

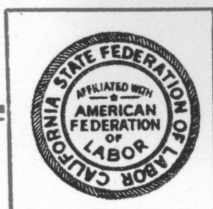
# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

August 18, 1948

### LABOR DAY MESSAGE

by

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California State Federation of Labor

The Stalinist threat to world peace grows ever more menacing and the brunt of a counteroffensive to this danger must be borne by the organized labor movement in America and throughout the world. Today, the issue between the adherents of totalitarian rule and those supporting democracy rests upon support of the European Recovery Act. It is the implementation of the Marshall Plan in Europe which has provoked the alarming crisis in Berlin.

In every nook and corner of the world, those opposed and those supporting the Marshall Plan become identified with or against Stalinism. That is why the citizens of the United States have pledged a total of \$6,098,000,000 for foreign assistance, of which sum, \$5,300,000,000 is to be spent to rehabilitate the economy of Europe. This is a sound investment for peace, and offers the possibility of bringing into existence a federation of European nations for mutual progress and defense.

The American Federation of Labor has given wholehearted support to the development of this policy. Furthermore, in every field of activity on the international scale, the AFL has taken an active part to curtail the Stalinist threat, and is programming to take the initiative at every opportunity.

A serious handicap to this work is the failure of the legislative branch of our own government to adopt the necessary kind of legislation to provide social security, curb inflation, furnish

*Return the State Senate to the People . . . "Yes" #13*

adequate housing, and take care of the numerous other evils which threaten the stability of the labor movement in this country.

It is to the advantage of the Communist Front to have a reactionary government in our own country, for they hope to take advantage of a leftward reaction of the workers to implement their international plan of control. Thus, the failure of the 80th Congress to enact the various progressive measures will, in the long run, play into the hands of Stalin. And that is why it can be said that the record of the 80th Congress demonstrates the triumph of selfish interests over the general welfare. It is more imperative than ever, therefore, for labor to activize itself politically so that there will be no repetition of this Congress.

The Taft-Hartley Act has deprived organized labor of rights it enjoyed for many years prior to the passage of the National Labor Relations Act of 1935. Unions may no longer peacefully picket and advertize the issues of a labor dispute wherever they feel such action necessary. Their political rights have been curtailed; they are subject to injunctions in labor disputes without hearing. The closed shop is prohibited and unions and employers may not agree on a union shop without going through election procedures. The union shop elections have been a heavy and completely unnecessary burden on taxpayers, for the union shop has been won in 99 percent of all elections held. In the building and construction trades, the Board has attempted to assert jurisdiction, but has stated that it is administratively impossible to hold union shop elections. This act has turned collective bargaining into collective litigation and made industrial relations a political football.

The record of the Congress on price control is one of complete inaction -- in spite of the fact that wage increases have been wiped out by the uncontrolled rise in living costs, and the pressure is continuing to mount.

On the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill, which would have provided the first constructive program to meet our critical housing problem, the Congress failed to take any action, although millions of American citizens are forced to live in slums and substandard homes. The measure finally passed by the summer special session under pressure from President Truman, is inadequate and far short of what is needed. In the last hundred years, the Federal Government has spent billions in subsidizing private industry. In the last century the railroads received untold sums through grants of land and money; agricultural subsidies for soil and water conservation and related projects totaled 8 billion dollars in the period 1932-1948. Even in the heyday of individualism, from 1929 to 1931, our merchant marine received about 17 million dollars a year through mail subsidies. In the face of this record, Congress has a national obligation to provide adequate housing to those American families who cannot afford it.

The tax bill passed by the Congress favored the higher income brackets, but failed to relieve the lower income groups.

In regard to social security, instead of increasing the coverage of this protection, the Congress took action which, it has been estimated, will exclude more than 750,000 workers.

The President's proposal to raise the minimum wage was completely ignored.

The Department of Labor was reduced to an ignoble and ineffective government agency.

The Central Valley Project, which means so much to the farmers and workers of California because of the cheap water and power it can make available, is being emasculated.

Efforts to provide a permanent FEPC, an anti-lynch law, an anti-poll tax law, were sabotaged. A bill to provide \$300,000,000 a year as grants to states to provide a minimum educational program for every child was pigeonholed in the House.

Bills for medical aid and health insurance did not even leave the Senate Committee on Labor.

As finally passed by the Congress, the measure to admit 200,000 displaced persons from Europe discriminated grossly and unjustly against Catholics and Jews.

If there is to be no repetition of the 80th Congress' record, organized labor must take an active interest in the 1948 national, state, and local elections. The fifteen million members of organized labor and their families and their friends must exercise their democratic right and obligation to regain the rights which the Congress and various state legislatures have taken away from them. Labor can, and must, make itself felt in the coming general election.

The National Labor League for Political Education, established by the AFL, and the various state and local Leagues for Political Education will mean nothing, if they are permitted to remain as paper organizations and are not rendered into living, militant agencies for the mobilization of labor's votes.

In California, Proposition No. 13, providing for reapportionment of the California Senate, is the most important state issue before organized labor. For sixteen long and dreary years, social and political progress in legislation has been blocked by the present Senate which represents counties, regardless of their economic importance or population. The State Senate must be returned to the people. We must regain the representative legislature which, in the days of Hiram Johnson, made California a leader in progressive and enlightened legislation. In the present State Senate, 6 million people have 5 senators, while 4 million have 35. Minority rule must end. The vote of every citizen of this state must be given equal weight in our state senate. A YES vote on Proposition No. 13 is the answer.

Other propositions and candidates on the November ballot have been endorsed by the California Labor's League for Political Education. Vital issues of housing, liquor control and social insurance are involved. Labor must act on these endorsements.

Our national leaders have told us that during these coming months political action is more important than the day-to-day administration of union affairs. Union leaders must make the registration and political education of organized labor their primary job. The 15,000,000 members of organized labor throughout the Nation can win -- if they register now and vote in November.

On this Labor Day, we must, in all sincerity, rededicate ourselves as members of the American labor movement. If we are to stave off the Stalinist threat, and if we are to secure our position at home by preventing the Communists from exploiting social evils which political reactionary interests in this country continue to ignore, then every member of organized labor must become a registered voter and cast a vote in the November election in support of the recommendations made by the California State Federation of Labor.

SHORT TIME LEFT TO REGISTER

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--An alarming apathy is evidenced in California registration, according to figures revealed by the San Francisco Registrar's office.

With only 28 days to go from August 23 to closing of registration, September 23, it is obvious that an intensive drive must be made to bring out more registered voters.

During the three months from May until August, only 2,912 San Francisco voters registered, increasing the total registration from 438,088 to 441,000.

As in many another community, failure to supply the Registrar of Voters with sufficient help has caused the slowdown. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors dropped \$14,500 from its budget, despite the plea of the Registrar that it was needed to complete the registration job.

"We have the forms, the paper and the pencils -- but not sufficient help to circulate among the people for a complete registration," reports the San Francisco Registrar's office.

Some elements within cities and large population areas are contending that the "saturation point" has been reached! This is obviously a move to ignore thousands of voters yet unregistered.

The challenge, therefore, has been placed before individual citizens, their families and friends to make a special trip to their nearest city hall or county courthouse and sign up for the purpose of voting in the General Election, November 2.

Potential voters who do not register are warned that they are playing into the hands of those who wish to continue control of the state for special interest groups.

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