

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

October 6, 1948

### FEDERATION CONVENTION FORMULATES COMPREHENSIVE POLICY FOR ENSUING YEAR

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--For the first time in many years, the 46th Annual Convention of the California State Federation of Labor disposed of some 250 resolutions without referring any back to the Executive Council for action, except for the few which needed further implementation. The delegates to the convention were given the opportunity to debate the merits of the various resolutions, which dealt with every phase of activity of direct and indirect concern to labor.

This record was made possible by the expeditious procedure provided by the Executive Council in, first of all, submitting to the convention statements of policy dealing with the basic problems facing the California State Federation of Labor, and, secondly, as the result of an amendment passed by last year's convention setting an earlier deadline for all resolutions. This convention set a precedent for future ones insofar as the handling of resolutions was concerned by placing emphasis on the disposal of the vital issues contained in resolutions and not sacrificing consideration of them to secondary matters.

A distorted and misleading story was carried by the Los Angeles Herald-Express on convention action with reference to the Negroes. The highly inaccurate account conveyed the impression that the Federation was discriminating against Negroes in rejecting a proposal to elect a Negro vice-president as such. The officials of the Federation and those participating in the debate who were opposed to this resolution, including Negro delegates, pointed out that such a proposal

would be discriminatory; that any Negro had the full privilege of being elected a vice-president of the Federation, not because he was a Negro, but because he would be chosen on the same basis as other vice-presidents; that it would be a recognition and perpetuation of race discrimination to set aside one vice-presidency for a Negro.

It was pointed out by both the President of the Federation and the Chairman of the Constitution Committee, and supported by Negro delegates, that such a proposal would involve the election of a Filipino vice-president, a Jewish vice-president, and vice-presidents representing other national minority groupings. The sound reasoning of the Constitution Committee was concurred in practically unanimously by the convention, contrary to the misrepresentation in the Herald-Express. A special release, clarifying this issue, is being sent on by the Federation to the Negro papers and the labor press.

Such irresponsible reporting has not only victimized the Negro race, but has misrepresented the position of labor with regard to this important question. A study of the statement of policy dealing with combatting racial bigotry and intolerance would have enabled the representative of this paper to understand precisely and clearly the position of the Federation, which is unequivocally opposed to racial discrimination and intolerance.

In the recommendations made by the Executive Council on the various propositions to be voted upon in November, one change was made. The previous action was to vote "yes" on Proposition #4. The final action adopted by the convention was to take no action on this proposition.

Following contests for the office of vice-president in five districts, the following officials and vice-presidents were elected by the convention:

PRESIDENT: John F. Shelley

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

- District No. 1 -- Max J. Osslo, San Diego
- District No. 2 -- Jack Arnold, Long Beach
- District No. 3 -- Elmer J. Doran, San Bernardino  
John C. Lyons, Los Angeles  
Maurice A. Skates, Los Angeles  
C. T. Lehmann, Los Angeles  
Thomas L. Pitts, Los Angeles  
Pat Somerset, Hollywood
- District No. 4 -- L. McClain, San Pedro
- District No. 5 -- William A. Dean, Santa Barbara
- District No. 6 -- Paul L. Reeves, Fresno
- District No. 7 -- C. A. Green, Modesto
- District No. 8 -- Anthony Agrillo, San Jose
- District No. 9 -- Arthur F. Dougherty, San Francisco  
George Kelly, San Francisco  
Harry Lundeborg, San Francisco  
Victor S. Swanson, San Francisco
- District No. 10 -- Robert S. Ash, Oakland  
Harry C. Grady, Oakland
- District No. 11 -- Howard Reed, Martinez
- District No. 12 -- Lowell Nelson, Vallejo
- District No. 13 -- Harry Finks, Sacramento
- District No. 14 -- Albin J. Gruhn, Eureka
- District No. 15 -- Roy Walker, Westwood

SECRETARY-TREASURER: C. J. Haggerty

The fifth day's proceedings, which were not distributed to the delegates, will be included in the final proceedings which are published annually by the Federation. Copies will be sent to the affiliated organizations.

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U.S.F. LABOR-MANAGEMENT SCHOOL IN SAN FRANCISCO UNDER WAY

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The fall session of the Labor-Management School conducted by the University of San Francisco got under way October 5 and will continue until December 9, with classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings each week, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. This marks the second year that the University of San Francisco is conducting such a school, and the response to its invitation has been extremely encouraging.

The classes are being held on the University of San Francisco campus at 2130 Fulton Street.

Courses are open to union members, representatives of management, and those directly connected with labor-management relations. No previous educational requirements are necessary, and no tuition fees are charged. To help with expenses, a registration fee of \$5.00 will be accepted from those able and willing to pay.

No restrictions as to the number of courses one may take are imposed.

The courses will consist of industrial ethics, the Taft-Hartley Act after one year, parliamentary practice, public speaking, California labor law, debating, inflation, industrial relations and collective bargaining.

A great number of AFL union members attended the school last year and more have signed up for this year.

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EMPLOYMENT MISCELLANY

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Factory employment in California increased to 523,600 production workers in August from 496,100 in July, according to a release of the Department of Industrial Relations for the State of California.

Primarily responsible for this rise of 27,500 was seasonal expansion in canning and lumber, and gains in aircraft, apparel and iron

and steel.

Total employment in manufacturing industries, including clerical, administrative, sales and other non-factory workers, reached 770,900 in August. This is the highest level since the war and is more than 10,000 above the year-ago total of 760,200 wage and salary workers. In August 1945, the month of Japan's capitulation, a total of 889,000 wage and salary workers was employed.

In the Los Angeles industrial area, factory employment rose to the highest peacetime August level in History, largely as a result of increases in the food products and apparel industries. The current level of 243,600 production workers is almost 9,000 above August a year ago. At the termination of hostilities in August 1945, factories in Los Angeles County employed 314,900 wage earners.

In the San Francisco Bay industrial area, the number of production workers increased to 124,400 in August, 5,700 above the preceding month, reflecting gains in the canning and iron and steel industries. Factory employment in the area in August compares with 139,100 in August 1947 and 185,800 in August 1945.

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#### U. S. SAVINGS BOND DRIVE SUCCESS DUE TO LABOR AND OTHER LEADERS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The United States Security Loan drive to sell savings bonds between April 15 and July 17, 1948 was a success due to the efforts of thousands of volunteers from organized and unorganized labor as well as from agriculture, business and finance, the U. S. Treasury reported this month.

As a result of the drive, nearly \$3 billion dollars was invested in U. S. Savings Bonds, 1,500 large firms were added to the Payroll Savings Program, and 2,250,000 persons became participants in the Payroll and Bond-a-Month automatic buying plans. One of the major facts of the campaign was the increased proportion of total sales made in the E Bond field; the net gain in this type of bond amounted to \$1,016,129,000 between 1946 and 1948.

A good many unions also took advantage of the special offering of F and G Bonds from July 1 through July 15 and raised their annual purchases to the \$1 million permitted for this drive. All organizations with sick and health benefit funds, with pension or insurance funds were eligible for participation.

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