

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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STATE AFL TAKES QUICK ACTION IN SEBASTOPOL APPLE PRODUCTS BOYCOTT

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Declaring that the California labor movement cannot stand idle in the face of a reversion to the methods of violence, C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, this week called for what amounted to a complete mobilization of all AFL unions and councils behind the Teamsters' consumer boycott of scab apple products from anti-labor canners in the Sebastopol area.

A special issue of the official state AFL "We Don't Patronize" list containing the brand names and the California distributors of the apple products canned by struck Sebastopol plants has been sent to more than 2600 unions and councils.

In a covering letter, Haggerty stated that the action was being taken under the mandate of the recent San Diego convention of the Federation, which adopted a strong resolution condemning the anti-labor activities of the canners and processors, struck some five weeks ago by Local 980 of the Teamsters for the fundamental right of union recognition.

Involved are the Sebastopol Cooperative Canners, the Sebastopol Apple Growers Union, O. A. Hallberg & Sons, and the Manzana Products Co.

These employers, Haggerty said, are represented by the notoriously anti-union California Association of Employers headed by W. M. Caldwell, and "have used every means at their command to thwart organization and prevent union recognition despite the fact that Local 980 represents the great majority of the employees in

the above canneries."

At present they are "attempting to operate their plants by importing strikebreakers, including Mexican nationals, and by using child labor in violation of the law."

Noting that a few weeks ago a peak in anti-labor activity was reached when a Teamster organizer was forced into an automobile by thugs, driven to an isolated area, tied to a telephone pole and chain-whipped across the back, the state AFL leader declared:

"The organized labor movement of California cannot stand still in the face of this reversion to the methods of violence that characterized the bitter organizational struggles of the 30's."

Every affiliate was urged immediately to get behind the boycott called by the Western Conference of Teamsters last week and fully supported by the State Federation of Labor.

The list of scab brands, Haggerty said, "should be brought to the attention of each and every AFL member and housewife by means advisable and sufficient to carry out an effective refusal-to-buy campaign."

To facilitate the task of AFL unions in making the unfair brands known, it was noted that additional copies of the boycott list could be obtained in quantity from Peter Andrade, director of the Western Cannery Council and leader of the Sebastopol strike, at 25 Taylor Street, San Francisco, California.

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FEDERATION URGES SUPPORT OF
AFL HOTEL WORKERS STRIKE IN MIAMI

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The campaign of the AFL Hotel Workers to cause a transfer of the American Legion convention from the Miami-Miami Beach area where a five-and-a-half months' hotel strike is in existence was given a boost this week by the California State Federation of Labor.

The action was taken as a follow-up of a resolution to this effect adopted by the 53d annual convention of the Federation, held

in San Diego, August 15-19, 1955.

A copy of the resolution, together with a covering letter over the signature of Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty, has been forwarded to all AFL affiliated bodies in the state, urging that each and every local union and council wire Seaborn P. Collins, national American Legion commander, requesting that the Legion's 1955 convention, scheduled for October 15, be moved to a city where the hotel owners and managers have a greater regard for the human welfare of their employees.

Some categories of workers in the struck hotels, according to the hotel workers' union, are receiving wages as low as 12½ cents per hour, while working a seven-day week of 10 to 12 hours per day.

The Miami-Miami Beach area is used by many national organizations for a convention city. The transfer of the gigantic American Legion convention, it is believed, would materially assist the hotel workers, who are striking against such intolerable working conditions in the swank hotels of the area.

By way of further action, all Federation affiliates have been called upon to stimulate every AFL member who is also a member of the American Legion to write a personal letter to Commander Collins requesting a change in the convention city.

In addition, central labor bodies specifically have been urged to raise the question with local American Legion posts, all of which have many AFL members.

Action along these lines has already been taken by the Federation itself in wiring the national commander and contacting the heads of the American Legion in California.

At the time of the adoption of the resolution by the Federation, every delegate to the San Diego convention wrote individual letters to the commander urging a change of the convention city.

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AFL HEALTH AND WELFARE
ADMINISTRATION PAMPHLET AVAILABLE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--A national AFL pamphlet entitled "Guides for Administration of Health and Welfare Funds" is presently available for distribution, it was recently announced by the AFL Department of Education.

The seven-page pamphlet, released by the Department of Social Insurance Activities, consists of the text of the program adopted unanimously by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, May 4, 1955, for the protection of union members' interests in health and welfare funds, following consideration of a subcommittee report prepared by Vice Presidents David Dubinsky, A. J. Hayes and M. A. Hutcheson.

A twelve-point program for action by national and international unions is included, together with recommendations for legislation on both the state and federal level.

Copies may be obtained free of charge by writing directly to John D. Connors, Director of Education, American Federation of Labor, 1625 Eye Street, N. W., Suite 914, Washington 6, D. C.

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TERRY FORD, LATHERS
INTERNATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY, DIES

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The American labor movement last week mourned the loss of Terence Edward Ford, long-time general secretary of the International Union of Wood, Wire & Metal Lathers, who died in Lakewood, Ohio, August 30, 1955. He was 76.

Ford had been active in the Lathers' Union for more than 58 years. A native of New York, he joined the Metal Lathers Local No. 46 of New York City in 1897 at the age of 18.

For the past 25 years he had been editor of the Lathers Monthly Journal, in addition to holding the high office of general secretary.

Ford is survived by his wife and three children.

Expression of the California labor movement's great loss and

the sympathy of the State Federation was wired to his bereaved family by President Thomas L. Pitts and Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty.

Funeral services were held Wednesday morning, September 3, in St. Luke's Church, Lakewood, Ohio.

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UNION SHOP IN TWO-THIRDS OF U.S. COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The great majority of labor-management contracts around the country provide for some form of union security, with nearly two-thirds setting up a union shop, according to a recently published survey by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Labor Department's BLS surveyed over 1,700 major agreements in effect in 1954 covering almost 7½ million workers. They found that about 80 percent of the agreements have some requirement for union membership.

The most common provision is for a union shop - all employees must be union members and all newly hired workers must join in a specified time, usually 30 days after hiring.

The percentage of AFL agreements calling for a union shop ran higher than the two-thirds figure, coming nearer to 77 percent.

About 14 percent of the agreements had maintenance of membership clauses requiring that workers who join the union must maintain their membership for the duration of the contract.

Of the 20 percent having no union security provisions, many are in "right-to-work" states, where union membership as a condition of employment is prohibited.

At present eighteen states have such compulsory open shop legislation.

In California, where all efforts to saddle labor with so-called "right-to-work" legislation have been defeated, the union shop is found in about 78 percent of all collective agreements, as compared with 65 percent for the nation as a whole.

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