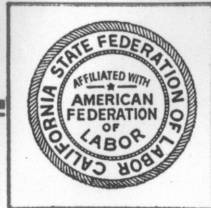


WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

May 19, 1948

MOVE TO PULL OUT HOUSING BILL FROM HOUSE COMMITTEE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Petition No. 6 is being circulated in the House of Representatives to pull out the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Housing Bill from the House Committee on Banking and Currency, so that it will be brought on the floor for a vote by the House. It is ex-

BULLETIN !!!

As we were going to print, news reached us that James Price, Chairman of the Di Giorgio Strike Committee, was shot while attending a strike meeting by bullets fired by an unidentified assailant. According to the sheriff, the shots were apparently fired from a passing car.

Five bullets entered the room where the Strike Committee was in session, narrowly missing other members of the committee, while one bullet penetrated Price's face and came out through his ear.

Hank Hasiwar, Western Representative of the National Farm Labor Union, AFL, had reported earlier to the Strike Committee that he thought he had been followed by a green sedan.

This effort to intimidate the Strike Committee will have the opposite effect, since the picket line will now be reinforced.

Every effort will be made to run down the assailants.

(For more news of Di Giorgio strike, see inside story.)

tremely urgent that every congressman be urged to sign this petition since the Committee is determined to keep this bill from being considered.

The Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill is one of the most important measures proposed to ameliorate the present housing crisis. It has been passed by the Senate, but a concerted effort is being made to keep it from consideration by the House.

Unions are requested to write to their congressmen urging them to sign Petition No. 6 and to vote for the measure if this move to take it from the Committee is successful.

In the meantime, attention is again called to the Housing Initiative Petition that is being circulated in California. It needs an 75,000 signatures to assure its qualification for the November ballot. Once again the Federation urges its members to sign this petition and get their friends to do likewise.

If this petition qualifies, the chances of its adoption by the voters are very good, and it will contribute substantially to solving the housing crisis in California.

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EVENTFUL LABOR ERA ENDS WITH THE PASSING
OF JOHN A. O'CONNELL

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--One of the most significant and eventful periods of the labor movement came to an end when John A. O'Connell, who for over a quarter of a century was Secretary of the San Francisco Labor Council, passed away on Friday, May 14. Funeral services were held at Mission Dolores, with Bishop Donohoe officiating. In addition to the hosts of labor representatives and public officials, there were guards of honor furnished by the San Francisco Police and Fire Departments.

One of the most colorful figures in the labor movement, John O'Connell was regarded with great affection not only by the members of organized labor of California, but throughout the nation. This high regard was evidenced by the floral pieces sent to the undertaking parlor from all over the country.

The following telegram, representing the attitude of labor, was sent to Mrs. John A. O'Connell by C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, and his wife:

The terrible news of John's passing is not only a shock to the labor movement, but one that we feel so deeply and so personally that it is really impossible to describe our reaction in words. With his death, one of the most eventful eras in the history of the labor movement in San Francisco and California, as well as nationally, comes to an end. It was a period which was the most fruitful and significant in the history of labor. Not only will the labor movement feel this irreparable loss but also his host of friends. Fortunately, the tradition of constructive militant unionism and personal loyalty which he created remains. Most of our young leaders of the labor movement have acquired their best knowledge and attitudes from John O'Connell. They will perpetuate that tradition in continual memory of his great contributions. In this moment of your bereavement, please realize that it is being shared by John's innumerable friends throughout the length and breadth of our country.

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COMMIE UNION SEEKS TO DISRUPT DI GIORGIO STRIKE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A leaflet distributed to the Di Giorgio strikers by the Commie-controlled CIO Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Union called upon the strikers to desert the National Farm Labor Union, thus injecting the most vicious kind of division into this strike at a time when the onslaught of the employers is most intense.

This attempt to raid a union engaged in a life and death struggle with an employer is typical of the disruptive policy pursued by this Commie-controlled dual organization.

The leaflet was secretly issued during the early morning of Wednesday, May 12. Among other things, it stated as follows: "We have noticed your patient picketing of Di Giorgio for the past several months. Frankly, we wonder what progress you are making, and how you expect to win if you stay within the National Farm Labor Union, AFL." This is a characteristic example of the pernicious kind of strike-breaking for which this union has become notorious. The National Office of the National Farm Labor Union reports that similar tactics

are being followed by this organization in its attempt to disrupt the bargaining relations between the AFL union and employers in Florida, where a number of written agreements are in effect.

The latest support given to the Di Giorgio strikers is a donation of \$2600 by the Butchers' Union Convention in Chicago.

Hank Hasiwar, Western Representative of the National Farm Labor Union, stated: "The Commies think they are going to move in on the Di Giorgio strike. They've got another think coming. Our people won't have anything to do with them. They better not come near us."

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HOUSING STARTS SOAR TO 90,000 in APRIL

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Home building activity reached a high level in April, when builders started 90,000 new permanent nonfarm dwelling units. This was the estimate released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.

Although a number of large cities reported exceptional gains, a substantial drop occurred in San Francisco, California, Portland, Oregon, and in Dallas, Texas.

The starts in April represent an increase of 29% above the revised estimate of 70,000 for March and 34% above the 67,000 units in April 1947. Nearly all of the new units started this April were privately financed.

In spite of this apparent gain, however, the housing problem is very far from being solved, and it will require much more expanded effort and coordinated planning by the federal government, with the cooperation of state and city governments, before there will be any relief of the crisis in housing accommodations.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that home building for the first four months of 1948 showed an increase of 51,800 units, or 25%, over the same period of 1947. So far this year, 257,000 units have been put under construction.

Regions affected by this activity seem to be centered in the middle Atlantic states, the east north central and the west north central states. Among the larger cities reporting exceptional gains were Washington, D. C.; Arlington, Virginia; Chicago, Illinois; New Orleans, Louisiana; New York City, New York; and Houston and San Antonio, Texas.

In connection with this, employment by construction contractors rose by 163,000 workers during April, to 1,790,000, the highest level for any April since 1942. Compared with April 1947, employment in the industry was higher by 171,000, or 11%. Privately financed new construction claimed four out of every five workers employed by contractors in April, and about two workers in five were employed on new nonfarm housing.

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NEW PAMPHLET ANSWERS OPPONENTS
OF SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A pamphlet stating the reasons for organized labor's endorsement of Senate Reapportionment is coming off the press this week and is available immediately for distribution to members of AFL locals.

In answer to the State Chamber of Commerce, the Associated Farmers, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and their allies, the pamphlet quotes President Abraham Lincoln's words:

"Any man who says he loves his country, yet fears Labor is a fool."

The pamphlet enumerates the list of progressive measures sponsored by organized labor, including equal voting rights for women, social security, child labor laws, workmen's compensation, disability insurance.

C. J. Haggerty, Secretary-Treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, is asking all unions to aid in the campaign for Senate Reapportionment by distributing these new pamphlets to their members and friends.

"All members of our unions can do a public relations job toward better understanding by the public in general of the part played by its largest segment, organized labor," says Brother Haggerty. "Distribution of this pamphlet will be important to the success of our campaign as well as bringing about mutual understanding among our fellow Californians."

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CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE MISCELLANY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the Department of Industrial Relations for California reports that losses in fruit and vegetable canning, furniture, electrical equipment and shipbuilding were primarily responsible for a decrease in manufacturing employment in March.

Manufacturing plants in California employed 700,200 wage and salary workers in March 1948, compared with 703,300 in the preceding month. In March 1947, employment totaled 692,400.

Power restrictions in the northern part of the state during March were reflected in reduced hours of work and weekly earnings. California manufacturing establishments as a whole reported a decrease from February of almost 2% in total factory payrolls and in total man-hours. This compares with a drop of seven-tenths of 1% in factory employment.

Average weekly earnings of manufacturing and production workers in California declined from \$58.20 in February to \$57.51 in March. The drop was greater in the San Francisco Bay industrial area -- from \$60.07 to \$58.16. In Los Angeles, the earnings decreased slightly, from \$58.21 to \$58.11 per week.

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