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# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING



SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

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### LIBERAL INTERPRETATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT RENDERED BY APPEALS BOARD

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Under date of May 20, 1948, the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board rendered a decision holding that a worker was available for work within the meaning of Section 57(c) of the Act, even though work opportunities were seasonal in the area in which the claimant resided; that the claimant's inability to obtain work was due to the opportunity of employment having been withdrawn, and that it was not necessary for the claimant to leave the area in search for work.

The case grew out of a claim for benefits requested by Helen Arcudi, who established permanent residence in Avalon, located on Catalina Island, which is a popular resort for tourists and vacationists during the favorable portion of the year, from April to October. After the tourist season, most of the population leaves the Island and there are limited employment opportunities. The claimant intended, however, to remain at the Island. Her application for unemployment benefits was rejected, nevertheless, on the ground that she was not available for work, which finding was based on the fact that she remained in a resort area during the off-season when there is little or no opportunity for employment.

The Appeals Board did not agree with the Referee in this case. Overruling his decision and granting benefits to the claimant, the Appeals Board stated: "She is in the same position, therefore, as though she had lived in Avalon for some time; it was her permanent residence. She is to be treated the same, from the standpoint of

determining her availability for employment, as any other permanent resident of the town."

In the light of certain prior decisions of the Board disqualifying individuals engaged in seasonal employment, particularly in the canning industry, this appears to be an important determination in that it once more leads to a more proper and liberal interpretation of the Act, which allows benefits to individuals who perform seasonal work even though in the off-season no work is available in the community.

The Benefit Decision is No. 4904 and the Case Number is 10094.

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NEW FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAW  
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1948

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A new chapter in California's motoring history opens July 1, 1948, when the Financial Responsibility Law becomes operative under administration of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Like other states, the California law says that if you are the driver of a motor vehicle that is involved in an accident causing injury, death, or property damage, you must report it to the Department and furnish evidence that you are financially able to respond to claims for damage. If the law is not complied with, the offender is open to suspension of his driver's privilege.

The damage to any person's property, including the driver's, must amount to more than \$100 before the report is required. Ten days are given in which a written report of the accident is to be submitted on Form SR-1. These forms may be obtained from the Department of Motor Vehicles or its branch offices, offices of the California Highway Patrol, Police Departments, automobile clubs, and the individual's insurance agent or broker.

Regardless of who is to blame for the accident, the driver of every vehicle involved must file a report. In the event you carry standard automobile liability insurance, you are to fill out the perforated slip at the bottom of the report form and the Department in turn will send it to your insurance company to verify the fact that you have met the security requirements of the law.

Booklets giving further information about this new law may be obtained from the Police Department, service stations, Department of Motor Vehicles office or other institutions providing service to motorists.

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STATE LAW VIOLATED BY DI GIORGIO EMPLOYEE IN  
RECRUITING WORKERS TO REPLACE STRIKERS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--An important case concerning a Di Giorgio violation of the California State Labor Code was won by the National Farm Labor Union when Ralph Melendez, a Di Giorgio employee, was specifically charged with recruiting labor for the Di Giorgio ranch on a paid radio show on April 15. He was given a 90-day suspended jail sentence and placed on probation for two years by the Justice of the 6th Township in Kern County.

The decision pointed out that advertising for workers for the strikebound Di Giorgio ranch without mentioning the strike was a violation of Section 970 of the Labor Code.

Another development involving the Di Giorgio ranch was a new raid staged by the Department of Immigration, resulting in picking up a number of Mexican illegals, or "wetbacks."

No clues as yet have been found by State and County investigators in the attempted assassination of the Di Giorgio strike leaders on the evening of May 17, 1948. James Price, who was painfully wounded in the face, is showing signs of recuperating from the injury. The doctors believe the nerves on the left side of the face were torn and may have to be replaced by surgery to prevent partial paralysis. Through the Central Labor Council in Los Angeles, hospital and specialist arrangements are being made to repair the injury to Jimmy Price's face.

An investigator from the House Committee on Un-American Activities has arrived from Washington, D. C., and will have completed his findings, to be submitted to the full committee, by the end of the current week.

In regard to this latest investigation, Hank Hasiwar, Western Representative of the National Farm Labor Union, stated: "Those investigations for Communists on strike at Di Giorgio are becoming

monotonously repetitious. Naturally, we will cooperate with them, but it is getting time to investigate the fellows who are continually accusing us of being Commies. A little investigation in that direction would prevent some of this waste of taxpayers' money that a lot of our conservative politicians are screaming about."

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BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS' ESTIMATE  
OF EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The national supply of labor has grown much more rapidly in the past year than would be considered normal on the basis of prewar trends, and further substantial gains may be expected in the year ahead. These are the conclusions reached in an analysis of the manpower situation just released by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Ewan Clague.

The statement points out that while it is not yet possible to add up the needs which may arise out of the defense measures recently adopted or under consideration, it appears that the labor supply in the coming year will be large enough to meet potential demands, although not necessarily in terms of the particular types of workers or particular labor market areas.

The past year's growth in the labor force was readily absorbed by American trade and industry, so that unemployment in April was actually somewhat less than a year ago, according to both Census Bureau and unemployment compensation data. This highlights the underlying strength of the demand for additional workers, which seasonal and other temporary factors have tended to obscure. Currently, agriculture and construction are the major upward forces, with the latter exerting a greater than seasonal push. Should only seasonal and normal growth factors operate in the coming months, the total labor force (including the armed forces and the unemployed) can be expected to exceed 65 million this summer, as against the April level of 62 million and last summer's seasonal peak of 64 million.

The Census Bureau estimates an increase in the labor force of more than a million in the past 12 months, which is about a half million greater than the increase which would have been expected to occur on the basis of population changes and prewar trends in labor force growth.

By far the greatest part of last year's additional gain consisted of adult women, in age groups where responsibility for care of young children is not a major factor.

Currently, the "extra" persons in the labor force consist of 1-1/4 million women, aged 35 and older, about 1-3/4 million teen-aged youths (many of whom work only part-time), and more than half a million older men, who in the prewar period would have already withdrawn from the labor force. These gains have been partially offset by "deficits" of (1) 1-1/4 million women in the age group 20-34, as a result of abnormally high marriage and birth rates, and (2) more than a half million veterans who would normally be working but are now attending school full time under the G. I. Bill of Rights.

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REPEAL OF 20 PERCENT AMUSEMENT TAX  
REQUESTED BY AFL

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--President William Green of the American Federation of Labor is calling upon the affiliated organizations to request their representatives in Congress to vote for the repeal of the 20 percent federal amusement tax, as it is considered to be a contributing factor in increasing unemployment among musicians. The American Federation of Musicians is greatly handicapped because of this tax which the public is required to pay in theatres and other amusement places. This is being adversely felt by the American Federation of Musicians together with the American Federation of Labor.

Congress has been requested to vote for the repeal of this tax.

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RADIO DEBATES PITTING OUTSTANDING SPOKESMEN  
OF BOTH PARTIES SPONSORED BY AFL

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The American Federation of Labor will initiate four significant political radio debates during the month of June, to consist of representatives of the American Federation of Labor and the United States Chamber of Commerce. Spokesmen of the Democratic and Republican Parties will participate.

These nationwide broadcasts will involve major issues in the present political campaign. In addition, the views of the AFL and the Chamber of Commerce will be represented. The purpose of this radio series is to provide a preview of the platform policies of both parties and to assist in the political education of American voters.

The series will be carried on the "America United" program over a nationwide NBC network, from 1 to 1:30 p.m., E.D.T., for four consecutive Sundays beginning June 6. David Brinkley, NBC commentator, will serve as moderator.

The following programs will follow the first broadcast, which has already occurred on June 6:

June 13, from Washington --- "How Can World Peace Be Safeguarded?"

June 20, from Philadelphia, on the eve of the Republican convention --- "Do Our Labor Laws Need to be Changed?"

June 27, from Washington --- "Should the Social Security Laws be Improved?"

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CORRECTION:

On page 4 of the last issue of the News Letter, in the story "'Real' Take-Home Pay" a typographical error was made. The Gross Annual Rate for March 1948 should read: \$4160.00.