

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING



151



SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

March 24, 1948

HAVE YOU READ THE "SENATOR" ?

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The first edition of THE SENATOR, issued in March, by the Citizens' Committee, is the opening gun in acquainting Californians with the need for Senate reapportionment. This number contains stories and pictures and sketches with the following information:

\*\*\* 6,000,000 Californians are represented by 5 (FIVE) State Senators ... 4,000,000 by 35 (THIRTY-FIVE) State Senators.

\*\*\* "Why should there not be patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world?" -- Abraham Lincoln, March 4, 1861.

\*\*\* 15 State Senators represent 135,000 farm personnel (U.S. Census, 1940), while 25 other State Senators represent 108,000. Which proves that even farm personnel -- owners and farm workers -- don't get equal representation.

\*\*\* In eight top counties of state -- each with a Senator -- there were 80,000 farm owners and workers in 1940; and in sixteen lowest Senatorial districts there were 47,000 farm owners and workers. Yet 47,000 farmers had twice the vote of 80,000 farmers.

\*\*\* Every state official is elected by an equal, or nearly equal population district -- except State Senators who are elected by "areas."

\*\*\* Some "areas" represent as many as 4,000,000 people, like Los Angeles County; while Mono-Inyo Counties Senatorial district represents 11,400 (1947 estimate). Each, however, has an "equal" vote in the State Senate.

\*\*\* Educators, clergy, attorneys, merchants, veterans form Citizens' Committee for Equal Representation in the California State Senate.

\*\*\* "Is it dangerous to let the People control the state?" asks Rev. Thomas H. Simpson, Pastor, Presbyterian Church, Willow Glenn, San Jose. "It is evident the opponents to Senate reapportionment are afraid of equal representation in government."

\*\*\* All California growing. But from January 1947 to July 1947 -- six months -- San Francisco grew by 35,000, while the Mono-Inyo Senatorial district grew by 870. There were nearly three times more people added to San Francisco's population in six months than the entire population of the Mono-Inyo Senatorial district, estimated at around 12,000. Yet San Francisco has one State Senator and Mono-Inyo has one State Senator.

\*\*\* "The law of the majority is the natural law of every society of men," -- Thomas Jefferson, 1790.

\*\*\* Los Angeles City would receive 5 State Senators, and other cities, suburban and rural areas, which represent the major "area" of the county and half the population of the county, would get 5 Senators under the proposed Senate reapportionment measure.

\*\*\* American Veterans Committee in their annual state convention unanimously adopted resolution endorsing Senate reapportionment ... Dr. Robert Seigler, American Legion Chaplain, declared present system "out-moded."

\*\*\* U. S. Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted national program for equal representation in branches of state legislatures in all states.

All locals have been requested by State Federation Secretary C. J. Haggerty to establish a permanent mailing list for this tabloid, and to make every effort to get this informative periodical in the hands of all members.

EMASCULATION OF LABOR DEPARTMENT THREATENED BY  
APPROPRIATION CUTS IN CONGRESS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Protesting vigorously against the House of Representatives' appropriations bill, which cut in half the appropriation requested for the Department of Labor, C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the Federation, has called upon Senator Knowland, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, to restore the requested sum.

The Department of Labor has experienced severe cuts in appropriations ever since Roosevelt's first term as President. The first step was to separate the Immigration Bureau from the Department. Next, the U.S. Employment Service was placed temporarily with the Social Security Board. Now, if the present appropriation stands and the Senate refuses to change it, the Bureau of Labor Statistics will have to lay off 400 employees. A corresponding reduction of force will also be necessary in the remainder of the Department, condemning it to become one of the smallest bureaus of the federal government.

Although some reductions have been made in the appropriations for the Commerce and other departments, these are not to be compared with what has taken place in regard to the Department of Labor.

Senator Knowland should be urged by the unions and their friends to have the Labor Department's appropriation increased by the Senate.

Labor is not the only group that uses the information compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; management likewise makes use of it to a great extent. At the present time no overall statistical information is obtainable on the average selling price of homes throughout the nation. The Bureau of Labor Statistics is compiling definite costs and selling prices of houses, which would be extremely valuable to all concerned. This will have to be abandoned if the cut is not restored.

Unless strong pressure is exerted, it is feared that the Department of Labor will be rendered ineffective.

##

U. S. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS CALIFORNIA INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT  
COMMISSION IN AWARDED DEATH BENEFITS IN FAVOR OF  
MINOR SON OF KILLED EMPLOYEE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The California Industrial Accident Commission has been upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court on an award of death benefits in favor of a minor son of an employee killed in an industrial injury, reports Paul Scharrenberg, State Director of Industrial Relations.

Robert W. Humphreys, who was killed when a tractor overturned, was survived by his wife, from whom he had been separated for several years, and a son aged 17. The Industrial Accident Commission issued an award based on Labor Code Section 3501(b), which provides that a child under the age of 18 is conclusively presumed to be wholly dependent upon a deceased parent, for whose maintenance the parent was legally liable at the time of injury.

The insurance carrier resisted the son's claim because he was working and supporting himself, and also was contributing some of his earnings to the support of his mother, with whom he lived. The carrier argued that to apply the conclusive presumption of dependency of the Labor Code in such a case amounted to a deprivation of property without due process of law, and therefore was unconstitutional.

The Pacific Employers Insurance Company, the carrier of the employer of the deceased worker, carried the case to the U. S. Supreme Court, which dismissed it for want of a substantial federal question, and approved the interpretation of the California law adopted by the Commission, the State District Court of Appeal and the State Supreme Court.

##

DI GIORGIO STRIKERS HEARTENED BY SECOND LABOR FOOD CARAVAN

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The second labor food caravan for the Di Giorgio strikers, numbering 300 cars and trucks from northern California, arrived on schedule on Saturday, March 20, and proceeded through Bakersfield and out to the 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-mile picket line.

"Today's caravan from Northern California has been a decided success, and tonight, plans were made to send another caravan to you from AFL unions in eleven western states," Jack Shelley, President of the California State Federation of Labor, told the Di Giorgio strikers and their families and friends assembled at the Bakersfield Hollywood Bowl, Saturday night. "This is one problem, one movement and one fight," he said further. "The American Federation of Labor will back you in the Di Giorgio fight until you win!"

Dan Flanagan, Western Director of the American Federation of Labor, presented relief gifts amounting to \$13,000, and 165 tons of food.

Hundreds of workers lined the roads in the little towns of Lamont, Weedpatch and Arvin to cheer the caravan. Many of the cars carried banners saying "We have just begun to fight!"

The caravan was under the protection of the State Highway Patrol and there was no violence.

A new development has occurred with reports from Washington stating that Representative Elliott of California has asked the House of Representatives to investigate picketing at the Di Giorgio farm. He has requested that the House Labor or Un-American Activities Committee conduct the investigation, showing obvious bias and confusion under the same smear campaign inspired by the Associated Farmers. The Congressman, whose interest has not warranted his personal investigation of conditions at Di Giorgio, is reported to have charged that Communist activities were connected with the picketing, in spite of the fact that the State Un-American Activities Committee, headed by State Senator Tenney, has absolved the union of the slightest taint of the red smear. Representative Elliott is seeking to accomplish what the local anti-labor elements have failed to do up to now.

The huge Kern County potato crop will be ready for harvest on March 29. With relief rolls mounting to alarming heights, there have been persistent rumors that illegal Mexican workers will be brought from the Di Giorgio property in the Borrego Valley, north of San Diego, to flood the area with surplus labor and depress wages in the potato field. This, in the face of the FRESNO BEE's report on Friday, March 19, that agricultural workers in Huron, Fresno County, were being fed by the Salvation Army. County relief projects have been set up where workers work for 50 cents an hour and are paid in groceries.

The National Farm Labor Union has alerted all AFL Central Labor Councils near the Mexican border and in the Imperial Valley against the attempt to import Mexican labor.

##

#### STATE COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS CONCLUDE SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The largest convention in the history of the California State Council of Carpenters concluded a three-day meeting at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, March 12-14, with more than 200 delegates present, and reelected Joseph F. Cambiano of San Mateo for his 20th term as President, after last-minute opposition withdrew.

Veteran Secretary-Treasurer David H. Ryan, also secretary of the Bay Counties District Council of Carpenters, was nominated but declined to be a candidate.

Four district members of the Executive Board were reelected without opposition, and the fifth was chosen by a district caucus of delegates of District 5. The election of candidates for the offices of Secretary-Treasurer and Vice-President will be determined by a referendum of affiliated local unions.

San Jose was chosen as the 1949 convention city.

The convention went on record in favor of uniform apprentice work record books and the county line plan in jurisdictional matters, defeated a proposal to realign districts and increase district executive board members from 5 to 7, urged stabilization of grain prices, and acted on various other matters.

##

OEIU-3-AFL(31)