

Proposition 14 - Farm Worker Initiative

WHY IS IT NECESSARY?

LOS ANGELES TIMES • 5/27/76

Senate Passes Farm Labor Bill

Measure Sent to Assembly; OK Seen This Week

BY JERRY GILLAM
Times Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO—The Senate Monday approved Gov. Brown's compromise farm labor bill calling for secret ballot union elections to end years of strife in California agriculture.

A 31-7 vote sent the historic legislation, authored by Sen. John F. Dunlap (D-Napa), to the Assembly, where backers predicted it would be approved by the end of the week.

Applause and cheers erupted in the crowded upper-house chamber when the winner's vote was announced.

Twenty-four Democrats and seven Republicans voted for the Administration measure. All seven nay votes were cast by GOP members.

The compromise was reached in negotiations between Brown Administration representatives, growers groups, the Teamsters Union, the United Farm Workers of America and the AFL-CIO Labor Federation.

In his opening remarks on the Senate floor, Dunlap said, "I know that bill doesn't satisfy everyone. It is not a UPW bill. It is not a Teamsters bill and it is not a growers bill."

"I know farm workers had a real fight with all concerned but it is not a special interest bill. It is a bill in the public interest."

The Administration hopes the legislation will become a model for other states to use in coping with agricultural labor problems.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
6/6/75

Brown Signs Farm Labor Compromise

Governor Calls Law Start Toward Ending Violence in the Fields

BY JERRY GILLAM
Times Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO—Gov. Brown Thursday signed into law a landmark bill guaranteeing secret-ballot union elections for California farm workers calling it a "beginning" toward ending 10 years of turmoil in the fields.

Brown signed the historic measure in a crowded Capitol ceremony flanked by key Democratic lawmakers who helped push it through the Senate and Assembly in only 10 days. Brown had negotiated the compromise among growers, the Teamsters Union, Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers of America and the AFL-CIO Labor Federation, which have been at odds over farm worker representation for a decade.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
2/7/76

Farm Labor Board Closes Up Shop as Legislative Stalemate Blocks Funding

LOS ANGELES TIMES
4/17/76

General Counsel of State Farm Labor Board Quits

Claims Law Has Become a 'Treaty of Justice, Supports Ballot Initiative Backed by Chavez Union

BY HARVEY BERENSON
Times Labor Writer

The beleaguered Agricultural Labor Relations Board closed up shop Friday and ended its historic secret ballot union elections designed to bring labor peace to California fields.

Calling it a "day of infamy for farm workers," Cesar Chavez declared, "Our only recourse is to take our cause to the people of California and return to strikes and boycotts."

As the five-month-old board conducted its last two elections in El Centro and laid off all but a skeleton staff, Gov. Brown held an unsanctioned, last-minute meeting with legislators and leaders of major farm organizations, including the Western Growers Assn. and the California Farm Bureau Federation.

The governor earlier publicly chided growers for trying "at this 11th hour to use the device of the lack of money to force through amendments" in the landmark farm labor law enacted last summer.

The ALRB officials would have remained with the agency if the law itself had not become a treaty of justice at this point.

"Politically and professionally, I could not tolerate doing around my finger while the Legislature decided all over again whether or not it would a farm labor law.

"From secret ballot elections approved to John Berg going in the field and perhaps my resignation might help bring the debate to a conclusion."

The state would not have been able to do this if the state would not have passed the law.

PRODUCE NEWS 1/3/76

Calif. Agriculture Unites to Amend ALRB Law

THE PACKER 1/3/76

Amendments Proposed To Farm Labor Act

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIF.

California agriculture will unite behind a series of corrective amendments to the new state farm labor act during the forthcoming session of the Legislature.

Opponents during the four months the law has been in force demonstrate the need for the changes, according to Daryl Arnold, executive vice president of Western Growers Assn. (WGA), one of the farm groups involved in the program.

The 4½-month-old board is faced with going out of business Feb. 1 for lack of money while mostly Republican rural legislators threaten to block the emergency appropriation unless substantial changes are made in operation of the board.

They indicated if the proposal was voted upon now by the full Assembly, it likely would not achieve the

Bill to Bail Out Farm Labor Board Hits Assembly Snag

SACRAMENTO (UPI)—Gov. Brown's \$32 million bill to bail out the financially troubled Farm Labor Board was struck from the Assembly agenda Thursday as demands mounted for overhaul of the fledgling agency.

The 4½-month-old board is faced with going out of business Feb. 1 for lack of money while mostly Republican rural legislators threaten to block the emergency appropriation unless substantial changes are made in operation of the board.

They indicated if the proposal was voted upon now by the full Assembly, it likely would not achieve the

necessary two-thirds margin for approval and would be defeated. Meanwhile, Sen. Clare Berryhill (R-Shingee Springs), a grape farmer and leader of the opposition to the appropriation, declared he had rounded up the votes needed to deny the proposal a two-thirds majority in the Senate.

"I can tell you flat out I've got enough votes to stop that appropriation unless there are some changes," he told reporters.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
1/16/76

Los Angeles Times

HARRISON GRAY OTIS 1962-1977
HARRY CHANDLER 1917-1964
NORMAN CHANDLER 1944-1968



OTIS CHANDLER, Publisher

ROBERT M. NELSON, Executive Vice President and General Manager

WILLIAM F. THOMAS, Executive Vice President and Editor

CHARLES C. CHASE, Vice President—Production
ROBERT L. PLANNING, Vice President and Assistant to the Publisher
ROBERT C. LOBBELL, Vice President and General Counsel
YANCEY L. STICKELL, Vice President—Sales

JAMES BARRETT, Associate Editor

ANTHONY DAY, Editor of the Editorial Pages

JOHN J. DONOVAN, Associate Editor

FRANK P. HEAVEN, Managing Editor

JOHN SHARLEY TAYLOR, Associate Editor

3-PART IV SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 19, 1976

Strangling the Farm Board

The board that administers California's new Agricultural Labor Relations Act has run out of money and will have to cease operations Feb. 1 unless the Legislature approves Gov. Brown's recommendation for a \$32 million supplemental appropriation. The board must not go out of existence, despite amid ten-lagard and contentious performance over its first 5½ months.

No one has been entirely satisfied with the law or the board's enforcement of it, but they still remain the state's best hope of ending years of violence and turmoil in the fields and of assuring farm workers a more secure life.

But a coalition of rural legislators, led by Sen. Clare Berryhill, a Republican grape grower from Shingee Springs, is determined to secure debilitating amendments to the law in exchange for support of the emergency appropriation. And as of now, they seem to have the votes to deny it the necessary two-thirds majority.

The changes they want are many and major, and would work most directly against the organizing efforts of Cesar Chavez and his United Farm Workers of America.

One amendment would deny union organizers access to farm property even during nonworking hours—a right that was given them by the board in one of its most controversial rulings. Another could move the time for an election from a week after workers petition for it until three weeks later.

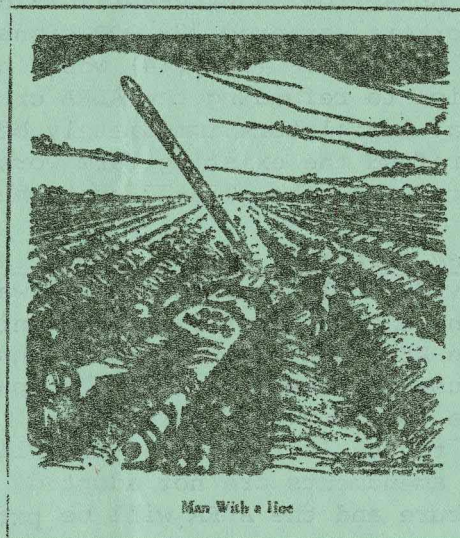
by which time the harvest might be over and the petitioners working on another farm. Still another would define farm labor contractors as employers, creating an entirely new element of confusion.

There can be no doubt that the intent of the amendments is to weaken the rights of workers and strengthen those of growers, while retaining the pretense of fair collective bargaining.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
1/29/76

THE STATE

The Agricultural Labor Relations Board should be allowed to die unless it changes its laws and board policies, said Allen Mills, executive vice president of the California Grape and Tree Fruit League. Mills, whose organization represents most of the table grape growers, told the board has heavily favored farm labor and while not considering positions suggested by growers. The board is scheduled to go out of business Feb. 1 unless the Legislature approves a \$30 million bill now before the Senate.



Man With a Hoe

Holding the Budget Hostage

California's \$12.8 billion budget for 1976-77 has been denied the two-thirds vote necessary for passage in the Assembly, primarily because it contains a \$6.5 million appropriation to revive the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, which has been unable to conduct collective-bargaining elections among farm workers since it ran out of money last February.

The board's opponents are playing a dangerous game. The Legislature already is nine days past its constitutional deadline for submitting the budget to Gov. Brown. If it does not reach the desk in time for him to sign it into law by midnight next Wednesday—and he still has much work of his own to do on 10-state operations would come to a halt, and local governments would be denied the subsidies on which many of their services depend.

The obstructionist tactics of a minority in Sacramento also threaten a return to the disruption and violence that were common in California's fields and groves before enactment of the law last statute a year ago.

It is also apparent that the dissidents no longer speak for large elements of California agriculture, who believe that a functioning board is the best hope of defeating the initiative that Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers union has qualified for the November ballot. The growers would be worse off under the initiative than they are under the present law. In fact, it is difficult to understand what the minority hopes to achieve by its continued resistance to funding the ALRB. Its demands for maps and debilitating amendments to the law are unacceptable to majorities in both the Assembly and the Senate, and to the governor.

Los Angeles Times
Thurs., April 8, 1976—P. 9

LOS ANGELES TIMES
5/17/76

ALRB Reluctant to Revive Farm Board

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.—The California legislature will probably let Administration Luis Rosendo's Bill with the vote to lack of votes. The bill has been hung up in the Senate for months and a half while bill supporters Secretary David Rosendo, Los Angeles, has tried to find the needed votes to pass the emergency relief to the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB).

Originally called for an oversight committee to report back to the legislature with recommendations concerning the funding. This week it was reported that the oversight committee will not report anything to the legislature.

According to Mike Vajce, Senator George Zenerich's assistant, the legislature are not even going to call for a vote on the bill. He said he has not been a topic of conversation for the last week and Sen. Robert Hertz is not going to bring the bill up for a vote. "In my opinion the bill is dead."

Several members of a meeting with the bill as the committee held those in attendance that "we have not completed our mission. One of getting a fair and honest Farm Labor Board. We can figure on the initiative coming in the November ballot, and it will pass if the ALRB is not voting."

But most of the dispute was over the \$6.5 million included in the budget for the embattled farm labor board, which has been dormant since it ran out of money in March.

Democratic leaders thought two factors might elude opposition to the funding.

The threat of passage of a farm labor initiative that was qualified for the November ballot by Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers of America.

Three new Brown appointments to the board and a new general contract to reject former members who had drawn money out of the board's coffers for an alleged bias toward Chavez union.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 23, 1976

Farm Board Issue Blocks State Budget

Passage Thwarted by Assembly Republicans, Handful of Democrats

BY WILLIAM ENDICOTT

SACRAMENTO—Republicans and a handful of Democrats blocked passage Tuesday night of a \$12.8 billion state budget for 1976-77, primarily because of disagreement over funding for the controversial Agricultural Labor Relations Board.

The Assembly vote was 48 to 28 but 34 votes, a two-thirds majority of the 80-member house, were needed for passage.

But most of the dispute was over the \$6.5 million included in the budget for the embattled farm labor board, which has been dormant since it ran out of money in March.

Democratic leaders thought two factors might elude opposition to the funding.

The threat of passage of a farm labor initiative that was qualified for the November ballot by Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers of America.

Three new Brown appointments to the board and a new general contract to reject former members who had drawn money out of the board's coffers for an alleged bias toward Chavez union.

(over)

W H Y I S I T N E C E S S A R Y ?

What will Proposition 14 do? The summary on the November ballot reads as follows: "Agricultural Labor Relations. Initiative Statute. Repeals Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975; reenacts as Agricultural Relations Act of 1976. Makes technical amendments to maintain status quo under 1975 Act, except requires new appointments to Agricultural Labor Relations Board. Additional amendments require: access for union organizers to property of employers for certain periods; minimum of 50% of employees to petition for decertification of union; Legislature to provide appropriations necessary to carry out the Act; Board to provide employer-supplied lists of agricultural employees to persons involved in elections. Permits Board to award treble damages for unfair labor practices. Financial impact: Proposition 14 would result in minor, if any increased costs to state."

Why is Proposition 14 necessary? Prop.14 became necessary when a minority of grower-supported legislators successfully blocked refunding of the ALRA and brought elections to a halt on February 6, 1976. If Prop.14 passes, there will be a stable farm worker election law in California which will finally resolve the eleven (11) year battle over union recognition in the fields. If Prop.14 passes, farm workers will be assured of voting in secret ballot elections for the union of their choice or for "no union".

But haven't funds already been provided? Farm workers and their supporters worked for refunding of the ALRA from January-April 1976. They were not successful. In April of 1976 farm workers gathered 728,000 signatures of registered voters ensuring that the Farm Worker Initiative (Prop.14) would be on the November ballot. Agribusiness' united opposition to refunding the ALRA crumbled with the advent of Prop.14. Some growers and rural legislators immediately began arguing that the only way to defeat Prop.14 was to refund the existing farm worker election law. On July 1, funds for the ALRA were voted into the 1976-77 state budget.

If the funds have been provided, why is Prop.14 necessary? Funds for the current fiscal year were provided only because Prop.14 was hanging over the heads of agribusiness. Without the existence of Prop.14 a united agriculture may well have succeeded in keeping the ALRA out of the 1976-77 budget. They succeeded for six months (Jan.-June '76) because it takes a 2/3 vote to pass an emergency appropriation. It also takes a 2/3 vote to adopt the state budget. If Prop.14 fails, growers will seek weakening amendments to the law next year and will try to kill ALRA funding in the state budget if such amendments are not adopted. If Prop.14 passes, farm worker elections will be secure and the ALRA will be protected from future legislatures and future governors who may be openly unfriendly to the rights of workers.

___ Enclosed is my contribution for the "YES ON 14" campaign.

___ I would like to help with the YES ON 14 Campaign.

___ Our group would like to have a speaker on Proposition 14.

___ Please send more information on Proposition 14.

InterFaith Committee
to Aid Farm Workers
1430 W. Olympic Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 386-8130

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: () _____ Assembly District _____