employment at wages, standard hours of work, and working conditions comparable to those offered to imported foreign workers.

In announcing the coming hearings, the Department declared "that information available to the Secretary of Labor raises a question as to whether he can determine and certify that the employment of Mexican Nationals in the states of California, Nevada, Oregon or Washington will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of domestic workers similarly employed, unless the Mexican workers are paid not less than \$1.00 per hour, and when paid at piece rates, at rates which will guarantee earnings equivalent to earnings at the specified hourly rate."

This is the substance of the Department's proposal to be aired in Sacramento and Los Angeles.

In addition to taking oral and written testimony on the hearing dates, the Department has an-

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Association last November, urged public support of S. 666, introduced by Senator Warren Magnuson (D. Wash.), which is currently before the U. S. Senate Committee on the Interior. "Our Association is happy to add its support to that of Governor Brown, the Public Utilities Commission of California and the cities and counties of this state. The Magnuson bill will put an end to gas rate increases that have not first been found fair and reasonable," Brunn said.

He congratulated Everett McKeage, president of the California Public Utilities Commission, and Governor Brown for their leadership on this issue, but added that active support is essential. "The natural gas companies have been making monkeys of us. It's up to all of us to wake up," he said.

(This week also the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO called for immediate Senate action on the Magnuson bill in communications directed to California Senators Kuchel and Engle, and the Senate Interior Committee.)

CONSUMER PACKAGING

On the increasingly explosive issue of consumer packaging, Association President Jackie Walsh said, "deceptive packaging has become a billion dollar racket."

"To take money from families by fraud and deception is as vicious as a holdup," she added.

Walsh, who is also president of both Waitresses Union Local 48 and the San Francisco Joint Culinary Board, said that consumers all over the country are becoming fed up with such practices and demand action.

"One of the high priority objec-

nounced that all persons desiring to present additional written statements should address them directly to Jerry R. Holleman, Assistant Secretary of Labor, 14th and Constitution Avenues, N.W., Washington, D. C., on or before February 27, 1962.

tives of our Association is to get better laws and stronger enforcement of them in this field," she said.

Among practices she termed inexcusable are use of packages that give the illusion of containing more than they actually do, and the practice of cutting down the amount in a package without similarly reducing its size.

Walsh also scored what she called "the failure of many packages to clearly and legibly state the net weight on the package." She said the law required such a statement for all food products, but was being honored mostly in the breach. She pointed out that the U. S. Food and Drug Administration has almost no funds to enforce these provisions.

"With their limited funds, they have all they can do to keep us from being poisoned," she said, adding that every dollar spent for law enforcement here would save us many hard-earned shopping dollars.

"Robbing the consumer a few cents at a time has become a lucrative business," she added. "This not only hurts the buying public — particularly the poorest families who have to spend the highest percentage of their income for food and necessities — but it hurts also the honest businessman who has to compete against such unscrupulous practices."

"The honest seller is under great pressure to adopt the same tactics," Walsh said. "Too often he gives in. It has become almost impossible today to find a food package that meets the standards of even the present inadequate laws."

Walsh particularly commended the work of Governor Brown's Consumer Counsel, Helen Nelson, and Senator Philip A. Hart (D. Mich.). She said that "the hearings held by Senator Hart are giving us a documented picture of the full extent of the problem. We are confident that out of these hearings will come some constructive legislative and administrative action."

I.W.C. Wage Board Appointments Completed

The California Industrial Welfare Commission has completed the appointment of members to some 12 wage boards which the Commission has established to make recommendations on updating I.W.C. orders setting minimum wages and other conditions for women and minors employed in California.

Meeting in San Francisco last Friday, the Commission named the members of seven wage boards, augmenting the five boards appointed at its previous meeting held January 12, 1962.

(See News Letter issue, January 19, 1962, for the names of employee members of the previously appointed five boards covering the following orders: No. 1, Manufacturing Industry; No. 2, Personal Services; No. 3, Canning, Freezing and Preserving Industry; No. 4, Professional, Technical, Clerical and Similar Occupations; and a combined board for Orders Nos. 8 and 13, Industries Handling Products After Harvest.)

The remaining seven boards completed last week cover: Order No. 5, Public Housekeeping Industry; Order No. 6, Laundry, Linen Supply, Dry Cleaning and Dyeing Industry; Order No. 7, Mercantile Industries; Order No. 9, Transportation Industry; Order No. 10, Amusement and Recreation Industry; Order No. 11, Broadcasting Industry; and Order No. 12, Motion Picture Industry.

All boards are composed of an equal number of employer and employee representatives with an impartial chairman. (The chairmen selected for all boards were also listed in the January 19 issue of News Letter.)

The following are the employee members named to the seven boards completed last week:

Public Housekeeping Industry — John A. Casey, Hotel Service and Club Employees, Los Angeles; Larry Elizarde, Hospital and Institutional Workers, San Francisco; Lucy Galaski, Culinary Alliance and Hotel Service Employees, San Diego; Michael McDermott, Building Services Employees, Los Angeles; Mrs. Juanita McDougle, Culinary Alliance, Long Beach; Mary Pilgram, Waitress and Cafeteria Workers, Los Angeles; Mrs. Jackie Walsh, Waitresses, San Francisco; and Al Whorley, Culinary Alliance and Bartenders, Santa Barbara. *Alternates* — William Healy, Bay District Council of Building Service Unions, San Francisco; Bertha Metro, Hotel, Motel and Club Service Workers, San Francisco; and Jack White, Hotel and Restaurant Employees, Bakersfield.

Laundry, Linen Supply, Dry Cleaning and Dyeing Industry — Floyd M. Buckalew, Laundry and Dry Cleaning Workers, Los Angeles; Joe Caramagno, Laundry, Linen Supply & Dry Cleaner Drivers; and Henry Romiguere, AFL-CIO Cleaners and Dyers, San Francisco. *Alternates* — Robert Luster, AFL-CIO

Laundry and Dry Cleaning Union, Oakland; and Isadore Weisgal, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Los Angeles.

Mercantile Industry — James F. Alexander, Retail Clerks, Sacramento; Leona Graves, Department Store Employees, San Francisco; Stanley Lathen, Retail Store Employees, Vallejo; Leslie J. O'Neal, Department and Variety Store Clerks, Fresno; Russel L. Mathiesen, Department and Specialty Store Employees, Oakland; and Arthur Meyer, Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, San Diego. *Alternates* — Carl E. Cohe-nour, Retail Clerks, San Mateo; and Phil J. Scott, Retail Clerks, San Diego.

Transportation Industry — Mrs. Dorothea C. Foster, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Los Angeles; Merlin Gerkin, Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees, San Diego; and Miss Barbara Roads, Airline Stewards and Stewardesses Association, Redondo Beach. *Alternate* — Miss Donna J. Carmail, Transport Workers, San Francisco.

Amusement and Recreation Industry — Harry Finks, Central Labor Council, Sacramento; and John Sullivan, Service and Maintenance Employees, Los Angeles. *Alternate* — Thomas McCarthy, Building Service Employees, San Francisco.

Broadcasting Industry — Michael H. Franklin, Writers Guild of America, Los Angeles; Charles Kennedy, Musicians, San Francisco; and Claude L. McCue, Television and Radio Artists, Hollywood. *Alternate* — N. J. Green, Broadcast Employees and Technicians, San Francisco.

Motion Picture Industry — Elmer Ellsworth, Motion Picture Costumers, Hollywood; Donald P. Haggerty, Film Technicians, Hollywood; Max Krug, Office Employees, Hollywood; and H. O'Neil Shanks, Screen Extras Guild, Hollywood. *Alternate* — Larry Kilty, Motion Picture Screen Cartoonists, Hollywood.

At last Friday's meeting, the Industrial Welfare Commission also named alternates for the five boards that were previously appointed. (They are listed here since the January 19 issue of News Letter only carried names of persons appointed as board members.)

Manufacturing Industry — *Alternates* — Charles E. Barnes, Production Machine Operators, San Francisco; Miss Penny Cabello, Brick and Clay Workers, Glendale; and Ruth Miller, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Los Angeles.

Personal Service Industry — *Alternate* — Dean B. Hillam, Barbers and Beauticians, San Francisco.

Canning, Freezing and Preserving Industry — *Alternates* — Richard Lautermilch, Butchers, Stockton; and Richard D. Valerga, Food Packers, Santa Maria.

Professional, Technical, Clerical and Similar Occupations — *Alternates* — Miss Geraldyn Sullivan, Oakland; Miss Harriet E. Redner, Newspaper Guild, San Francisco; and William R. Martin,

Federation Urges Wage-Loss Compensation for Jury Duty

Favorable action on state legislation to provide full wage-loss compensation for jury duty was urged last week by the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO at hearings held in Sacramento by the Assembly Interim Committee on Judiciary.

Focus of the hearings was on *AB 493 (O'Connell), providing for employee time off for jury service without loss of pay, while allowing employer to deduct fees received by the employee from jury service. The measure was sponsored by the state AFL-CIO at the 1961 session of the legislature, but was referred to interim committee for further study.

In a prepared statement, the Federation declared that the bill "goes to the very heart of implementing democratic practices as well as the fair and impartial administration of justice."

In California, it was noted, the normal jury duty fee is set by law at \$6.00 per day. This rate of compensation, the statement pointed out, penalizes the average California manufacturing worker by more than \$16.00 in lost wages alone for every day spent in jury service where labor has not been able to negotiate an agreement for the employer to pay the difference in lost wages.

As a consequence, the statement added, many "people in average or low income circumstances deliberately abstain from registering as voters because they cannot afford to undertake the financial sacrifice involved in jury pay. . . . The practical effect is to compromise the democratic process by diluting representative government."

The Federation statement noted that
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Communications Workers, San Francisco.

Industries Handling Products After Harvest — *Alternates* — Luis Barraza, Community Service Organization, Bakersfield; Gilbert Padilla, Community Service Organization, Stockton; and Don Finnie, Butchers, Oakland.

The wage boards are expected to meet in the spring. Their function will be to review existing I.W.C. orders in the respective industrial and occupational grouping, and recommend revisions to the Industrial Welfare Commission, which alone has the authority to change the minimum wage and working conditions.

As a guide, when the boards meet, they will have before them the official "Minnie" budget developed by the Commission to measure the cost of a minimum adequate standard of living for a single working woman. As up-dated and revised several months ago, the "Minnie" budget justifies a minimum wage approaching at least \$1.40 an hour.

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Senate Reapportionment Put on Special Session Call

A proposal for reapportionment of the State Senate to give Los Angeles County three additional senators will be placed before the legislature next month when it reconvenes from its current budget session recess.

Governor Edmund G. Brown announced last week that he will include the Senate reapportionment proposal in his call for a special session to run concurrently with the budget session. (Other items to be on the Governor's call have not yet been disclosed.)

The reapportionment proposal comes as a recommendation from the Governor's "Blue Ribbon" study commission which was created by the legislature last year, as promised in the 1958 campaign, when a Los Angeles-initiated reapportionment proposal was defeated by the voters.

The immediate effect of the "Blue Ribbon" commission's reapportionment proposal would be to give Los Angeles four senators, an increase of three. The county, like all other senatorial districts, now has one senator in the forty-member Senate. The proposed change would make it a 43-member body.

If authorized by the legislature, the amendment to the state constitution would be placed on the November election ballot for a vote of the people.

The "Blue Ribbon" commission's specific recommendations embraced in the proposal that goes before the legislature are as follows:

1. When a county exceeds 1.5 million population, it shall receive one additional senator for each additional increment of 1.5 million people or any part thereof, except that —

2. No county may have a total number of senators which exceeds ten percent of the entire membership of the Senate.

3. Addition of new senators and apportionment of them to the counties which qualify shall take place in the first general session of the legislature after each federal census.

4. Counties with two or more senators shall be divided into districts equal in number to the number of that county's senators, and such districts shall be as nearly equal in population as may be.

5. For counties with two or more senators the terms of office shall be staggered.

While Los Angeles is the only county

now able to qualify for an increase in senators under the proposal, population projections in the "Blue Ribbon" commission's report shows that by 1980 Alameda County and San Diego County might each qualify for an additional member.

The population projection for Alameda county in 1980 is listed as 2 million and that of San Diego county 2.1 million. Los Angeles county by 1980 is expected to have 11.3 million, but would not get any more senators because of the proposed provision that no district could have a total of senators which exceeds ten percent of the Senate membership.

Charles A. Wellman, commission chairman, said that if a constitutional amendment is approved by the people at the November election, the 1963 legislature could set up new districts, and the additional senators could be elected in November 1963 and take their seats in the 1964 legislature.

Wellman predicted that the special session of the legislature next month would approve the proposal.

Back Housing and Urban Affairs Dept.

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state AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Thos. L. Pitts has sent the following wire to all 30 members of the California delegation:

"Urge full and active support of President's Reorganization Plan No. 1 to create cabinet level Department of Housing and Urban Affairs. California's problems on urban blight, suburban sprawl, mass transit, air and water pollution, together with inadequate public facilities and housing for low and middle income groups, are mushrooming daily. Their solution is frustrated by rising service costs and limited tax revenue.

"This gives great urgency to the need for coordination of federal programs as visualized under the reorganization plan. With California's population predominantly urban, there can be no justification for any delay in providing adequate

Federation Urges Wage-Loss Compensation for Jury Duty

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"this reduction in the potential pool of jurors is in addition to the thousands of low and middle income housewives who exclude themselves through non-registration because normal remuneration for this duty is inadequate to defray expenses incurred for transportation, meals away from home, and baby sitter costs."

"The impact of such factors is to largely exclude working people from participating in jury duty, thereby contributing to potential bias in our judicial procedures."

The Federation's statement pointed out that the precedent for employers defraying the actual amount of lost wages has been well established through collective bargaining. In September 1960, the Division of Labor Statistics and Research reported that 30 percent of the workers covered by collective bargaining agreements in California were covered by some type of jury pay provision. In manufacturing industries, 50 percent of all agreements provided for compensation by the employer.

For the western portion of the nation, a U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics study found that less than 1/20 of one percent of all hours paid for in manufacturing was accounted for by the combined total of paid leave for jury, military, witness, voting and personal leave in 1958.

In urging legislation similar to *AB 493, the Federation's statement concluded:

"In view of the implications of this issue for the implementation of democracy and the fair administration of justice, along with the fact that this minor cost item is already widely assumed by employers, we feel that affirmative action by the legislature is badly needed."

voice in our government's highest councils in order to deal more effectively with the complex problems of urban inhabitants."

Local labor groups are urged to contact their Congressmen immediately, urging support of the Kennedy plan.