

California Labor Fears Increase of Racism if Proposition 14 Approved

SAN FRANCISCO—With California polls showing the Johnson-Sproul ticket gaining better odds, 2 to 1 over the Goldwater-Nixon combination, labor here is facing the other most significant political challenge — primarily the fear that the “bigotry amendment” — Proposition 14 — might

be passed. A recent study by the Hal Dunleavy Poll in The San Francisco Chronicle, found a slim margin favoring Proposition 14 — which the unions and all of organized labor regard as terms reactionary, anti-labor, racist, and undemocratic.

The Dunleavy Poll in California found that 48.1 percent of voters favor passage of Proposition 14, while 42.2 percent oppose it, and 9.7 percent are undecided.

The undecided group thus holds the balance in its hands!

It might be expected, particularly in view of the range of Goldwater-Nixon in the June primary, more Democrats than Republicans oppose Proposition 14. More people in Northern California than in Northern California favor Proposition 14. The poll fairly closely follows the vote

for Goldwater and against Rockefeller in the June primary.

PTA OPPOSED

However, on Sept. 16 — after the Dunleavy Poll — the California Congress of Parents and Teachers came out in flat opposition to Proposition 14. The PTA has nearly 2 million members in the state.

Labor is not only deeply concerned with Proposition 14 — as are almost all religious groups, and those who fight against slums, discrimination, unemployment, segregation — but unions are also concerned with an attempt to put over Proposition 17 in California, so-called “featherbedding” — which would wipe out public safety laws covering the composition of train crews. In effect,

it would undercut California's minimum standards for safety, and throw large numbers of railroad workers into unemployment.

In a recent letter to all northern California ILWU locals, Michael Johnson, secretary of the ILWU Northern California District Council, pointed out that “The ultra-right wing supporters of Goldwater and extremism will concentrate in California . . . to push bigotry and anti-labor legislation over the top, opposing the community welfare, including the well-being of our kids.”

In his letter to the members, Johnson noted that the California Republican Assembly Convention, an ultra-right wing group that put

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Who Said It?

With the take-over by the Know-Nothings, the proposed Republican foreign policy is a nightmarish parody based on ignorance, emotion and unrestrained arrogance. Almost every foreign policy plank in it constitutes a rejection of fact and reality or a violation of the most elementary principles of international politics, and many manage to do both at the same time. It is an incredible and dangerous document, and, when seen in the context of foreign policy utterances of the party's new standard-bearer, it is even more dangerous.

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