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# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

October 27, 1948

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BUILDING TRADES WORKERS GIVEN TIME OFF TO VOTE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--To provide time to vote for the 100,000 employees of the construction industry in the 12 southern California counties, the Joint Conference Board, a labor-management committee, representing over 25,000 general and subcontractors as well as employees of the construction industry, has decided that all construction jobs be shut down at noon on Election Day, November 2, 1948. The Conference Board met at Carlsbad, California, last week to discuss administrative portions of their master agreements.

The subject came up of affording employees an opportunity to vote on Election Day by taking time off. As a result of the discussion and the desire to establish uniformity and avoid disruption of work, the Joint Conference Board recommended to the contractor members of the Associated General Contractors, Southern California and San Diego Chapters, the Building Contractors' Association of California and the various Councils and Locals of the building trades unions that construction jobs be shut down at noon on Election Day. This will provide an opportunity for the 100,000 construction workers in southern California to cast their ballots.

It is an excellent example that has been set, and demonstrates that the construction industry is interested in seeing that the employees in that industry exercise their right to vote. If this were followed in other industries, the fear about a weak vote would be baseless. We hope this example will be imitated by employers in other industries, as we know of no better means of providing for a large turnout of the citizenry to cast their ballots on November 2.

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

The proponents of Proposition 13, the measure providing for the reapportionment of the State Senate, are confident that if a big vote turnout occurs, this measure will be adopted. The greatest danger is that many people will not exercise their voting privilege. The fear that a great apathy exists among the people in this country in this election can be cured only with concrete measures, such as that taken by the building construction industry, and not by mere words.

The failure on the part of the opponents of Proposition 13 to come up with any arguments is indicated by their campaign of smearing the intentions of those who are backing Proposition 13, and their seeking to discredit the measure by characterizing it as a ridiculous racketeer proposition. This reveals the desperation of the opponents, since, in the absence of arguments, you always resort to abuse.

A last-minute appeal to the labor vote of the state of California will be made by C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the Federation, explaining frankly and candidly what labor's position is and why it supports Proposition 13. Secretary Haggerty's address will be carried by the ABC network, 7:15 to 7:30, Thursday night, October 28.

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#### COST OF LIVING AND PROFITS UP

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The San Francisco consumers' price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the month of September 1948 stood at 177.1 (1935-39=100.0), an increase of 1.7 percent since last June and 6.9 percent since September 1947. The Los Angeles index for September stood at 171.0, the same as August, but 1.3 percent higher than a year ago. The index for both cities is at an all-time high.

As this News Letter has frequently pointed out, the cause of higher prices is not higher wages, for wages have lagged behind the increase in living costs. The cause lies in the failure of the 80th Congress to take action to curb rising prices, and in the greed and selfishness of corporations in seeking higher prices and higher profits.

As a result, profits in the United States were at an all-time high in 1947, according to a survey by the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission covering a sample of 232 corporations in 19 industries. According to this survey, which carefully weeds out spurious costs and places them where they belong in the profits column, 1947 profits amounted to \$1 billion, or an increase of 18.2 percent above 1946 levels.

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#### WAGE INCREASES DURING AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A tabulation prepared by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for the period August 16, 1948 to September 15, 1948, in the Pacific-Rocky Mountain states shows that wage increases negotiated through collective bargaining ranged from 5 cents to 16 cents an hour, plus retroactive payment and improved vacations. Major contract gains for AFL and independent unions were as follows:

I.A.M. Metal Trades Council, Alhambra, 5-10 cents, 800 workers.

Lumber and Sawmill Workers, AFL, No. 2288 and No. 1407, Los Angeles and Long Beach, 12½ cents and 6 paid holidays, 6,000 workers.

Teamsters No. 589, Los Angeles, 11 cents, 500 workers.

Furniture Workers, AFL, Tacoma, Washington, 11 cents and improved vacations and security clause, 3600 workers.

Upholsterers and Bedding Workers, AFL, Seattle, 11 cents and improved vacations, 4000 workers.

Butchers, AFL, slaughterhouses, Bay Area, 15 cents and sick leave benefits, 1200 workers.

Canneries, AFL, Portland, Oregon, 5 percent (and other benefits), 1800 workers.

Flour, Feed and Cereal Workers, AFL, Seattle, 10½ cents and improved vacations, 1500 workers.

Cabinet Makers and Millmen, AFL, Los Angeles, 12½ cents, 1009 workers.

Retail Clerks, AFL, Seattle, \$3.00 a week to men, \$2.50 for women, and added vacation benefits, 3000 workers.

Building Trades, Atkinson and Jones, Richland, Washington, 16 cents, 9500 workers.

Street Carmen, AFL, No. 1277, Los Angeles, 14 cents.

Street Carmen, AFL, No. 1309, San Diego, 11 cents and other benefits, 600 workers.

Air Line Stewards and Stewardesses, AFL, Transcontinental and Western Airlines, 5 percent, 550 hostesses and pursers.

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#### EUROPE NOW HAS SURPLUS OF WORKERS, ILO SAYS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The number of workers in Europe available for emigration overwhelmingly outweighs the requirements of European countries for foreign labor, it was indicated today in figures made public by the International Labor Office at Geneva.

Replies received in response to ILO questionnaires sent to the 22 European member countries of the organization show that 275,000 workers are available for emigration in the British Zone of Germany, 270,000 in the United States Zone, 52,000 in the Netherlands, 5,500 in Switzerland, and between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 in Italy.

The French authorities claim it is not practical as yet to make any estimate of surplus labor available in their zone of Germany.

The International Refugee Organization reported that, of the refugees under its care, about 330,000, chiefly in Germany and Austria, were seeking employment on September 1.

The countries indicating requirements for foreign labor can only absorb an insignificant number of the large number available.

Figures with regard to the countries behind the Iron Curtain are not available, and the slave labor camps that exist there would make impossible a surplus of labor.

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#### GENERAL INDUSTRY SAFETY ORDERS HEARINGS NOVEMBER 9-10, LOS ANGELES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Proposed General Safety Orders hearings are scheduled for November 9-10, 1948, Room 1006, State Building, 217 West First Street, Los Angeles, at 10:00 a.m.

At the conclusion of the Proposed General Industry Safety Orders Public Hearing in Los Angeles on September 23, 1948, it was agreed to forego the meetings set for October 21 and 22 in Los Angeles. The reason for changing the date was because of a clash with the National Safety Congress and Exposition being held in Chicago, October 18-22. The hearing will resume in Los Angeles on November 9 and conclude on November 10.

The San Francisco hearings were concluded with the September 16, 1948, meeting.

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RECORD REGISTRATION SPELLS PEOPLE'S VICTORY  
ON ELECTION DAY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Final registration figures released by the Secretary of State show 5,062,000 registered voters in California, a record high, and 22.2 percent above the registration in the 1944 presidential election.

A large registration should mean a heavy vote on Election Day, and when the voters turn out, labor--organized and unorganized--gains.

Remember that when labor slept at the polls in 1946, the Taft-Hartley Act followed. It takes only a few minutes to vote. If necessary, you may take time off from work. And two or three more votes in each precinct can often turn the tide.

Truman and Barkley have received the endorsement of your California State Federation and endorsements have also been made in the many close and heated congressional, senate and assembly districts, in accordance with action by local Labor Political Leagues.

On state propositions, vote YES on 1, 2, 5, 13, 14 and NO on 3, 6, 12, and 15.

Above all, vote YES on PROPOSITION 13, for a more representative Senate, and YES on PROPOSITION 14 for better housing.

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