

## SOUTHWEST LABOR STUDIES CONFERENCE.

The second annual Southwest Labor Studies Conference was held April 29-May 1, 1976, at El Camino College in Torrance, California. The conference, coordinated by Professor Will Scoggins of El Camino, featured panels, papers, banquets, films, and other entertainment. Among the speakers were labor journalists, union organizers and officers, and academics. A special aspect of the conference involved presentations by labor activists of a generation or two ago, including Nicholas Steelnik of the I.W.W., Sarah Rosner of the A.C.W., both active in the era of World War One, and H.L. Mitchell, co-founder of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in the 1930s. The conference, built on the groundwork of the 1975 meeting, again offered a mix of labor people and academics commenting on each others' perspectives.

About 130 people attended the conference. At the Business Meeting it was agreed that a sustained interest clearly exists in labor studies in this region of the country. The Ad Hoc Organizing Committee for a Southwest Labor Studies Conference was instructed to prepare to organize a permanent group and to elect officers at the third annual conference. The next conference will be held March 4-5, 1977, at Arizona State University. The format of the conference will be the same, and sessions as usual will focus on American and international labor. Indicative of the growth of the conference, the Arizona State AFL-CIO will co-sponsor the meeting and assist with responsibilities, and the Governor of Arizona will speak at the banquet. Inquiries should be sent to Professor James C. Foster, Arizona State, History Department, Tempe. Requests for membership information and general inquiries and suggestions should be directed to Professor Sally M. Miller, University of the Pacific, History Department, Stockton, California 95211.

For the future, it should be noted that the Southern Labor Historians held their first meeting during this past year. That conference, supported by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation (which allowed for publishing the proceedings and videotaping the conference for instructional uses), met at Georgia State University where the Southern Labor Archives are located. The possibility has been raised of a joint meeting of the Southern and Southwest Labor groups at some future date. Should such a conference be held in the next several years, it could point the way to linking the various regional associations of labor studies into a national organization.

Sally M. Miller  
University of the Pacific

The following is a list of the presentations made at the 1976 conference.

Michael Steiner, "Literature and the Worker: *The Masses* Magazine and the American Labor Movement 1912-1917."

George Laine, "Labor and the Press."

Lawrence D. Weiss, "Navajo and Mexican: Industrial Reserve Armies of the Southwest."

Richard L. Carrico, "Native Americans as Laborers in American San Diego County, 1850-1880."

D.H. Dinwoodie, "The Immigration Service and the Chicano Labor Movement in the 1930s."

H.L. Mitchell, "Farm Workers and the NLRA."

Albert Blum, "The Role of Labor in the Arts."

David Goodman, "Nightriders in Grants: A New Mexico Mining Strike of the 1930s."

Miguel Casillas, "Agitation or Discrimination: A Reappraisal of the Clifton-Morensi Strike."

Richard Melzer, "Madrid: Life and Labor in a New Mexican Mining Camp during the Depression."

Raúl Teilhet, "The Rodda Act and Collective Bargaining for Teachers."

George Papyack, "Recent History of Organizing Professional Public Employees."

J.J. Cardoso, "The North American Aviation Strike of 1941."

Frank Arnold, "The Organizing of Cannery Workers in the Santa Clara Valley."

John Monfross, "The Formation of the Associated Farmers of California."

Sam Kushner, Jacques Levy, Ron Taylor, "California Agriculture Labor: A Historical Perspective."

Mario T. Garcia, "Obreras: The Mexican Female Workers of El Paso, 1890-1920."

Keith Collins, "Black Los Angeles: The Maturing of the Ghetto, 1940-1950."

R. Griswold del Castillo, "The Making of a Barrio: Los Angeles, 1850-1880."

Nicholaas Steelnik, "I.W.W. and Criminal Syndicalism, 1919."

Robert Wheeler, John Amsden, Bernard Moss, Beverly Springer (panel), "Communism and Labor in Southern Europe."

Gloria Lathrop, "Working Women and Entrepreneurs in the trans-Mississippi West, circa 1890."

Alice Clement, "Agnes Nestor, Mary Anderson and the Origins of Protective Legislation for Women."

Sarah Rosner, "A Working Woman in the Needle Trades, 1915."

## **THE CHICAGO WOMEN'S LABOR HISTORY PROJECT**

This project has been extending the audience for labor history in the city which New York journalist Hutchins Hapgood sought out in 1905 to capture "the spirit of labor." Last May Chicagoans watched their class-conscious past through the project's slide show at the Lakeview Jane Addams Center, the Uptown public library, and the offices of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees local 10006. "We Shall Fight Until We Win" draws upon archives, newspapers, oral histories, and monographs to narrate the Chicago working class's fight against capitalism. The script focuses on the garment and meat packing industries, those sectors of the economy which provided the most paid jobs for Chicago's female population well into the thirties when clerical and service employment statistically begin to prevail. However, the script recognizes that women work as unpaid laborers in the home, that the world of work affects the household. Pictures of coal gathering in 1902, breadlines in 1893 and 1910, garbage scavenging in 1932, rationing during World War II, and consumer boycotts in 1974 convey the connections between what we are told are separate spheres.

Slides present the ironies which result from mixing feminism with unionism. We see the 1910 uprising of forty-thousand sparked by women garment workers and then view anti-eviction demonstrations out of the Great Depression which, despite strong female leadership in Chicago,