

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

July 21, 1948

### FEDERATION CONVENTION CALL MAILED TO UNIONS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Call for the Forty-Sixth Annual (Forty-Ninth Anniversary) Convention of the California State Federation of Labor has been mailed to all affiliated organizations.

The Convention is scheduled to convene in Long Beach on September 27-October 2 at the Municipal Auditorium. Representation to this Convention is expected to break all previous records, with the Federation recording a larger membership than at any time in its history.

Of great importance to the unions is the matter of introducing resolutions to the Convention, which was changed at the last Convention held in Sacramento.

Under the present requirements all resolutions, in triplicate, must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer, on or before September 22, 1948, except those resolutions proposed by state-wide conferences of affiliated organizations held not less than three days before the opening of the Convention, which may be filed up until 12:00 noon of the first day of the Convention. This change in procedure makes it necessary for the unions to have their resolutions in, as stated above, five days before the Convention convenes in Long Beach.

To avoid any misunderstanding, C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the Federation, urges the unions to keep this new provision in mind and to comply with same when submitting resolutions to be considered by the Convention.

In accordance with the usual procedures, as soon as the duplicate credentials and the authorized delegates' lists are sent in to the Federation office, hotel lists will be mailed to the delegates elected by the unions to enable them to make hotel reservations for the Convention.

The Convention meets at a very critical time in the history of the labor movement, just prior to the general elections in November. Never before has the labor movement faced such a serious threat on the political field to its basic interests as it now faces. It cannot be stressed too strongly that the membership of the Federation must make it a first obligation to register, to vote, and to support the program at the Convention which will develop in the course of its proceedings.

Every union is urged to send delegates to the Convention so that the widest representation possible will be obtained.

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#### 80TH CONGRESS RAISES BLACK RECORD OF REACTION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The dismal failure of the 80th Congress to enact any of the many proposed measures necessary to the American economy, and the rejection of all progressive legislation, offers a grim warning to the members of the labor movement as well as to the citizens of the nation.

Accompanying the reactionary history of the 80th Congress is the growing parade of anti-labor legislation developing in the various states throughout the country.

A brief box score of what the 80th Congress has done against labor and failed to do for labor, can be summarized as follows:

| <u>Enacted</u>  | <u>Rejected</u>  |
|---|--|
| The Taft-Hartley law.   | A decent minimum wage.   |
| A 3% cut for average wage earners;<br>a 43% cut for the \$100,000 boys. | Long-range housing as real estate<br>interests demanded, leaving mil-<br>lions still homeless. |
| Half of the pay increase postal<br>workers deserved.                    | Repeal of oleo tax to protect food<br>and dairy profiteers.                                    |

Enacted

Rejected

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Federal aid of only \$6,000,000 for overburdened school districts.           | \$300,000,000 aid to education, leaving 10,000,000 Americans still unable to read or write. |
| Legislation holding social security payroll taxes at 1% to curtail benefits. | Decent allowances to needy aged & refused social security coverage to other millions.       |

Where labor has been alert to its interest, it has managed to defeat the anti-labor attacks leveled against it. A few examples illustrate this point and should be an incentive for labor to follow suit in other states.

In Iowa, the labor-hating Governor Blue and Congressman Gwynne were defeated for renomination. In Florida, Tom Watson, who spent his time fighting unions as Attorney General, was defeated for Governor. In North Carolina, Senator Umstead was defeated for renomination for Governor.

This can be duplicated in California if labor will mobilize its full strength and express its choice in the election.

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RESPONSE TO ORGANIZED LABOR QUESTIONNAIRE GRATIFYING

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The response of the unions to the 1948 Organized Labor Questionnaire has been most gratifying, according to Paul Scharrenberg, Director of Industrial Relations.

All unions which have not yet returned the questionnaire should do so at once. The various unions in California received copies of the questionnaire in May of this year, a month earlier than usual, so that publication of the returns could be made on a more current basis.

The Director of Industrial Relations stresses the fact that the information reported on the questionnaire by the individual locals is kept in strict confidence and only totals and averages are shown.

Studies developed from the information contained in the questionnaire has proved very useful to the labor movement and by responding to the questionnaire, the local unions will be indirectly doing themselves a very good service.

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#### 400,000 MISSING PERSONS IN STATE?

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Between today and September 23 - final date for registering as a voter - a state-wide search will be made for 400,000 persons of voting age.

That's the estimate placed on those missing from the lists of registered voters - which is expected to exceed 5,000,000 in California.

The registration for the June primary election was 4,632,129. And the percentage of vote cast was 54.8. Which means that 45 out of every 100 registered voters didn't go to the polls.

Out of the possible 5,000,000 voters, it is estimated that between 80 and 85 percent will vote in the general election on November 2. This would mean a total of 4,000,000 to 4,250,000 voters.

Important to these 4,000,000 or more voters is Senate Reapportionment, #13 on the ballot of propositions to be submitted to the voters. Senate Reapportionment means more equal representation in the State Senate and does away with the great inequality by which the larger counties are restricted to one State Senator. Inyo-Mono counties senatorial district had 6,519 registered voters for the June elections, with 3,166 voting. Los Angeles county had 1,943,679 registered voters with 986,517 voting. Yet Los Angeles county has one Senator "equalized" by Inyo-Mono's representation in the State Senate.

Register to return the government to the people and vote "Yes" on Proposition #13.

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#### BASIC ECONOMIC STATISTICS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Economic statistics are a useful adjunct in wage negotiations and in presenting labor's story to the public. The following page gives in summary form some of the most important data for labor in California. More detailed information is available.

-----1948----- -1947-

|                             | <u>Unit</u>   | <u>May</u> | <u>April</u> | <u>March</u> | <u>May</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| <u>Consumer Price Index</u> |               |            |              |              |            |
| United States               | 1935-39 = 100 | 170.5      | 169.3        | 166.9        | 156.0      |
| Los Angeles                 | " " "         | 169.1      | 169.3        | 167.4        | 157.6      |
| San Francisco               | " " "         | --         | --           | 171.4        | 160.5      |

Wholesale Price Index

|               |            |       |       |       |       |
|---------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| United States | 1926 = 100 | 163.8 | 162.7 | 161.4 | 147.1 |
|---------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

Average Gross Weekly  
Earnings-Manufacturing

|               |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| United States | Dollars | \$51.89 | \$51.68 | \$52.06 | \$48.44 |
| California    | "       | 59.04   | 57.54   | 57.51   | 55.04   |
| Los Angeles   | "       | 39.03   | 58.08   | 58.11   | 54.51   |
| San Francisco | "       | 60.62   | 58.56   | 58.16   | 56.34   |

Employment and Unem-  
ployment

California

|                      |           |       |       |       |       |
|----------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Civilian Labor Force |           |       |       |       |       |
| Employed             | Thousands | 3,700 | 3,648 | 3,618 | 3,611 |
| Unemployed           | "         | 380   | 410   | 430   | 400   |
| Production Workers   |           |       |       |       |       |
| Manufacturing        | "         | 459   | 459   | 465   | 468   |

Work Stoppages

United States

|   |           |       |       |       |       |
|---|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Man-days idle                                 | Thousands | 4,100 | 8,000 | 6,000 | 6,730 |
| Man-days idle as<br>percent of time<br>worked | Percent   | .6    | 1.1   | .8    | .97   |

Sources: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of the  
Census  
California Dept. of Industrial Relations and Dept.  
of Employment.

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B E S U R E T O R E G I S T E R A N D  
V O T E "Y E S" #13