

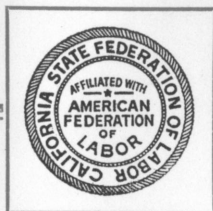
# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

February 11, 1948

### PUBLIC OPINION POLLS BIASED AGAINST UNIONS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--After a study of all the poll material dealing with labor in the published reports of the leading opinion polling agencies from 1940 to 1945, Arthur Kornhauser, a member of the Bureau of Applied Social Research, Columbia University, concluded that the Gallup, Fortune, Opinion Research Corporation and other polling agencies had shown a definite anti-labor bias in their polling. His conclusions appear in an article in the Winter, 1946-7 issue of the scholarly journal, "The Public Opinion Quarterly."

The clearest and most immediate source of bias is the selection of questions on what is wrong with labor unions and their activities. "By contrast," Dr. Kornhauser concludes, "the essential functions and positive accomplishments of unions in protecting and improving the lot of working people are only rarely mentioned. Of the 155 questions examined, only 8 deal with positive or favorable features of unionism; 66 are neutral or doubtful; and 81 are concerned with union faults, activities the public condemns, or proposed restrictions upon unions."

Strike two against the polls is in a biased wording of the questions which results in a more or less automatic anti-union answer. Many questions, for instance, offer a so-called choice between a recognized evil and a particular remedy, which is frequently the remedy opposed by labor. Naturally, the public votes for a remedy, no matter how poor it may be.

In other questions, a suggestive or slanted phraseology is used to obtain an anti-labor answer, and the whole issue may be oversimplified. A Psychological Corporation question in 1942 reads:

"Do you think it is fair to keep prices down without also keeping hourly wage rates down (to where they are now)?"

Obviously, the average person immediately wants to be "fair" to two factors posed as equals; in addition the question excludes all references to productivity, take-home pay, and profits.

"Of the entire 155 questions studied," Kr. Kornhauser finds, "only four appear to have a pro-labor bias; 80 to 90 are slanted in an anti-labor direction; the remaining 60 to 70 are fair and balance as far as the wording of the question is concerned."

Strike three against the polls is in their interpretation and release to the public. In 1942 a Gallup poll announced a two to one disapproval of the "government's policy with regard to labor union regulation." Yet the results were based on a specially selected group of people who had previously voted in favor of greater government regulation of unions. The sample here and in many other instances was unrepresentative, yet the reader was not warned.

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#### PICKETS ON DI GIORGIO RANCH ATTACKED BY STRIKEBREAKERS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Violence flared up on the strike-bound Di Giorgio Fruit Corporation farm in the San Joaquin Valley near Bakersfield, early Saturday morning, when a picket line of farm worker strikers was broken up by imported strikebreakers. Three members of the National Farm Labor Union, AFL, were taken to the Kern County General Hospital, one suffering a broken jaw, another severe cuts on the face, another a fractured skull and possible internal injuries. The men who were victims of the attack were Ray Copland, Lawrence Williams and George Oslin.

The attack on the picket line followed an attempt by officials of the Di Giorgio Corporation the day before to disrupt a police-escorted caravan of over 300 cars and trucks, manned by members of

AFL unions from all over California. The union-labor caravan was bearing gifts of food and clothing valued at \$20,000 to the 1100 Di Giorgio workers, who have been on strike since October 1. As the caravan approached the Di Giorgio Ranch, it was halted by an unscheduled parade of company trucks bearing Mexican "wetback" strikebreakers. Prompt action on the part of the State Highway Patrol and self-restraint on the part of the union members prevented violence from breaking out. The "wetback" strikebreakers, who had evidently been coached by Di Giorgio officials, hurled insults at the AFL members in broken English.

Hank Hasiwar, Western Representative of the Union, stated that "the incident on the picket line Saturday morning was a logical development of the corporation's attempts to create racial hatred and to provoke violence the day before." Hasiwar stated that eye witnesses to the attack on the picket line Saturday morning reported that it was started by Max Newman, General Manager of the Di Giorgio Ranch, Walt Palladino, in charge of farm equipment, and Robert Kelly, Personnel Director at the ranch.

Hasiwar's informant further reported that after cursing the pickets, Newman and Palladino were heard to say, "Let's get our mob." Forty or more strikers, led by Kelly, rushed out of the main gate armed with clubs. Copland and Williams and Oslin were beaten, knocked down, and kicked in the face.

Conspicuous by their absence were deputy sheriffs who had been on the scene at the beginning of the incident.

That the strike is making its effect felt is evidenced by a release issued by Mr. Di Giorgio, to the effect that it is communist-inspired. The California State Federation of Labor wishes to make it plain that if Mr. Di Giorgio paid closer attention to his ranch than to the race track, he would know that the strike is conducted by the AFL, and that not one single communist can be listed as holding any responsible position in the union or in its ranks.

"HOT CARGO" ACT IS BURIED DEEP

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Another fatal blow at the "Hot Cargo" Act was delivered by the Supreme Court of California in an opinion in the Weston and 6 other similar cases reaffirming the decision in the Blaney case, while contempt proceedings against a number of unions and union members issued within the last year or so by Superior Courts were dismissed.

In spite of misrepresentative newspaper reports, the Supreme Court of the State of California has reaffirmed the language of the Blaney case, by which all restrictive legislation which attempts to break down in broad and general terms the rights of labor to bring economic pressure for the protection of its wages and working conditions is repudiated.

On February 5, the Supreme Court decided two other companion cases which did not directly involve the "Hot Cargo" Act. These cases involved the Lumber and Sawmill Workers, who, by means of mass picketing, were accused of stopping a train on the main line of the Northwest Pacific Railroad because the train contained certain carloads of unfair lumber. This case did not involve the final decision of the Superior Court, but merely a temporary injunction which was based on the complaint and affidavits filed by the plaintiff railroad company.

In its opinion, the Supreme Court stated that since the affidavit set out that at one time as many as 90 pickets were congregated on the main line tracks, and since the affidavits charged that threats were made against the train crew, the Supreme Court was compelled to disapprove of picketing in that particular form, and to uphold the portions of the injunction which stated that the picketing was carried on in that way.

The Supreme Court did not rest its decision on the ground that picketing a common carrier is unlawful, but pointed out that in

certain instances, as, for instance, in a dispute involving the employees of the carrier, the same rules would apply as in any other case, that is, that picketing could be carried on in a lawful manner.

The Court struck out from the injunction a paragraph which would have prohibited the peaceful boycott of the railroad company because of its handling the unfair lumber, and expressly upheld such boycott when carried on in the same manner and under the same circumstances under which other picketing and boycott would be lawful.

Neither of these decisions, regarding the injunction nor the contempt cases against several of the pickets, is final for 30 days, and during that period a petition for a rehearing will be filed and urged upon the Supreme Court.

While the action of the Court, due to the particular circumstances of the case, does not in any way weaken the position of labor in carrying on primary and secondary boycotts and peaceful picketing, still the rehearing which is now being sought by the Federation, through its attorney, Clarence E. Todd, may tend to clarify the issues still further, and possibly to modify one or both of the decisions.

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C o r r e c t i o n      --      BLS City Worker's Family Budget.  
The total cost of the budget for San Francisco is \$3,317 at June 1948 prices, not \$3,817, as given on page 3 of the News Letter for January 28, 1948.

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REGISTER!   REGISTER!   REGISTER!

If you've moved, if you've never registered, or if you didn't vote in the last general election, be sure that you register. Be sure that your friends register, and that members of your family register.