

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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RECENT DISABILITY INSURANCE DECISIONS WILL GREATLY BENEFIT WORKERS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Of utmost importance to California workers are several precedent decisions involving disability insurance which have been handed down by the Appeals Board in the past few weeks. As a result, certain fundamental principles have been firmly established which will prove of inestimable benefit to disabled employees. Counsel for the California State Federation of Labor participated in all these proceedings.

The most outstanding decision has brought an end to the intolerable delay in receiving compensation suffered by many workers because of uncertainty whether a particular case came under workmen's compensation or disability insurance. Henceforth, unless the workmen's compensation agency, at the time of the decision by the disability insurance agency, has specifically found the individual eligible to receive workmen's compensation benefits, he will receive disability insurance benefits. This means that benefits will be paid promptly under either one system or the other.

In this and other decisions, the Appeals Board has specifically found that the Appeals Board will not itself make the determination of eligibility under some other law, such as the Workmen's Compensation Act, but will assume the individual is not eligible under such Act in absence of a determination by such other authority. The same rule applies to voluntary plans.

Injured seamen were the subject of other decisions in which important points were favorably established.

One of these held that maintenance and cure granted to an injured seaman was not either a workmen's compensation or an employer's liability benefit sufficient to disqualify him under the disability insurance act. Although it did find, however, that they were regular wages and that accordingly benefits were not payable, the ruling on the first point, namely, that it was not an employer's liability act, is a favorable one.

In another case, the Board held that lump sum damages received in a settlement under the Jones Act by an injured seaman were not the type of benefit provided in Section 207 of the Act so as to result in disqualification. The Board further found that there could be no allocation on a projected future basis of the amount received as damages for the purpose of disqualifying the individual for such weeks. Two points were thus successfully won with respect to this type of case, since not only does the Jones Act not disqualify but there cannot be apportionment in the absence of specific evidence on this point.

EXAMINATION FOR SUPERVISOR OF TRAINING AGREEMENTS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Applications for position of Supervisor of Training Agreements must be filed with the State Personnel Board not later than January 4, 1949. The specifications, which have been revised by the Board, are summed up as follows:

Definition of position: "Under direction, to assist employers or employee and employer groups in establishing and maintaining apprentice and other training on-the-job agreements; and to do other work as required."

Typical tasks: Contact employers and representatives of employee and employer groups concerning the establishment of apprentice and other training on-the-job standards; assist in establishing joint employee-employer committees to work out training agreements; attend meetings of joint committees and union and employee meetings and report through administrative channels the progress being made in establishing and administering training agreements for the various trades and occupations throughout the State; assist in coordinating the

activities of training agreements and assist in coordinating the various training programs; conduct hearings on disputes arising between employer and apprentices or trainees under the administration of training agreements and recommend the action to be taken in these cases; approve training programs for the Chief; talk before interested groups and explain the program of training agreements.

Educational requirements: Equivalent to completion of the twelfth grade. (Additional qualifying experience may be substituted for the required education on a year-for-year basis.)

Any person desiring to take the examination for this position should contact the Board's nearest office either in person, by mail, or by phone and ask for application form #678.

The addresses of the State Personnel Board offices where these applications may be secured are: Room 107, State Building, San Francisco 2; State Building, Los Angeles; 1015 L Street, Sacramento.

CALIFORNIA CONSUMERS RESISTING MERCHANDISE
AT PREVAILING INFLATIONARY PRICES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The consumer, in the last six months, has apparently turned the key against today's merchandise at prevailing prices. The market for modern home appliances, for instance, may continue to decline as current sales indicate, until prices scale down to a point commensurate with expendable income. This is the opinion of Stanley L. Kedzierski, Marketing Specialist, San Francisco Regional Office of the U. S. Department of Commerce, in an analysis of recent trends in that industry.

The home appliance industry has undergone great changes. Among the factors listed is over-expansion, both in manufacturing and in retail stores. In addition, it is the consensus of opinion among the manufacturers that too many dealers in the home appliance business possess little or no knowledge of selling methods, and that the months ahead will probably see the elimination of many of the weak or poorly operated. Others, however, fear that there are more serious underlying influences which are not too apparent at the present time.

To recapture the postwar market, manufacturers retooled as rapidly as possible, while many new enterprises, with no previous experience, began to produce conventional prewar appliances. The

electric iron business is an example, and this branch of the appliance industry was one of the first to fill the war-drained pipeline. But after the product had already begun to back up in the pipeline, three new electric irons were introduced, one by a vacuum cleaner manufacturer, one by a clock manufacturer, and the other by a flour milling concern.

This was also true of wholesalers of plumbing, electric goods, lumber, roofing, flooring, and auto supply houses, which secured distributors' franchises for home appliances, and retail stores mushroomed throughout the country.

Early in 1948 the home appliance industry began to learn that something had happened to the potential market. Appliances had begun to collect dust on the dealers' shelves, inventories were high, and the number of wholesale delinquent accounts were mounting. The significance of what was happening could no longer be ignored.

There was no lessening of desire for appliances or worsening of living standards. Prices, which were completely out of line, had encountered resistance. In the final analysis, it is the consumer who holds the key to this industry as well as others, and unless the prices are scaled down, no amount of propaganda or other technical procedures will attract the consumer. It is a danger sign, flowing from the inflationary condition which the people are now suffering.

In this connection it is not inappropriate to mention that a buyers' market appears to be back in an increasing number of commodities and many customers are "shopping around." The mere fact that manufacturers now have to concentrate more on considering all the factors which make for effective merchandising, which nearly became a "lost art" during recent years of shortages, indicates some very significant trends.

AMA RAISES HUGE FUND TO OPPOSE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN
THROUGHOUT NATION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A "grass roots doctors' rebellion" against the American Medical Association's plan to raise a \$3,500,000 war chest to fight the Truman Administration's proposed national health insurance program has been predicted by Dr. Channing Frothingham, twice president of the Massachusetts State Medical Society, and chairman of the Committee for the Nation's Health.

President William Green is an honorary vice-chairman of the Committee for the Nation's Health, a national group of doctors and laymen spearheading the fight for National Health Insurance. Also active on the Committee is Vice-President Matthew Woll and Director of Social Insurance Activities, Nelson Cruikshank.

Dr. Frothingham commented, "It is particularly disturbing to note that although many physicians of the AMA's membership support a national health insurance, the proposal to embark on a nation-wide multi-million dollar campaign against it was not made known to the membership in advance of the closed session at which the decision was reached."

He further charged that the AMA's ruling body, the House of Delegates, is not representative of its 140,000 members. "Whereas half of the country's active physicians are under 45," he pointed out, "only 5 percent of the Delegates are below this age level. Half of our active doctors are general practitioners, but only 10 percent of the Delegates fall within this category. The rest are specialists."

Dr. Frothingham criticized the House of Delegates for "pursuing a course unworthy of the medical profession and repugnant to the ethics of American doctors." He declared that AMA officers are failing "to take the leadership in conjunction with the AFL, CIO, farm, business, and consumer organizations to work out a program to bring adequate medical care within the reach of all Americans."

The Committee for the Nation's Health, Dr. Frothingham announced, would support "wholeheartedly" the Administration's proposals for national health insurance.