

State Teachers' Group Keeps Lid on Strikes

By EDWIN S. CAPPS
Capitol News Service
SACRAMENTO—The often maligned, sometimes praised, California Teachers Association, with its 160,000 members, may be the principal force which prevents strikes of teachers in California.

While schools in New York, Detroit, and other cities have been plagued this year with strikes of teachers — illegal at that — California had only one five-day episode last year, and it was not effective. That was in Richmond, where members of the American Federation of Teachers walked off the job in sympathy to a

strike of classified employees — mainly custodial personnel. Otherwise, the scene in California has been a smooth one. The biggest reason, of course, is the 1965 law which sets up procedures for negotiations between school district boards and the teachers. This plan was approved with the hearty approval of the CTA and the vigorous objection of the AFT.

THE HEART of the battle, perhaps, was a jurisdictional one and was won by the CTA with adoption of the 1965 law which prohibits jurisdictional differences between competing teacher organizations. This law provides for setting up negotiating councils of teachers to meet with the school boards in districts where teachers are represented by more than one group.

In most, if not all, the cases, this is the CTA and the AFT. In such districts, a council which represents the teachers in negotiation with the school board is made up on a representative basis. If a teachers' organization has from 11 to 20 per cent of the teachers in a district, it qualifies for one seat on a five-member council. A membership of 21-40 per cent of the teachers rates two seats.

The CTA has 160,000 members among the state's teachers. The AFT membership, while not public, is estimated

Math Team Is Second In Contest

Mathematics students from South High School won second place last week in competition with students from 11 high schools in the Torrance-South Bay area.

Members of the South High team were Bruce Phinney, Bob Parker, Marcia Kirk, Jim Antal, Neal Harvey, Stan Schiff, James Mossberg, Brian Forrest, Jean Davies, and Jim Satt.

John Conway is the faculty advisor for the team.

to be under 20,000. There are 800 CTA-affiliated district associations and 73 AFT locals. The AFT is represented on 11 negotiating councils.

THE 1965 law merely requires that school boards "meet and confer" with teacher groups and sets up the mechanics for appointment of the negotiating councils if more than one teacher group is represented in a district.

It does not require that the school boards go along with the teachers' requests. And it does not authorize any action by the teachers if their requests are not granted.

Nevertheless, California's law seems to have satisfied most of the teachers. The negotiations between a teachers' group representative or a negotiating council and the board can cover about everything which is involved in education.

This generally centers around teacher salaries but can take in such areas as working hours, class size, curriculum, and even attendance areas as they affect de facto segregation.

THE CTA has cited a number of examples where negotiating councils or its representatives have worked out comprehensive programs with school boards. Under the processes set up in CTA, any attempt to change the association's legislative policy on strikes or negotiations would take a much stronger following than now appears to be present in the organization.

At a recent assembly education committee meeting in San Diego, the AFT urged repeal of the 1965 law. Failing that, the AFT urged that elections be held to select the teachers' representatives. Neither proposal appears to have much chance of success.

"The strike, an economic weapon in private employment, relies solely on disruption of the educational program for its effectiveness in the schools," said Richard A. Hoffman, president of the CTA.

Law in Action

When a person is arrested he needs a lawyer at once. California laws gives him the right to complete one phone call as soon as he is booked. An officer who refuses to allow a lawyer to see the accused who calls him commits a misdemeanor.

UNDER DUE process, the U.S. Supreme Court says, a person must have proper legal representation if he wants it. Failure to provide it in any case violates the Constitution, especially when it results in an unfair trial.

California gives aid to those accused of a crime who cannot afford a lawyer. Most large counties have a public defender, and the courts in smaller counties name lawyers for the accused where he is too poor to pay.

One's right to counsel applies when arrested and questioned by the police or when arraigned before a judge, often weeks before trial. It is well to get a lawyer early so that he can prepare an adequate defense.

THE ACCUSED has the right to counsel in misdemeanor cases in a municipal or justice court "at each and every stage of the proceedings" until it dismisses or sentences him. In many such cases the accused who does not ask for a lawyer is said to have waived his right to one.

When a case is appealed, the accused can often get legal counsel even if he cannot afford it. The court may name a lawyer to prepare and complete his appeal. The convicted person may have a free copy of the trial transcript and of papers necessary to appeal to the higher court.

IN THE larger counties, the public defender's office hires investigators to help its lawyers prepare a case. Afterwards, the public defender may decide to ask that the charge be dismissed or he may decide to try the case or recommend to the accused that he plead guilty and ask for probation.

Dorothy Digs

If you have given your roses proper care they should now be moving into their big fall display of color. It is important to see that the flower buds which are forming at this time will develop into beautiful flowers.

This can be accomplished by spraying the shrubs with a systematic rose spray containing insecticide and fungicide. This product acts as a shield for your roses. Absorbed by the plants this systematic spray will give your roses the ability to repel insects and resist mildew over a long period, cutting down the necessity of frequent spraying.

The bare root planting of roses will begin in just about three months and if you want to have good results, condition the soil thoroughly, using lots of organic matter. It should be remembered that manures or fertilizers of any kind should never be used around the roots of bare roses at time of planting.

We can expect to have some rain now and this means that snails and slugs will again be active. Scatter a few slugs and snail pellets around your garden, especially around perennials.



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