

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

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THE SMEAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST PROPOSITION #13 INTENSIFIES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The greatest crime that can be committed, according to professional publicists whose ethics are determined by income, is for labor to seek to increase unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation benefits, or to obtain a fair employment practices act, or any similar minimum social requirement. This is the great bugaboo dangled before the California Feature Service's sucker list in an effort to intimidate them by proving that, should the State Senate be reapportioned on a population basis, then labor would request certain social reforms.

That it is necessary, at this late date, to argue for the benefits of a minimum social security program is astonishing. But in the realm of the illiteracy that pervades subsidized penmen, a request to increase unemployment insurance payments so that a worker out of employment would not have to seek the Golden Gate Bridge, it is apparently considered a capital offense. It amazes these gentlemen that workers are also entitled to temporary and permanent disability under the Workmen's Compensation Act to the extent of \$40 a week. A prepaid medical care system is an outrageous demand, and the idea that fair employment practices, without regard to race, color or religion, should be safeguarded by law, is completely unreasonable.

One thing is clear: the ugly ogre of fascism is not confined to Europe; totalitarianism has its advocates outside of the iron curtain.

Return the State Senate to the People - - - "Yes" #13

There are many **ways** of earning a living, and labor argues with no one in this respect. But when profits are to be obtained -- and by that we mean substantial profits -- on the basis of discrediting and smearing labor, then it is time to inquire into the inequities of a system that permits such practices.

Labor has acknowledged from the beginning that it supports re-apportionment of the State Senate on the basis that it has faith in the principles of majority rule as propounded by the Founding Fathers of our country, that it believes all the people should have representation, that a Legislature which will be aware of its responsibilities to the people of the state will meet the social and economic needs of the state.

If this is not the true function of government, then we can assure those who speak the loudest against the danger of totalitarianism that they are the greatest salesmen for a system that seeks to maintain poverty for the mass of the people and affluence for the privileged minority. This is the pattern -- rule by the privileged minority -- that has always preceded the collapse of democracy, and it is a sad commentary that in California there are gentlemen who make a living, and a very handsome one, by advocating the most vicious kind of class rule.

The word "intemperate" is used by these same publicists as an adjective to describe labor leaders. But there are other ugly words in the dictionary. As far as labor is concerned, it is high time that it became intemperate with those who seek to make a creed and dogma of greed, ignorance and selfishness.

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LANDLORDS WOULD RAISE RENTS AT LEAST 20 PERCENT

(CFIN)SAN FRANCISCO.--The National Association of Apartment Owners at its 7th annual convention in Coronado, California, last week mapped a campaign for ending rent control when the present law comes

up for reconsideration on March 31, 1949. In the interim, landlords will pester tenants with pleas for relief and promise that removal of restrictions will benefit tenants.

The so-called relief, they indicate in fine print, will amount to at least a 20 percent rent increase and will certainly be a big relief to the owners, though it is hard to see how tenants will benefit.

At the time price controls were removed in mid-1946, proponents of decontrol urged that production would increase and prices would fall; instead, food prices have risen 62.5 percent throughout the nation.

If landlords now admit that a 20 percent increase is likely after decontrol, the actual increase will probably be at least twice that much. At the present time, rentals in decontrolled rental units are about 70 percent above those in controlled units.

The benefits landlords expect to gain by decontrol is indicated by the fact that the Association convention is planning a campaign fund of a quarter of a million dollars to increase the profits on their \$5 billion investment.

A vote for the candidates endorsed by Labor's League for Political Education and by local AFL political organizations is the only way the 14 million families now living in controlled units can protect their homes and prevent a further rise in their living costs.

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LABOR PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ERP

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Marshall Plan aid is successfully helping Europe to help itself, and on the whole, morale is improving in Europe; also, communism and communistic methods are losing ground and there is a prospect of mobilizing a strong democratic labor movement in Europe. Such is the report, in a joint letter to the 15 million American trade unionists, of the two labor advisers to the Economic Cooperation Administration in charge of administering Marshall Plan aid to Europe, Clinton S. Golden, formerly of the United Steel Workers,

CIO, and Bert M. Jewell, formerly president of the AFL Railway Employees Department.

American labor has an important role in this program, as indicated by the position Golden and Jewell hold in ECA. In addition, Boris Shishkin, former economist of the AFL, heads the Paris labor office, and Harry Martin, president of the Newspaper Guild, CIO, is handling labor information work from Paris.

Increased production is the keynote of the ERP program, and for this purpose an Anglo-U. S. Joint Council on Production has been established. It will consist of six British employers, six British unionists, four American employers and four American unionists. This Council may be duplicated in other countries.

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HAZARDOUS HOURS FOR WORKERS REVEALED BY
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The hours between 10 and 11 in the morning, and between 3 and 4 in the afternoon, are the most hazardous for California workers, according to a report released by Paul Scharrenberg, Director of Industrial Relations for the state of California.

This is based on an analysis of industrial accidents reported to the Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the California Department of Industrial Relations, which indicates that more workers suffer disabling injuries during those hours than at any other time of the day.

"The record clearly shows," the report states, "that the probability of getting hurt is greatest during the third hour of the workday and during the third hour after return from the lunch period.

"In the morning the number of accidents increases steadily each hour, reaching a peak between 10 and 11 a.m., with 14 percent of all disabling industrial injuries occurring during the 24-hour day concentrated in that sixty-minute period. More than $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as many accidents occur during that hour than between 8 and 9 a.m. The number drops slightly between 11 and 12 but remains relatively high until noon.

"After lunch the number of accidents again begins to build up hourly, reaching a second peak between 3 and 4 p.m. Twelve percent of all disabling injuries occur during that hour, twice as many as between 1 and 2 p.m.

"The study of accidents according to time of day is part of the program of the Department of Industrial Relations to develop complete

information concerning industrial injuries for use in accident prevention work. We now have information concerning where, when during the day, how, and to whom accidents occur."

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YOUR EMPLOYER WILL VOTE -- WILL YOU?

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Every labor leader, every business agent, every executive board member and every trade unionist in this state and nation must vote in November, and must see to it, personally, that his friends and relations vote. The California State Federation of Labor, your central labor council, your own union and their political organizations have all prepared material to help you.

Labor, organized and unorganized, has the greatest stake in this election in terms of effective price control and housing legislation. Inflation bears most heavily on the workers. Since the war, their earnings have lagged behind the cost of living, while tax reductions have benefited the rich and given them additional profits and dividends.

Yet, statistics from election returns and opinion polls prove that the well-educated, who are usually the rich, are the ones who turn out to vote in November. Throughout the country, 93,000,000 people are old enough to vote, but some 24 million are expected to stay away from the polls simply through indifference. Of this 24 million, well over half are expected to be working people.

Dr. George Gallup, in an interview published in the United States News, October 15, 1948, stated:

"About 80 percent of the people who have had college training vote. About 60 percent of the people who have had high-school training go to the polls in presidential elections, and about 40 percent of the people who have not gone beyond grade school."

And he adds that education and income are pretty closely related.

Indifference can be and has been conquered. Let's do it this time. Know the issues, know the candidates, and get out the vote.

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