WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING — 151 — SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

September 1, 1948

NATIONAL AFL ISSUES 1948 CONVENTION CALL

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The 1948 Convention call of the American Federation of Labor has been issued by President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany. The Sixty-seventh Convention will be convened on Monday, November 15, 1948, at 10:00 o'clock, and will be held in the Hall of Mirrors of the Netherland-Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Although World War II ended three years ago, on August 14, 1945, the problems of war and its aftermath are still with us, Green and Meany emphasized in issuing the convention call, and these problems will demand the concerted efforts of all members of organized labor as expressed through action at the convention.

The end of the war has not brought peace, and we are now facing the question of World War III, instead of peace. "The members of the American Federation of Labor insist and demand now, as they have at each convention held since the conclusion of World War II, that an agreement shall be promptly reached which will definitely and irrevocably provide for international peace and guaranteed security."

Anti-labor legislation has been proposed and enacted wherever possible by the enemies of organized labor and of the people. Labor must mobilize its entire strength to fight such legislation in the courts, in the legislatures, and above all, must bring about the defeat of members of Congress and the state legislatures who voted to place the "legal yoke of bondage around the necks of the working men and women of the nation."

The 80th Congress failed completely to take any adequate steps to curb the inflation let loose by reactionary forces in 1946 with the repeal of price control legislation. It disregarded the needs of millions of plain citizens by ignoring minimum wage, social security, health insurance, education and civil rights legislation, and by passing a completely inadequate housing measure.

The American Federation of Labor represents millions of citizens, directly and indirectly, and it must and will, through its convention make clear their wants and needs, and direct effective action to obtain them.

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NLRB RULES NMU HIRING HALLS ILLEGAL

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--In its first decision on hiring halls, the National Labor Relations Board ruled on August 17, 1948, that hiring hall agreements, even though not expressly requiring discrimination against non-union members, are illegal if the hiring hall is run so that in practice non-union members are discriminated against. The case involved the National Maritime Union and the Atlantic and Gulf Coast shipping companies.

By insisting upon such an illegal hiring hall as a condition precedent to bargaining, the Board further ruled that the NMU had refused to bargain with the employers, in violation of Section 8(b)(3) of the Taft-Hartley Act. In so ruling, the Board decided that the concepts of refusal to bargain which previously applied to employers, now apply to unions.

The Board also found that the NMU's attempts to make the employers agree to a hiring hall found to be illegal were a violation of Section 8(b)(2) forbidding a union to "cause or attempt to cause" an employer to discriminate against an employee. A peaceful strike for such an object and insistence upon such a clause during negotiations are both illegal and violations of Section 8(b)(2).

The NMU's attempts to obtain a hiring hall were not, however, a violation of Section 8(b)(1)(A), which forbids a union to "restrain or coerce" employees.

An extremely important Board ruling in this case is the finding that the Board has no authority to assess unions with money damages resulting from strikes.

Also important is the Board's decision that it may order the NMU to bargain with the employers, even though the NMU is a non-complying union and cannot obtain any of the benefits of the Act.

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HEARINGS ON DI GIORGIO INJUNCTION CONTINUE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Hearings on whether or not to make permanent the injunction against the striking Di Giorgio unions are continuing into their third week, and an early Supreme Court test of the constitutionality of nearly all the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act is expected.

The present temporary injunction is against a local of the National Farm Labor Union, AFL, and two locals of the Teamsters Union, and one of the Winery and Distillery Workers Union.

Union attorneys are protesting the injunction as a violation of free speech, as a return to government by injunction, and have denounced the injustice of submitting agricultural unions to the punitive features of the Act, while denying them the benefits of it.

The unions' lawyers have also bitterly denounced a practice permitted in the Los Angeles hearing of allowing the counsel for the corporation to assist the NLRB attorneys in trying the government's case. At one point, the union attorneys threatened to walk out of the hearings when it was shown that the government's witnesses had been duped by their employer, with the connivance of the Taft-Hartley Board, into signing affidavits and swearing falsely against the unions in Federal court. One such witness admitted perjury on cross-examination.

The strike of the Di Giorgio workers continues into its 11th month, with pickets on the 20-mile long line about the ranch. James Price, president of the local on strike, has recovered from his gun shot wounds, and is back on the picket line.

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MANAGEMENT LIKES TAFT-HARTLEY; WANTS MORE OF SAME

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Taft-Hartley Act is just what the doctor ordered, according to 528 management men surveyed by Business Week (see issue of August 21, 1948). Fifty percent of those interviewed felt that the law should be kept, but amended, while 42 percent felt it should stay as it is. Only 1 percent favored repeal, while 7 percent had no opinion.

Management's idea of improving the Act was as follows: Seventy-five percent wanted compulsory arbitration of national emergency disputes; however, this proposal was most favored by representatives from small companies, which have only a small chance of being involved in such arbitration. Seventy-five percent also favored a ban on industry-wide bargaining.

In actual practice, 73 percent of the men reported that the law has not changed plant labor relations, while 24 percent said it had eased relations, and 3 percent said it made things tougher.

Seventy-four percent also felt that General Counsel Denham had been fair in his administration of the Act.

The group selected, according to Business Week, represents a cross-section of manufacturing industries located in 15 cities and 13 industrial states; their companies employ 433,465 workers -- two-thirds of them members of unions.

This attitude on the part of management makes clearer than ever the forces behind the Taft-Hartley Act, and the need for widespread and effective union education and political action.

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REAPPORTIONMENT ENEMIES USE FALSE ARGUMENTS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--"Double Stakes!" declares the canned editorial being reprinted in many California papers, charging that "labor-dominated metropolitan areas" are looking toward "control" of California's big delegation in Congress.

From 10 to 12 new members of Congress will be added to this state when the 1950 Census is taken. The State Legislature makes the final decision on which areas will be affected.

So the opponents of Proposition #13 -- Senate Reapportionment -- are crying wolf:

"Should Proposition #13 pass in November, the large labor-dominated metropolitan areas of the state would be assured of control of both houses of the legislature, with rural areas practically disfranchised.

"Then, once in absolute control of the legislature, labor would be in a position to carve out congressional districts which would assure city domination of California's delegation to Congress when additional representation is given this state following the 1950 Census."

Of course, this is the wildest of charges, for even the opponents of #13 can't change the election of Congress to an "area" basis. Congress will continue to be elected on a population basis. And if there were not 3,000,000 more residents in California now than there were in 1940, the opponents of #13 wouldn't have to worry about having 10 or 12 additional Congressmen. They appear to be aggrieved that our state is growing by adding people.

The real way of meeting this latest attack on labor by creating the phony issue of "labor-dominated metropolitan areas" is close at hand.

The American duty of registering and voting is the answer.

Remember the deadline for registration is September 23 and take your part in shaping your Democracy.

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BOILERMAKERS SPONSORING RADIO PROGRAM

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers has leased the facilities of the American Broadcasting Company for a radio forum to be broadcast from Philadelphia Monday evening, September 13, from 8:00 to 8:30 p.m. Appearing on the program will be Maurice J. Tobin, Secretary of Labor, Clif Langsdale, General Counsel for the Boilermakers, and Charles J. MacGowan, President of the Boilermakers.

Consult your local ABC affiliate for the time of this broadcast, and be sure to hear this interesting educational program.

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