

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

July 14, 1948

WORKERS' PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Physical output per man hour at present exceeds that of a year ago for slightly more than two-thirds of all companies surveyed, according to a report by the National Industrial Conference Board. Of the companies cooperating in the survey, only 10 percent reported a decline.

Compared with the prewar period, 1939-1941, slightly more than three-fifths of the companies surveyed reported increased productivity, while slightly more than one-fourth indicated a decline.

Among the many factors which contributed to the high level of productivity, the most frequently mentioned is the improved equipment and tools. The majority of companies indicate that workers are better supplied with tools than in the prewar period.

The trend generally is toward better quality products which often require additional man hours per unit, although instances of simplification are mentioned.

A significant reason cited for increased productivity for some of the companies has been the reduction in the labor turnover. "With a more stable working force, the average level of experience of workers has increased. Intensive training programs are also more effective when turnover is substantially reduced." High quality supervision and good labor relations were often implied as being necessary to a successful execution of other programs designed to raise efficiency.

The report refutes the charges made that the workers are not increasing their productivity and that they are not cooperating with

all plans to attain high levels of production.

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NOTABLE LABOR VICTORIES WON IN COURT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Three notable labor victories have recently been won by unions in the courts, which will have great significance to the labor movement.

An employer of a number of beauticians in Richmond, California, refused to sign a union contract after attending previous meetings for collective bargaining. After every possible avenue of settlement was exhausted by the union, with no success, a picket line was established.

The management sought an injunction in the Superior Court at Martinez, and after vehement argument on both sides, Judge Hugh Donovan decided the case in favor of the union, and held that the Cartwright Act did not apply to the situation.

In San Francisco the owner of a barber shop insisted upon cutting prices established in the area. He refused to employ union barbers and insisted on working his employees longer than a union day. He went so far as to advertise on a radio program that he charged less than the union scale for haircuts and shaves.

A peaceful picket line was placed outside of one of the shops owned by this barber by Local 148 of the Barbers' Union. The owner thereupon brought suit for injunction, alleging certain violent actions on the part of the pickets, which were proven untrue.

Judge Edward Murphy sustained the position of the union, despite contention by the employer's attorney that the Cartwright Act forbade actions attributed to the union.

The same local union, in a second suit, sought and was granted an injunction by Judge Murphy against an employer who had signed a contract but was refusing to conform to its terms. Again, the employer's contention that the Cartwright Act governed and that the Barbers' Union activities were illegal was not sustained by the court.

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FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE
DISPUTE FORMS AVAILABLE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Washington office of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service has prepared dispute forms (LRMA 30-day) for the convenience of both labor and management, to be used in connection with notifying the Service of a dispute, as required under the Taft-Hartley Act. Use of these forms will materially lessen the work of the Conciliation Service and furnish the unions a definite idea of the type of information that is desired. The form has a question on "status of negotiations" which will be particularly helpful to the agency when it intervenes.

There is a limited supply of these forms now available. They may be obtained in limited numbers by writing the agency at 223 Federal Office Building, San Francisco 2, California, or by telephoning KLondike 2-2350, Extension 6751.

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ASILOMAR SUMMER LABOR INSTITUTE A GREAT SUCCESS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Summer Labor Institute held at Asilomar, July 7-11, was tremendously successful, according to the AFL trade unionists present. (See News Letter, July 7.) They definitely felt that a similar institute should be held next year and all present were certain their enthusiastic reports to fellow unionists would result in a far larger enrollment. Many were making plans for special local institutes during the coming year for their own Central Labor Councils or local unions.

Despite the heavy schedule of classes -- all morning, half the afternoon and part of the evening -- all agreed that there was adequate time for discussion and recreation.

It was hoped that next year it would be possible to offer classes for the rank and file on general labor history, collective bargaining and political action, and additional special classes, or

seminars, for business agents and other union officials on workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance and labor legislation.

Students at the Institute represented a fairly broad cross-section of the AFL membership in California. They came from nearly 30 cities, 25 International Unions and 10 Central Trade Union Councils. In most cases, unions paid the expenses of their members, but a few students paid their own way.

Full credit for success is due the University of California, Institute of Industrial Relations, its staff and the important educators and public officials who joined with the California State Federation of Labor in sponsoring the Institute.

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FORMER FEDERATION VICE-PRESIDENT, POPULAR LABOR OFFICIAL,
PAUL BURG, PASSES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Paul Burg, Vice-President of the California State Federation of Labor 1939-1946, and prominent Teamster official, died of a heart attack Saturday morning, July 10.

Brother Burg, one of the most popular officials of labor, was also Secretary-Treasurer of Local 315, Teamsters and Warehousemen's Union of Contra Costa since 1937. He was a delegate to the Joint Council of Teamsters No. 7 and a member of the Highway Drivers' Council.

Brother Burg was 49 years of age when he died. Services were held at Wilson and Kratzer Chapel, Richmond, California, at 2 p.m., July 13, 1948. Committal followed at Sunset View Cemetery.

Brother Burg is survived by his wife, Mrs. Eva Burg, son Paul Burg, sisters Mrs. Evelyn Tewalt and Mrs. Bernice Galusia, and one grandchild, Diane D. Burg.

Brother Burg's passing will be profoundly mourned by the many friends he leaves behind in the labor movement.

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NLRB INJUNCTION AGAINST AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
ISSUED BY COURT IN FRESNO

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Judge Pierson M. Hall granted an injunction to the National Labor Relations Board against striking members of the AFL Farm Labor Union on the Di Giorgio ranch. Although agricultural workers are excluded from the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, the striking farm workers were held to be guilty of an unfair labor practice in that the local union pickets followed products produced by strikebreakers and induced other union members to refuse to handle or process such products. Also cited in the injunction were locals of Teamsters and Winery Workers at Los Angeles, Bakersfield and Fresno, who cooperated with the striking farm workers.

Alexander H. Schullman, Los Angeles attorney representing the unions, argued that the granting of the injunction might destroy the union. He offered to accept the injunction provided the court would order the NLRB to entertain a petition for a bargaining election on the ranch.

The National Farm Labor Union plans an appeal to have the injunction set aside.

The Judge, in open court, stated: "The Kern County (Farm Labor) Union may be absolutely right and just by all tokens of law and principle. That is for the Board (NLRB) to determine.....This is an action by the government to enforce the law. We are not here to discuss the humanities.....Whether or not the employer has bargained with his employees has nothing to do with the case."

Now the power of the United States Government, represented by the NLRB and the federal courts, has been turned against these 1100 defenseless farm workers who are excluded from any of the benefits but are now penalized by the Taft-Hartley law.

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