

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

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COST OF LIVING GOES UP AND UP

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The Bureau of Labor Statistics cost of living index for San Francisco stood at 174.2 (1935-39 equals 100) on June 15, 1.6 percent higher than March, 1948, and 9.1 percent higher than a year ago.

"There is no evidence yet that the upward spiral of prices has been halted," concluded Max D. Kossoris, BLS Regional Director, and his conclusions are confirmed in detail by other sources. The U. S. News and World Report (a business magazine) in its July 16 issue found that prices are now being marked up 5 to 10 percent, and concluded that during the next year at least a 7 percent increase in living costs would occur.

There is considerable likelihood that the cost of living is even higher than reported by BLS. The BLS rent index covers only changes in rents of existing dwelling units, and does not include, for example, the rent increase which any family must pay today if it moves from an old to a new dwelling unit.

We refer again to U. S. News, same issue, which found that rents in new and decontrolled dwellings are 70% higher than dwellings where controls are in effect -- which are the dwellings covered in the BLS index.

A recent survey by the Census Bureau indicates that from April 1940 to April 1947, the average rent paid by American families increased 36.7 percent, but the increase in the BLS rent index for this

period amounted to only 4.3 percent (U. S. as a whole).

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STATE HOUSING POLICY COMPLETELY INADEQUATE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--In its first and also final report, the California State Redevelopment Agency found that California has a completely inadequate housing program when compared to states of similar size such as New York, Illinois, and Indiana.

Our state, the agency reported, has "enacted few legislative measures which reflect an understanding of the shelter problems of its veterans, its students, and its workers in cities and in rural areas. Except for Farm and Home loans to veterans, this state, notwithstanding its exceptional growth and pressing needs, has no well-considered housing policy; it has no program to increase the supply of dwellings for its people, to eliminate shacks and temporary war housing, or to clear slums...."

The Redevelopment Agency outlined a 6-point housing program which it felt the **state** should adopt:

1. More adequate data on housing needs, particularly for veterans.
2. Investigation of temporary war housing with a view to its replacement with adequate permanent housing.
3. Legislative consideration of the need for modern rental housing.
4. Simplification of building codes and making them more uniform by state and local governments.
5. Review by the legislature of the need and advisability for public housing.
6. Finally, the state has sanctioned community redevelopment by local authorities; it should provide financial support in addition, so that development may make real progress.

The Redevelopment Agency was created by the 1947 legislature, and became active late in December, 1947. The 1948 legislature refused to continue the agency's appropriation, and it is now inactive.

All Californian voters can approve at least the first step in a state housing policy by voting Yes on Proposition No. 14, the housing initiative measure, providing for the construction of 100,000 low rent public housing units over a four-year period.

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LABOR MUST REGISTER AND VOTE FOR
PROPOSITION NO. 13.

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A challenge to the democracy of organized labor has been placed squarely before the professional, craft and skilled and unskilled workers and their families by the California State Chamber of Commerce.

Organized labor is attempting to destroy the democratic principle of "checks and balances" by proposing and supporting Initiative Measure No. 13, says the California State Chamber of Commerce. Simultaneously, the Chamber is sending speakers into all counties to influence opinion against No. 13.

This challenge can be met only by REGISTERING before September 23 -- the last day of registration -- and VOTING on November 2 -- YES on Proposition No. 13.

The use of the expression "checks and balances" is taken out of the original purposes of checks and balances in the establishment of the three divisions of government -- administrative, legislative and judicial. Its use in opposing Proposition No. 13 is a distortion of fact by the State Chamber.

The San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee, on July 26, has already unanimously repudiated the State Chamber by adopting a resolution endorsing No. 13. Members of the Committee, headed by Chairman William M. Malone, represent 277,000 registered Democrats in San Francisco.

Members of organized labor should make their answer by REGISTERING immediately, and VOTING Yes on Proposition No. 13 in November.

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PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED LEGISLATIVE AND FINANCIAL
CAMPAIGN MERITS LABOR SUPPORT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The nation-wide drive for legislation and funds launched by the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped, Inc. has been endorsed by the AFL and is deserving of the support of all organized labor to advance the welfare of the handicapped.

The situation facing the handicapped is acute, with Federal-State slashes in funds for agencies dealing with their problems and industry tightening up on "physical demands." Legislation seeking to benefit the handicapped was dealt with by the 80th Congress in the same hostile manner as other legislation concerned with the welfare of the people. Because the physically handicapped are confined to wheel-chairs, bed-bound, or on crutches, and are, therefore, unable to develop a national program in their interest equal to campaigns waged by other groups, and because "big business" groups have shown themselves indifferent to their plight, they have turned to organized labor for help.

The plan is to take their fight to the American people in the fall elections and to seek to hold the gains that have been made for the handicapped during the war years, as well as to obtain sorely-needed reforms. The bill with which the organization was concerned, and which will undoubtedly be reintroduced, was S 2896, the Sparkman Bill.

A fund of \$100,000 is to be raised by this organization, who will depend largely upon labor for its attainment. The California State Federation of Labor, which has endorsed this campaign, calls upon its affiliates to give it their fullest support.

DISABLING INDUSTRIAL INJURIES IS FRIGHTFUL
WASTE THAT COULD BE AVOIDED

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--During May of this year, reports of 43 fatal and 10,699 non-fatal disabling industrial injuries were received by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the California Department of Industrial Relations.

The decrease of approximately 1,500 from the previous month in the number of reported disabling injuries reflects in part the long holiday weekend at the close of the month.

Manufacturing accounted for the largest number of fatal and nonfatal lost-time accidents, representing 28 percent of the total. Food processing, lumber and timber and wire and steel contributed more than one half of the disabling injuries in manufacturing. Although almost all manufacturing industries reported a decrease in the number of disabling injuries in May, food processing, lumber and timber, petroleum products, and nonferrous metals were an exception.

Trade ranked second among the major industry division, with 8 fatal and 1,968 non-fatal disabling injuries in May. Three-fourths of these were sustained by employees in retail trade establishments. Eating and drinking places reported the largest number (325) of disabling injuries in the retail trade group. Construction was the next largest with 8 fatal and 1,825 non-fatal injuries.

All of the fatalities and 89 percent of the non-fatal injuries were sustained by men. The largest number of injured men was in the 20-29 year age group (29 percent); three-fourths were between 20 and 49 years old. The age distribution of women disabled in work accidents was generally similar to that of the men except that the largest number was in the 30-39 year age group. Eighty-eight minors under 18 years of age, 78 boys and 10 girls, were disabled in non-fatal work accidents. Six hundred and forty-seven workers 60 years old or over were injured, including 567 men and 80 women. Seven of the 567 men over 60 years were fatally injured.