

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

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FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD SURVEY SHOWS FAMILY INCOME INADEQUATE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--From one-third to one-half of the families in the United States in 1947 did not have a sufficient income to maintain an acceptable American standard of living, according to a comparison of surveys by the Federal Reserve Board and the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Federal Reserve Board's survey of family income during 1947 shows that 42 percent of the typical four-person families received less than \$3,000 a year. From \$3,004 to \$3,458 per year was estimated by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as the cost of a modest but adequate budget for a family of four as of June 1947. (See News Letter, January 28, 1948.)

The cost of the BLS budget for two-, three- and five-person families has been estimated by the Bureau of National Affairs. This organization finds that the cost of the BLS budget for a two-person family ranges from \$2,027 to \$2,238. The Federal Reserve Board survey shows that 33 percent of the two-person spending units received less than this amount in 1947.

For a three-person family the cost of the BLS budget is \$2,561 to \$2,829. Twenty-eight percent of the families in the Federal Reserve Board survey received less than \$2,000 in 1947.

For a five-person family the BLS budget cost \$3,414 to \$3,777. The Federal Reserve Board shows that 56 percent of the families of five or more persons received less than \$3,000.

The Federal Reserve Board survey also showed that 51 percent of all families (of all sizes) received less than \$3,000 per year; these

same families also received only 21 percent of the total money income received by all families.

Income by occupational groups showed that families headed by managerial or self-employed persons received a median income of \$4,500 annually, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as much as the \$1,750 received annually by unskilled worker families, and one and a half times as much as the skilled worker family's \$3,000.

Family income has not kept pace with the increase in living costs: the median income for all families increased 12 percent from 1946 to 1947, but the cost of living increased 18 percent from June 1946 to June 1947.

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STATEWIDE CONFERENCE CALLED FOR LABOR'S LEAGUE
FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A statewide conference has been called for August 5 in San Francisco at California Hall, Assembly Room 101, Turk and Polk Streets, 10 a.m., by Labor's League for Political Education to develop the political campaign in the coming elections. Invitations to send delegates have been sent to all Central Labor Councils, Building Trades Councils, Metal Trades Councils and political leagues in those communities where they have been established.

The various issues in the coming state elections and political candidates in both the state and federal elections will receive the attention and consideration of this conference.

The Executive Council of the California State Federation of Labor has called a meeting to take place at the conclusion of the statewide conference.

It is expected that a full attendance will be present in San Francisco at this important gathering.

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NLRB SEEKS TO ENJOIN AGRICULTURAL LABORERS
FROM STRIKING

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Hearings on a petition by the National Labor Relations Board seeking to enjoin a strike of 1100 agricultural workers are scheduled to be held in U. S. District Court in Fresno on July 1.

A petition of this kind is unprecedented, since the Taft-Hartley Labor Management Relations Act of 1947 specifically excludes from its coverage "any individual employed as an agricultural laborer."

The petition for an injunction charges the AFL National Farm Labor Union, Local 218, of Bakersfield, which has been on strike against the 22,000-acre Di Giorgio Fruit Corporation ranch since October 1, 1947, with engaging in a secondary boycott by causing others to cease using, selling, handling, transporting or otherwise dealing in the products of the producer.

The constitutionality of this action will be challenged by the union, according to H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union. A motion has been filed to dismiss the government's application for an injunction, on the grounds that the NLRB is seeking to invoke a law that specifically excludes all agricultural laborers.

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LABOR INSTITUTE AT ASILOMAR UNDER WAY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Labor Institute, sponsored by the California State Federation of Labor in conjunction with the University of California's Department of Industrial Relations, got under way July 5, with an excellent attendance, showing the interest aroused in the ranks.

Courses are being presented dealing with labor history, collective bargaining, state legislation, including workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance laws, statistics, the Taft-Hartley Law, and other subjects within the purview of labor relations.

Lectures by special guests have been arranged, highmarked by C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the Federation, who will address the whole gathering on Thursday night on labor's stake in the coming political election. Members of the University of California's faculty, as well as specialists in the field of labor relations, are teaching the classes.

The Institute was the result of action taken by the last convention of the Federation, and marks the start of a drive to organize, on a statewide basis, an educational program as well as facilities for the benefit of the membership of the Federation. It is expected that this Institute will be maintained annually, supplemented with adult educational courses throughout the year.

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WEEKLY EARNINGS LEVEL OFF IN MAY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Gross weekly earnings for the 12.7 million production workers in the nation's factories--at \$51.89 in mid-May 1948--remained somewhat below the record average reached at the end of last year, according to preliminary estimates made available by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor. The Bureau listed seasonal declines in important nondurable goods industries and lower activity in metalworking establishments affected by material shortages and work stoppages as being responsible for the drop in average hourly earnings.

Since last December, gross hourly earnings of factory workers have increased about two cents, or 1.6 percent, to almost \$1.30 in the period preceding the recently announced major auto, electrical and meat packing settlements.

Partly reflecting work stoppages, weekly hours for the automobile group declined significantly over the month. Lumber establishments, on the other hand, reported some upturn in the length of the

workweek and weekly earnings. Slightly higher hourly earnings were registered by the iron and steel, electrical machinery, transportation equipment, and lumber groups.

Textile-leather-apparel manufactures showed further declines in the length of the workweek in May. In the leather group, weekly hours were markedly below the year-ago level. Hourly earnings for these groups continued at previous levels. Wage rate increases raised average hourly earnings for the paper and allied products group significantly. Minor gains in hourly earnings were also indicated by the food, tobacco and printing groups.

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EMPLOYMENT MISCELLANY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The number of wage and salary workers in California manufacturing industries increased slightly in May to 696,300, from 695,800 in April as gains in the food industry more than offset decreases in most other industry groups. Total manufacturing employment is more than 3,000 above the level of a year ago.

Reflecting seasonal gains in fish canning and beet sugar and termination of a work stoppage in the meat packing industry, employment in the nondurable goods division rose to 319,800 in May, from 316,900 in the preceding month. Current employment in the nondurable goods group is the highest May total on record and compares with 301,400 in May of last year.

Employment in apparel plants dropped to 41,000 in May, 6,500 below the February 1948 peak of 47,500, but remained 5,000 above a year ago.

Labor disputes in the metalworking industries and losses in furniture, shipbuilding, and automobiles were chiefly responsible for the decline in employment in durable goods industries. Employment in the division as a whole totaled 376,500 in May, compared with 378,900 in April and 391,600 a year ago.

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