

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

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SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT INITIATIVE PETITION QUALIFIES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The initiative petition for the reapportionment of the State Senate has qualified, with thousands of signatures to spare. It is estimated that there will be an excess of 20,000 signatures over the 204,672 required to qualify the petition.

News of the petition's qualification was received joyously by the Citizens' Committee and all other proponents of the measure throughout the state.

C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the Federation, stated that the mere qualification of the petition is only the beginning in the fight that labor is waging in support of the Citizens' Committee for Equal Representation in the California State Senate, and that from now on it will be necessary for the members of the labor unions to intensify their efforts to make this campaign a success.

The Chamber of Commerce, the Associated Farmers, the Farm Bureau Federation, have all unleashed a well organized and systematic campaign throughout the state to discredit the Senate reapportionment idea, and labor will have to bear the main brunt of counteracting their efforts. Unions which have not sent in their contributions to help finance this campaign, as voted by the last convention of the Federation, are requested to do so at once. Considerable expenditures have already been made and the demands of the campaign will require substantial outlays of more money, which can be met only as the unions respond.

A second edition of the "Senator," published by the Citizens' Committee for Equal Representation, is scheduled to appear shortly,

with important and interesting material which will stress with greater force the need of reapportionment. This publication has met with enthusiastic response from hundreds of thousands of readers throughout the state of California. Any union which has not received copies of this publication should inform the Federation office at once.

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LIFTING OF POWER BAN DOES NOT SOLVE
WATER AND POWER PROBLEM

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Although all electric power restrictions throughout northern and central California, with the exception of daylight saving, were lifted on Monday, April 12, the solution to the power and water problem for the citizens of California has not been achieved.

The fight to sabotage the Central Valleys Projects is even more intense than it was previously, with the PG&E playing the most pernicious role in opposing the development of further transmission lines. This was evidenced by a report from Washington that James P. Black, head of the PG&E, testified behind the House Appropriations Committee's iron curtain, the betting being that he opposed money for government transmission lines, in spite of the acute power shortage experienced in California.

The House Appropriations Committee, unlike any other committee, and in violation of the LaFollette-Monroney Act, operates in "tyrannical secrecy." This Act, which provides that all committee sessions shall be open, is ignored by the House Appropriations Committee, which holds only closed sessions. The Act also provides that notice of hearings, together with the subject to be discussed, shall be printed in advance. This is not complied with. Thus, the Bureau of Reclamation's Commissioner Straus and other representatives, who will be permitted to testify at some later date, will not be in a position to know the testimony submitted by Mr. Black and will therefore be unable to counter it with the facts they have at their disposal.

Another phase of the power shortage created by the monopolistic and selfish practices of the PG&E was the significant effect it had on the employment and earnings of more than 5,000 factory workers in the San Francisco Bay area in March, according to a release of the Department of Industrial Relations, headed by Paul Scharrenberg. The conclusion was based upon a sample survey of 746 manufacturing plants in the area, which employ 88,000 wage and salary employees, of whom 68,000 are production workers. "Thirty-nine of the plants employing about 8 percent of all production workers in the 746 establishments reported curtailment of operations because of the power shortage. Thirty-one of these factories indicated they were forced to reduce the work week by one day, and 2 plants cut out half-day Saturday work. The other 6 plants either reduced hours per day or cut down their working force."

Various industries were included in the 39 plants which were surveyed. These plants had a factory payroll of \$280,000 in the mid-week of March, compared with \$331,200 in the corresponding week of February. The report points out:

"Average weekly earnings of the factory workers in the 39 plants affected dropped from \$62.04 in February to \$53.17 in March. Average hours worked per week fell to 34.9 in March from 40.7 in the previous month. In the other 707 plants surveyed weekly earnings declined from an average of \$59.91 to \$58.81 in the corresponding period, and average hours worked were reduced from 38.6 to 38.1."

The drop in the factory payroll as well as in the total man-hours does not nearly exhaust the effect on employment and earnings suffered as a result of the power shortage, as this was only a sample survey and did not cover more than the San Francisco Bay area.

The importance of fighting for the Central Valleys Projects becomes more evident and impressive as a result of the recent power shortage caused mainly and solely by the selfish policy of the PG&E.

CENTRAL VALLEYS PROJECTS CONFERENCE TO CONVENE
APRIL 24, SACRAMENTO

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Central Valleys Projects Conference has called a convention for April 24, at Governor's Hall, State Fair Grounds, Sacramento, opening at 10:00 a.m., and C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the California State Federation of Labor has sent out a call to all Central Labor Councils to ask their affiliated unions to send delegates to this important meeting.

The convention will consider the emergency facing the State of California, which is considered to be very grave, and will endeavor to work out a program that will put an end to further temporizing and equivocation by those in authority in the development of cheap water and power for the benefit of the citizens of the state.

This Conference was formed some time ago for the purpose of counteracting the drive of utility interests to sabotage the Central Valleys Projects. In view of recent developments, it was the consensus of opinion that this organization should be revived without any further delay.

It will be essential to mobilize the citizens of California to support the Central Valleys Projects and the Bureau of Reclamation's program in its development. The labor unions are directly concerned with this important problem, as witnessed by the recent power shortage experienced in northern and central California.

Unions are again urged to send delegates to this convention.

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BLS LISTINGS OF CURRENT WAGES TO BE AVAILABLE MONTHLY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--In response to numerous requests for information on current wage movements, the Bureau of Labor Statistics pointed today to the general availability of its most recent listings of current wage changes. This information, similar to that which the Bureau has compiled from time to time in recent years, is regularly available on request.

The latest compilations relate to the period from the late summer of 1947 through February 1948. It is the intention of the Bureau to prepare similar materials regularly, on a monthly basis, beginning with March 1948.

The listings for the period since the late summer of 1947 cover wage adjustments instituted during the third year since VJ-Day. The listing is not intended to be exhaustive. Those wage changes that have come to the attention of the Bureau, and which appear to have more than incidental significance, have been included. The information has been derived largely from published sources and therefore the Bureau cannot take responsibility for facts omitted from the published accounts or for such errors as these accounts may contain. Despite this limitation, the information has proved highly useful in providing an indicator of wage movements during the periods covered by the listings.

The Bureau does not have full information concerning the extent and nature of wage movements since the late summer of 1947. The bulk of the wage changes which have come to the attention of the Bureau during this period are increases ranging from 5 to 15 cents an hour, with some adjustments falling below and above this range. These increases are, in many cases, the third since VJ-Day; in some instances, however, they represent the second, and in others the fourth or fifth increases. It is roughly estimated that by the end of February substantially less than one-third of organized workers had received as many as three increases since the end of World War II.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR DECLARES UNION LABEL WEEK

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--May 10 through May 16, 1948, has been designated as UNION LABEL WEEK by the American Federation of Labor and the Union Label Trades Department. It is urged that the unions appoint a committee for the special purpose of giving the greatest publicity during this week to union products and services.

Merchandisers who sell and manufacturers who make Union Label products should be urged to arrange special window displays, run advertisements in the local newspapers and make announcements over the radio -- all calling the public's attention to the fact that various business concerns display the Union Label and also that other business establishments designate their services by a Union Shop Card or a Union Button.

The Federation urges all of the unions to do their utmost to publicize and make UNION LABEL WEEK an important episode in the history of the Union Label movement.

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ONLY FEW DAYS LEFT TO REGISTER

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--April 22 is the deadline to register for those who have not already done so, in order that they may vote in the June primaries.

The Federation stresses the importance of the unions getting their members registered as voters for the June primaries. A check of the membership should be made immediately to ascertain those who have not registered and persuade them to do so without delay.

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