

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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REACTIONARY ORGANIZATION RACKET REVIVED

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Committee for Constitutional Government, a revamped National Committee to Uphold the Constitution, founded in 1937 by Frank Gannett, newspaper publisher, is again seeking to shake down all unsuspecting people as a result of the elections, which swept into Congress the progressive, liberal forces of this country.

In a letter addressed to organizations and individuals, issued by a Mr. Sumner Gerard, Treasurer of this organization, the appeal is made that unless "the trend toward national Socialism shown on November 2 is checked, the socialist tide will sweep over America." It goes on to intimidate those who can be intimidated by stating that it will diminish the wealth and real income and take away more of the people's freedom.

After building up the proper atmosphere of fear and hatred, the Committee comes to the point by requesting an increase in its income from \$33,000 to \$50,000 per month so that they can double the effectiveness of their work. With \$75,000 a month, it says, it can be much more effective, and with \$100,000 a month it can do full justice to the job.

This Committee has influential connections in the Republican Party, among Southern Democrats and in Congress, according to Friends of Democracy, a non-sectarian, non-profit organization in New York, which was founded to fight anti-democratic influences in the United States. According to the Friends of Democracy, the Committee for Constitutional Government has brought pressure group techniques to a

point of perfection. In 1946 it spent \$470,000, supplied by 25,000 individual subscribers and contributors, to distribute 16 million pieces of printed matter to one million leadership individuals.

According to FOD, one of the affiliates through which the Committee operates is America's Future, Inc., which syndicates the writings and sponsors the Sunday radio broadcasts of Sam Pettengill, former congressman and one of the nation's outstanding reactionary publicists.

The Federation wishes to alert its affiliates and all members not to be misled by this so-called Committee for Constitutional Government and to see that their friends in their respective communities are similarly informed. A campaign to stir up such bitterness and hatred cannot be dismissed. Every effort will be made to expose the activities of this organization and similar ones which are seeking to inject the totalitarian kind of propaganda with which Europe has been contaminated.

Progressive legislation fulfilling the needs of the masses will remove the base for the existence of hate organizations like this, since they will no longer be able to exploit problems toward which no effort at solution has been made.

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15TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON LABOR LEGISLATION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--President John F. Shelley attended the 15th Annual Conference on Labor Legislation, which took place November 30, December 1 and 2 in Washington, D. C. Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin presided.

The Conference is important not only as the 15th Conference of this type, but also because 44 state legislatures will be in session during the coming year and the new spirit shown in the November elections will make possible important changes and improvements in labor legislation in many states.

The Conference was attended by delegates from more than 40 states, including state officials and representatives of labor organizations.

At this writing, the results of the Conference have not yet been made known. It is expected, however, that the delegates will continue to urge the passage of social legislation in the states while opposing any further enactment of anti-labor legislation. The committee on state industrial relations at the 1947 conference recommended that the delegates go on record in favor of the repeal of all state legislation detrimental to the rights of organized workers.

Other speakers besides Secretary Tobin included Assistant Secretaries of Labor John W. Gibson and Ralph Wright, and Director William L. Connolly of the Bureau of Labor Standards.

The Annual Conference on Labor Legislation was first called in 1933 under the direction of the then Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins. It provides a valuable opportunity to exchange information on labor legislation and enforcement problems in the various states and aids in promoting uniformity in legislation.

The 1948 conference consisted of seven committees which discussed the following subjects: child labor, wage and hour regulations, state programs of labor statistics, safety and health, workmen's compensation, industrial relations laws and the International Labor Organization's relations with the states.

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STANDARDS FOR FOREIGN MIGRATORY WORKERS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--At a conference in October 1948, held at Laredo, Texas, representatives of the Confederation Proletaria Nacional of Mexico and the National Farm Labor Union, AFL, considered the problems of illegal migrants from Mexico whose conditions undermine the decent working and living standards of workers in the United States.

The conference prepared the following amendments to the 1948 agreement between the United States and Mexico and will urge their respective governments to incorporate them in a new agreement:

1. Physical examinations to be given only once and at the point of contracting.
2. Cancellation of the work contract by the employer or force majeure to be accompanied by the payment of three months' wages plus the payment of wages for the unexpired term of the contract.
3. Recognition of the right of U. S. trade unions to represent the workers.
4. Prohibition of company stores in places where Nationals are employed.
5. Wage guarantee of 100% of the term of the contract, instead of the 75 percent now written into the agreement.
6. Extension of conditions of employment higher than those stipulated in the contract when such conditions exist for domestic workers.
7. Denial of the right to employ Nationals to all employers who have been guilty of discrimination against Mexican workers.
8. The right of Nationals to join strikes declared by United States trade unions, with right to back pay and participation in the benefits obtained by the strike.
9. Protection for the Nationals in cases of epidemics or other adverse health conditions.
10. The obligation of government agencies to consult with trade unions before determining whether there is effective need for the recruitment of Nationals.
11. The determination of minimum wages by tri-partite committees on which labor shall be represented.
12. The recognition of a trade union representative by government agencies for the protection of the interests of the workers at all contracting points.
13. Free access of trade union representatives to all places where Nationals are employed.
14. The publication, at least every fifteen days, by government agencies of lists of all Nationals employed in the contracting country, with names, place of employment and contract number.

The two labor organizations also agreed to establish a permanent joint liaison committee for the exchange of information, including wage rates. The National Farm Labor Union also agreed to admit as members all members of the Confederation Proletaria Nacional. The CPN agreed to establish an affiliate for workers contracting for employment in the United States. Both organizations pledged themselves to work against discrimination based on Mexican nationality.

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LOS ANGELES COST OF LIVING RISES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The consumers' price index for Los Angeles, compiled by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, stood at 171.8 on October 15, 1948. This was an increase of 0.5 percent from September 1948, and 6.5 percent more than October 1947, 26.2 percent more than June 1946, the last month of price control, and 70.9 percent more than in the prewar month of August 1939.

The increase during the last month in Los Angeles was due to increases in the prices of food, clothing and miscellaneous items, with house-furnishings and fuel remaining unchanged. Rent was not surveyed this month.

Despite the fact that the third round of wage increases was largely concluded during the summer, average weekly earnings in manufacturing in Los Angeles in September 1948 were only 6.1 percent above levels of a year ago, or a slightly smaller increase than that of the cost of living during approximately the same period. Weekly earnings in wholesale trade were 5.9 percent above those of a year ago. Average weekly earnings in the Los Angeles area have increased but 16.5 percent since June 1946, or considerably less than the increase in prices.

In San Francisco, only food prices were surveyed in October; the food index dropped slightly by 0.5 percent, but was still nearly 7 percent above a year ago and almost 138 percent higher than in August 1939.

Throughout the country, the consumers' price index dropped 0.5 percent below the all-time high reached in August and September. This was the first decline in the index since March of this year.

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