

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

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POLITICAL PLATFORM ADOPTED, THIRD PARTY REJECTED, BY
FEDERATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN SANTA BARBARA MEETING

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A comprehensive platform and program establishing Labor's Educational and Political League of California was adopted by the Federation's Executive Council at its quarterly meeting, January 24-25, in Santa Barbara. At the same time, the Council expressed its unequivocal opposition to the Wallace Third Party as a movement being engineered and powered by the communists.

Other action taken by the Executive Council included:

The endorsement of a food caravan to demonstrate labor's solidarity with the valiant Di Giorgio strikers.

The joint sponsorship with the University of California Institute of Industrial Relations of a labor institute for one week at Asilomar.

The endorsement of the housing petition for a six hundred million dollar self-liquidating housing program.

Opposition was registered to selling and chartering 500 American ships to European nations.

The development of a program to combat racial intolerance and bigotry is being pushed.

At the meeting each vice-president reported on developments in his district in the campaign to reapportion the State Senate. It was evident from the reports that greater coordination and stimulation of the drive to mobilize the union membership behind it is necessary and will be pushed.

The meeting adjourned with silent tribute being paid to the memory of Brothers Fred West and Richard P. Minihan, labor officials who recently passed away and whose names will be perpetuated in the ranks

of labor for their service and unflagging devotion to the labor movement.

The Council's deliberations covered a wide field, practically two days being taken up in constant meeting. The minutes are now being prepared and will be mailed in the near future to the unions for their information.

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FOOD CARAVAN FOR STRIKING DI GIORGIO WORKERS
PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY 6

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Food, money and clothes from practically every Central Labor Council in California will move into the San Joaquin Valley on Friday, February 6, in a caravan of trucks, bringing relief to the 1100 Di Giorgio farm workers and their families.

One caravan from the south and one caravan from the north will rendezvous at 12 noon, on February 6, three miles south of Greenfield, on Highway 99.

In the evening, the members of the caravan will meet with the strikers.

The Federation has requested the various Councils in the state to get each member of the unions to give one can of food, or 25 cents, to help make successful this proposed dramatization of labor support of these valiant strikers.

H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, will arrive from Memphis, Tennessee, to greet the caravan and receive the donations on behalf of the Di Giorgio workers, who are members of the National Farm Labor Union.

California labor hopes to assist their striking fellow union members who have been fighting the combined anti-labor forces in the rich San Joaquin Valley for four months. The strikers have been evicted, arrested, villified, and threatened by the big farmers and their allies in the Valley.

On the strike front, officers of the National Farm Labor Union and Teamsters Local 87 alerted their membership to the possibilities

of well-placed spies and stooges on the picket lines around the Di Giorgio Ranch. Frame-ups of union leaders seemed imminent when it was learned from a reliable source that private detective agencies had been detailed to spy on anyone connected with the Di Giorgio strike.

The Retail Clerks of San Diego was the latest union to help the Di Giorgio workers, bringing 10 utility trailers of food and clothing to strike headquarters this week and visiting the picket line.

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BLS CITY WORKER'S FAMILY BUDGET

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--According to the BLS study, "City Worker's Family Budget," released in December 1947, a family of four had to spend annually from \$3458 in Washington, D. C., to \$3004 in New Orleans, at June 1947 prices, for necessary goods, services and taxes. No average for all the 34 cities covered was given. BLS prepared a standard budget, with appropriate local variations on clothing and fuel, and priced the items in the budget throughout the country. In San Francisco, the family budget amounted to \$3817, and in Los Angeles \$3251, at June 1947 prices.

The value of such a study depends entirely upon what is included in the standard budget and what level of living it attempts to measure. In releasing the report, Commissioner Ewan Clague described the budget as "not a subsistence budget, nor a luxury budget; it is an attempt to describe and measure a modest but adequate American standard of living." He pointed out that the food budget provides, among other things, for 6 loaves of bread a week, 12 quarts of milk, about 20 eggs and about a pound and a half of butter or margarine for the budget family of four. He stated that these quantities are below the average per capita consumption for the United States as a whole. The budget furthermore makes no provision for savings, although \$85 is allocated to insurance, including life insurance. BLS notes that most worker families manage some savings during the year, but it makes no provision for this item in the budget.

Despite the fact that the BLS budget measures such a "modest budget," most workers are not able to meet its standards. Average weekly earnings in manufacturing, when multiplied by 52 to obtain an annual figure, are below the budget estimates, as the following figures show:

	<u>BLS Budget 6/47</u>	<u>Average Weekly Earnings, Manufacturing, 6/47, times 52</u>
United States	\$3004--\$3458	\$2565
San Francisco	3317	2976
Los Angeles	3251	2888

Of course, not all workers are paid for 52 weeks' work; some are laid off and some receive no vacation pay.

Employers cannot honestly question the validity of the BLS budget, and many unions should be able to use it successfully in obtaining increases for their members.

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AFL ENDORSES CAMPAIGN OF AMERICAN OVERSEAS AID
FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Labor League for Human Rights, official relief arm of the American Federation of Labor, is a participating agency in the American Overseas Aid in its united nationwide appeal to the American public for the relief of suffering and destitute children and adults in war-devastated lands throughout the world. The League for Human Rights is one of 26 major private American foreign relief agencies participating in this important campaign conducted by the American Overseas Aid-United Nation's Appeal for Children.

The American Federation of Labor has reason to be proud of the outstanding record achieved in the National War Fund Campaigns, as well as of the results attained in sending relief to the needy trade unionists in Europe in 1947, and it is expected that it will make as equally a creditable showing in this latest campaign.

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NLRB GENERAL COUNSEL DEFENDS VIEW THAT STRIKING BY ITSELF
MAY BE ILLEGAL COERCION UNDER TAFT-HARTLEY ACT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board has filed a brief with the Board defending the view that striking by itself may be illegal coercion under what had been considered the "simplest clause" of the Taft-Hartley Act. This clause says that it is an unfair labor practice for a "union or its agents to restrain or coerce employees" in their right to join ... or not to join ... unions.

There have been three cases where unions have been accused of coercing employees, and in all of these cases the General Counsel's office of the NLRB has been unsuccessful in persuading a Trial Examiner of the Board that the facts show coercion.

The latest case involved the CIO Longshoremen and the Sunset Line & Twine Company at Petaluma, California. The coercion charge against the union was based on several incidents between pickets and non-strikers. A mob scene staged by the company was called "mass picketing" by the General Counsel.

The Trial Examiner held the company responsible for gathering the crowd because the Plant Manager, who was also Chief of Police, called out 30 cops to watch 16 or 17 pickets. Curious townspeople then gathered, and so forth. The General Counsel's argument holding the union responsible was rejected by the Trial Examiner. It was the Trial Examiner's contention that the General Counsel's theory that a strike coerced non-strikers would outlaw all strikes.

It is becoming evident that interpretation of the law by the General Counsel's office seeks to restrain more and more all union activity.

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DON'T SCAB ON YOUR FELLOW TRADE UNIONISTS!
REGISTER IMMEDIATELY!

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Every effort is being made to invigorate the campaign for the registration of all trade union members in all the communities throughout the state. Every Central Labor Council is strongly urged to develop this campaign to register the membership under its jurisdiction.

While a great amount of progress has been made in a number of localities, much is yet to be desired in other territories. The goal must be 100% registration of all members, and the effort should be continued until this goal is achieved.

The Executive Council of the Federation, meeting in Santa Barbara, went on record to call upon the membership to redouble its efforts in pushing this important campaign. Unless we are successful in registering our membership, our achievements in the general election will be extremely disappointing.

Become a registered voter at once, and see that the members of your family and friends do likewise.

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