

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,
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STUDY ON REASONS WHY PERSONS FILE UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS MADE BY DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Although a study of the reasons claimants have given for filing new unemployment insurance claims was based on a valid sample, it does not give the most accurate picture of the reasons claimants leave their jobs, because, as the study itself reveals, the information given by the claimants was not always complete.

Nevertheless, it does disclose information of some importance. The study, according to Mr. Railey, Chief of Research and Statistics, was based on a sample consisting of approximately 2.5 percent of all new claims filed through October 20, 1948. Claims filed by men constituted 65 percent of the 1,393 cases in the sample.

A heavy concentration of claims filed were classified as layoffs. Almost a third of the 950 layoffs were persons out of jobs because of slack work. Men with skilled occupations and women with service, clerical, sales, and unskilled occupations were affected by layoffs in the largest proportion.

Combining detailed reasons under general headings, the intent was to prevent the summary from becoming unwieldy, and at times it was difficult to distinguish clearly between two related reasons because of insufficient information supplied by the claimants.

The number of workers under seasonal work layoffs were, for the most part, workers in food processing and resort activities. The claimants grouped under "completion of job" included temporary workers hired for a specified time and also construction workers.

There were several cases of men replacing women and members of the employer's family taking jobs.

The study goes into such reasons as persons who quit because of leaving the area, women who leave to join their husbands elsewhere, persons who went into business and failed. A number of reasons were domestic difficulties, which included husbands' objections to the job and the inability to find persons to take care of the children.

The layoffs constituted the biggest percentage of those filing claims. A subsection of the layoffs, constituting a large component of this total, was due to lack of business or work. The number of "quits," roughly a fourth of the total of layoffs, and the number of discharges were an insignificant portion of the total.

The statistics revealed by the study refute the oft-repeated, irresponsible charge that malingering is resorted to by workers to obtain unemployment benefits.

It is to be hoped that the Department will some time prepare a more comprehensive study, since only in this way will it be possible to establish what labor has constantly insisted is the case: that workers do not resort to unemployment benefits if it is at all possible to obtain employment, and that this is true in the overwhelming majority of cases. There have been examples of sensationalists who have tried to compromise the whole system of unemployment benefits by reporting inaccurately isolated cases, thereby seeking to compromise the status of the millions of unfortunate unemployed workers who are forced to become claimants for unemployment benefits because of circumstances beyond their control.

STANDARD OIL'S WAGE INCREASE
WILL INCREASE PROFITS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Following the practice of many corporations in the postwar period, Standard Oil of California is using a wage increase as an excuse for a price increase, although record profits could have absorbed the wage increase.

Along with other oil companies, Standard granted a $12\frac{1}{2}$ cent per hour increase, despite the long and bitter strike for more. Its profits in 1947 amounted to \$107,268,575, an increase of \$40,311,964 from the previous year. Profit figures for 1948 are not available for Standard, but Business Week, October 30, 1948, commented that "still the most spectacular of 1948's corporate profits producers are the oil companies," with one company reporting an increase of 141% during the first nine months of 1948 over the same period in 1947, and other companies showing increases from 45 to 90 percent above the first nine months of 1947.

Standard's wage increase was only $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour, the same as or less than that given by less profitable companies and employers in recent months. Standard, together with other oil companies, resorted to every trick in the book in an attempt to break the oil workers' unions striking for a decent wage increase.

Labor costs in the oil industry are exceptionally low, and averaged 17 percent of sales in 1947, or less than in 27 of the 31 industrial groups surveyed by Standard and Poor's in August 1948.

There is little doubt that despite the wage increase, Standard Oil will be more profitable as a result of the wage increase which gave it an excuse to increase prices and profits.

WAGE INCREASES FROM 5 TO 25 CENTS WON
BY AFL UNIONS IN CALIFORNIA

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Wage increases won through collective bargaining by AFL and independent unions during the period from September 16 to October 15, 1948 in California ranged from 5 to 25 cents per hour, with the majority of major negotiations resulting in increases of over 12 cents an hour.

The following tabulation is based on the survey reported each month by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Regional Office and is limited to negotiations involving more than 500 workers. Increases are in cents per hour, unless otherwise indicated.

Boilermakers, AFL, 7 western states, 20 cents, 50 cents additional subsistence, 3500 workers.

Aircraft Machinists No. 1125, Vultee, San Diego, 12 cents (none less than 5%) retroactive to August 16, 1948, 6 paid holidays and extra day at Christmas, 7500 workers.

Potters, Los Angeles, 10% general increase (about 13 cents), 2000 workers.

Furniture workers, San Francisco and Alameda County, 10 cents, retroactive to August 1, 1948, 660 workers.

Furniture workers, Los Angeles, 7½%, 2500 workers.

Fish Cannery Workers, Monterey, 16 cents, retroactive to August 1, 1948, 2600 workers.

Bakery and Confectionery Workers, Los Angeles, 7½ cents, retroactive 150 days, 582 workers.

Teamsters No. 70, Coca Cola Co. and Carbonated Beverage Assn., East Bay and San Francisco, \$6.50 per week, 875 workers.

Teamsters No. 595, Los Angeles, 15 cents, 550 workers.

Meat and Provision Drivers No. 186, Los Angeles, \$2.50 week, 1050 workers.

Butchers, San Francisco and Marin, \$10.00 per week, 700 workers.

Retail Clerks, East Bay, 12½ cents, clerks; 25 cents, managers, 6000 clerks.

Railway conductors and trainmen, 10 cents, 175,000 conductors, trainmen, yardmen and dining car employees, nationwide.

I.A.M. No. 94, Motor Truck Assn. of Southern California, 10 cents, 6 paid holidays, retroactive August 1, 1948, 550 workers.

Cleaning and Dyeing Workers, San Francisco, 5 cents and 2½ cents additional, effective 1/1/49, 4/1/49 and 10/1/49. 10 cents to office workers and drivers, effective immediately, 4000 workers.

Another report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that hourly earnings for production workers in all manufacturing industries throughout the country reached a record high in September of \$1.363, an increase of 1 percent over the \$1.349 reported for August.

Weekly earnings declined slightly to \$54.06, due to the Labor Day holiday for all manufacturing, but increased slightly on non-durable goods to \$50.13.

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UNION WINS AGAINST BARBER FAVORING WORKING
UNTIL 10 AT NIGHT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Another rugged individualist recently made his appearance in the labor field, this time a barber who insisted that not only did he have a right to compel his barbers to work at night, at least until 10 p.m., but that the Barbers' Union, on behalf of the Journeymen Barbers and the fair barber shops, have no right to publicize the facts by a peaceful picket line.

This particular barber brought suit for an injunction against the Barbers' Union to restrain a picket line composed of not more than two or three pickets who paraded peacefully in the vicinity of the shop. The Superior Court granted a restraining order and an order to show cause returnable November 8 in the Superior Court in Long Beach.

Clarence E. Todd, an attorney for the California State Federation of Labor, appeared for the Union. He stated to the court that the attorneys for the employers should be called upon first to explain the right to maintain such an action in the face of the decisions of our highest courts that picketing is an exercise of the constitutional right of free speech. The argument of the employer's attorneys was that there must be some kind of picketing which is unlawful, and that the courts of the State of Washington and other states have granted injunctions against picketing.

After an interesting discussion between the court and the attorneys for both sides, the Judge sustained the demurrer of the Union and dissolved the restraining order, which made everybody happy except barbers who like to work until 10 o'clock at night.

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