

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

May 5, 1948

URBAN POPULATIONS SMEARED BY  
L. A. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
by  
C. J. Haggerty, Secretary  
California State Federation of Labor

An insult to the several million residents of Los Angeles City was perpetrated last week by the---of all people---Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Big cities, contended the L. A. Chamber, are filled with bad people, controlled by political bosses, gangsters and the like.

Growing a little intemperate in its opposition to Senate Reapportionment, the business moderators of "the biggest city in the world -- by area" smeared its own community as well as other large metropolitan areas with an impertinent and unfair paragraph.

The charge immediately found space in California newspapers, with the Sacramento Bee, the Fresno Bee and the Modesto Bee picking the offensive wording out of the context of the 9-page brief.

Here is the paragraph by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce that was quoted by the Bee papers:

"Putting the control of both houses of the legislature in a handful of urban counties is an invitation to boss rule in California. Political bosses often are able to dominate large centers of population. History shows gambling interests, racketeers and big time vice flourish in highly urbanized areas. To place control of both houses in the populous centers would be an invitation and encouragement to these groups to become stronger in the legislature."

This smear is worse than unfair to the many segments which make up our metropolitan areas -- it is slanderous.

Surely it isn't possible that the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce intended to cast such sordid reflections on the 543,000 veterans of all wars who reside in Los Angeles County!

These veterans who protected our American way of life -- and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce at the same time -- certainly deserve to be placed in a more complimentary category than being suspected as dupes of political bosses, gangsterism or big-time vice.

The same goes for the veterans who reside in four other metropolitan areas: Alameda's 113,000; San Francisco's 105,000; San Diego's 67,000 and Contra Costa County's 38,000. The five biggest counties have 866,000 veterans and 5 State Senators; in other words, two-thirds of the veterans in the state have one-eighth representation in the Senate.

San Francisco County has more than 200,000 women registered for the June primaries, representing approximately 47 percent of the city and county vote. In the same ratio, nearly 900,000 women will have registered in Los Angeles County out of approximately 2,000,000 estimated voters, and the same ratio is expected to hold true in the other major counties. Well over 1,000,000 women will have a voice in the government in the so-called wicked big cities in the five largest counties.

Certainly the L. A. Chamber didn't mean to label these women voters as persons susceptible to the evil influences which, it contends, controls metropolitan communities!

The homes, schools, colleges, churches, fraternal and service organizations, the civic contributions of the metropolitan areas in bringing conventions to our state to advertise its grandeur, climate, culture and industry, far overshadow the "gangsterism" of a small minority.

The attempt to smear metropolitan areas by such tactics as are being used by the Los Angeles Chamber should arouse the protest of all fair-minded people in our state.

It is even unfair to the solid citizens who are members of our metropolitan chambers of commerce.

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#### WHY LABOR GETS PUSHED AROUND

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Organized labor is allergic to the ballot box.

At least, a survey of registered voters from union labor bodies shows this to be true.

And it also reveals the reason why labor, organized and unorganized, has so little voice in its own government.

A cross-section of 7,191 names of citizen members of San Francisco locals was checked by Cameron King, director of the San Francisco Union Labor Party.

He discovered that 3,503 union labor citizens were not registered.

Then Cameron King took the membership of four locals and found the following revealing figures:

- No. 1 -- 35.6% not registered.
- No. 2 -- 57.5% not registered.
- No. 3 -- 58.1% not registered.
- No. 4 -- 59.0% not registered.

You've got a date in '48 -- and it is not too early even now to get to your city hall and register for the coming November election.

Your goal should be 100 percent registration and 100 percent voting.

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FEDERATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMPLETES  
QUARTERLY MEETING, SAN FRANCISCO

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--At the last quarterly meeting of the Executive Council of the California State Federation of Labor, San Francisco, Hotel Whitcomb, May 1-2, it was decided that the Federation take the same position as the American Federation of Labor in opposing universal military training, but endorsing "a limited and temporary" draft law as "necessary and desirable" for the nation's security. This action was taken following the referral to the Executive Council of Convention Resolution No. 72. This was the last resolution not yet acted upon, and final decision had been held up until the AFL's position could be ascertained.

The vacancy in Vice-Presidential District No. 15 was filled with the election of Brother Roy Walker, Secretary-Treasurer of the Northern California District Council of Lumber and Sawmill Workers. Concurring in the recommendation of many unions from that district, and with no other candidates proposed, the action in selecting Brother Walker was unanimous.

A very full and detailed discussion took place on the reapportionment and the political education campaigns. The need to obtain greater financial response from the unions for the reapportionment campaign was stressed. It was decided that the vice-presidents would redouble their efforts in their respective territories to obtain greater cooperation from the local unions. All organizations which have not yet sent in their contributions will be requested to do so at once.

Council action on federal legislation was as follows: Opposition was registered against the Gearhart Bill, which was passed over the President's veto, and which withdrew social security coverage from an estimated 3/4 million persons. The resolution introduced by Representative Gearhart circumvents and nullifies the Supreme Court decision of nearly a year ago, which interpreted the Social Security Act so that the coverage would have been extended to many persons who have hitherto been classified as independent contractors and therefore not eligible. Opposed a cut in the appropriation for the Department of Labor. Favored the repeal of the unjust tax on oleomargarine. Supported legislation providing for wage increases to postal employees.

Action on various resolutions submitted to the Executive Council: Protest to the State Department of Agriculture in regard to the signing of a new agreement, or the continuance of any agreement, for the importation of Mexican nationals into the United States to be used as laborers, concurred in. Also concurred in all resolutions condemning the PG&E as being mainly responsible for the present power shortage. Full moral support to the striking typographical unions was endorsed. The Federation also concurred in a resolution to use all of its resources to bring pressure to bear to hold prices in line.

Arrangements for the annual convention of the Federation are under way. The date, as reported earlier, is September 27-October 2; the place, Long Beach. The official call will be issued in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

It was decided that another meeting of the Executive Council will take place before it convenes as a body during the convention.

The minutes of the quarterly meeting are now being prepared for publication and will be mailed as usual to the affiliated organizations.

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FEDERATION--UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LABOR INSTITUTE  
ANNOUNCEMENT BEING MAILED TO UNIONS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The summer Labor Institute, which is being sponsored by the Institute of Industrial Relations of the University of California in cooperation with the California State Federation of Labor and will be held at Asilomar Hotel and Recreation Grounds, Pacific Grove, California, is being officially announced in an attractive brochure which the Federation is mailing to all of the unions.

The subjects that will be taken up, as well as the members of the staff, are all listed, along with the number of sessions devoted to each of the subjects. The curriculum will include such important items as arbitration and conciliation, collective bargaining, cost of living and other labor statistics, labor history, labor journalism, public relations in the union, legislation affecting labor, state labor laws, the Taft-Hartley Act, Workmen's Compensation, and other subject matter.

As has been previously pointed out, the Federation wishes to call to the attention of the unions that the Institute can accommodate not more than 204 students, and that it is important to send in reservations at once to the University of California, Room 10, Administration Building, 405 Hillgard Avenue, Los Angeles 24, California. All checks should be made payable to the Regents of the University of California.

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DATA ON WORK STOPPAGES IN 1947

(CFNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A total of 3,693 work stoppages occurred in 1947, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor, in a release which completes tabulations on last year's labor-management disputes.

Workers engaged totalled 2,170,000, and idleness at plants or establishments directly affected by stoppages amounted to 34,600,000 man-days -- less than in 1946 and 1945, but greater than any earlier year on record.

According to the Bureau, wage disputes were the most important single cause of stoppages during 1947. About 3 out of every 5 of the year's stoppages dealt with issues relating to the size of the workers' pay envelope. These stoppages accounted for over three-fourths of all strike participants and for nearly 88 percent of the year's total idleness.

The largest strikes of the year were those involving approximately 370,000 telephone workers, 343,000 bituminous coal miners, and 50,000 shipyard workers. Twelve additional labor-management controversies each had 10,000 or more workers. About one-half of all strikes recorded in 1947, on the other hand, involved less than 100 workers each. The "average" work stoppage continued from 3 to 4 weeks.

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OBTAIN WAGE, PRICE, SIMILAR DATA FROM REGIONAL OFFICE  
OF BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Regional Director of the Bureau of Labor Statistics informs the Federation that the Washington Bureau of Labor Statistics' office frequently has had occasion to point out to union officials requesting data on consumer prices, wage rates and other items, that these data can be obtained from the Bureau's Regional Office in San Francisco.

The office is located at 550 Federal Office Building, San Francisco 2, California.

Such information can be obtained much more quickly by addressing all such requests to the Regional Office, whose function it is to supply this information to all interested people in its territory. The unions are requested to give this their attention.

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