

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO,
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HIGHLIGHTS OF AFL MEET

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The severing of all trade relations with the Soviet Union and the establishment of a defensive military alliance with the free nations of Europe was called for by the International Labor Relations Committee of the American Federation of Labor, with favorable action upon the request by the convention expected on Monday, November 22.

The Committee also called for a United States of Europe and demanded a review and revision of the secret agreements of Yalta and Potsdam. Other recommendations included complete support of the Marshall Plan, settlement of international problems only through United Nations' channels, outlawing fifth columns in all nations by international law, consolidation of all occupied zones of Germany into one independent nation, modification of the veto provision of the United Nations' Charter, support of the Baruch plan for international control and inspection of atomic energy as a prerequisite to effectual gradual universal disarmament.

On the Taft-Hartley Law, the Executive Council of the Federation called for its outright repeal, and the reenactment of the original labor relations act.

The Council also pointed out that the continued rise in prices has presented Congress and the country with the Number One domestic problem -- inflation. It called for an effective anti-inflation program as being vital to the nation's economic health.

On housing, the Executive Council scored Congress for its failure to do anything about it and emphasized that the AFL should spare no effort to secure the enactment of a comprehensive long-range housing program when the next Congress convenes.

It recommended the raising of the minimum wage level as a primary legislative aim of the AFL.

On taxation, the Council report pointed out that the overall effect of the new tax law has given taxpayers in income groups over \$3,000 a year the bulk of the savings, and stated that the tax burden should be lightened on those in the low income groups. The report likewise recommended that the AFL continue to oppose any form of sales tax with all the might the Federation can muster.

On education, the report urged continued advocacy of federal appropriations to aid state systems and to equalize opportunities for all, irrespective of the income of the family to which the children belong, their place of residence, their religion or their race, and the redoubling of efforts to obtain enactment of this much needed legislation at the next session of the Congress.

On civil rights, the report pointed out that to ensure a healthy economic growth of the nation, to safeguard and sustain the general welfare of the people of America, it is the duty of the legislative branch of our government to uphold the principles of equal opportunity for all. The AFL has supported anti-lynching, anti-poll tax and fair employment practice legislation, and recommends that continued efforts be made in the next session of Congress to advance these objectives.

On social security, the Council charged the 80th Congress with failure to improve the nation's social security structure, and urged prompt action to broaden coverage of this insurance and to increase benefits. The AFL fought unavailingly for enactment of the Wagner-Murray-Dingle Bill and intends to renew the fight in the next Congress.

A major gap in the whole structure of the social security program is the lack of health insurance, which the Council report emphasized. Action to provide this kind of service to the people of this country is vital to the nation's welfare.

The convention will come to a close according to schedule on Monday, November 22. The proceedings of the convention will be available to the various locals, as has been the case in the past, as soon as the printers are able to complete the file.

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WORKERS BENEFIT FROM CHANGE OF WORK WEEK
UNDER WAGE HOUR ACT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--For various reasons many employers are now changing the day of the week on which the work week opens for purposes of computing overtime under the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Acts. Such changes are entirely legitimate, but during the period in which the change is made, overtime must be computed in the manner most favorable to the employee, according to a guide dated October 25, 1948, prepared by the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the U. S. Department of Labor, and available from the Regional Office, Room 150, Federal Office Building, San Francisco 2, California.

According to the division, if some of the hours which an employee works overlap both the old work week and the new, the Division requires that the employee's straight time and overtime compensation be computed by counting such work time as "hours worked" in whichever of the two work weeks its inclusion will yield the higher total compensation for both work weeks. The employee's time must be computed first on the basis of the old work week, and then on the basis of the new one. The method most advantageous to the employee, in terms of total income for both weeks, must be used.

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LABOR'S LEAGUE SUMMARIZES ELECTION RESULTS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The final results of the November 2, 1948 elections have now been summarized by Labor's League for Political Education on the basis of the Taft-Hartley record of the candidates.

In the Senate, 17 enemies were retired, every old friend was saved, and 12 new friends were elected. Of the 32 Senate seats up for reelection in 1948, only four were held by friends, of the remaining 28, 17 will not return to plague labor in the 81st Congress.

Labor has now at least 38 friends in the Senate, enough to sustain a veto, but not enough to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act.

In the House of Representatives, 172 friends were elected, 106 enemies were defeated, and every friendly seat was saved. Only three representatives who voted against the T-H Act were defeated, but all three were replaced by candidates who are expected to have as good or better voting records.

In the House, as in the Senate, we have enough friends to sustain a veto, but we do not have a majority.

A bigger job is ahead for labor in 1950. Every seat in the House and a third of those of the Senate will be up for reelection. Labor must work twice as hard in 1950 to overcome the lack of interest usual in Congressional election years, and to reelect its present friends and to gain a clear majority in both houses.

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NATIONAL FARM LABOR UNION PROGRESS IN CALIFORNIA

(CFNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--In its annual report to the 15th annual convention, the executive board of the National Farm Labor Union reports that considerable progress has been made in California this year. The Di Giorgio strike is still continuing, despite the combined

opposition of the Di Giorgio Fruit Corporation and the Associated Farmers, who have attempted to break the strike through incitement to violence, importation of strike breakers, and a Taft-Hartley injunction.

Despite the strike, the Union found time and energy for other organizational activities in California. A strike of cotton choppers at Fresno resulted in increased wages and more members. New locals have been organized in many communities, and Mexican and Negro laborers are now joining the union. A contractors' association has been formed both in Bakersfield and in Fresno to facilitate the employment of union members.

Nationally, the Union has waged an intensive campaign against the importation of "Wetbacks" who were admitted with the tacit assistance of the U. S. Employment Service and the U. S. Immigration Service, and is seeking to end the state of virtual peonage which exists among foreign agricultural workers brought to this country.

It is also urging that locals in all states seek the assistance of fellow unionists in obtaining unemployment insurance and other labor legislation rights for agricultural workers. In California, the Union reports that the State Chamber of Commerce requested that agricultural workers be placed under unemployment insurance so that such workers would not flood the welfare and relief offices of large communities.

At the present time the National Farm Labor Union has 261 local unions, with 11,561 men and women in good standing; an additional 20,000 hold nominal membership in the union. Among them are Negro and white cotton field workers from the southern states; citrus fruit pickers from Florida; fruit, vegetable and cotton workers from California; and dairymen from Louisiana and Pennsylvania.

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