

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

151



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

January 5, 1949

GOVERNOR DISCUSSES VITAL ISSUES IN MESSAGE TO STATE LEGISLATURE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--In his message to the opening session of the 58th session of the California legislature, Governor Warren incorporated into his legislative recommendations a number of points in line with the program which the Federation has advocated consistently.

In regard to housing, the Governor pointed out that the shortage was greater in California than in any state of the Union and recommended that the now temporary Planning Bureau, known as the Re-development Agency, be made permanent. The implementation of such an agency in order that it might initiate a real housing program was urged.

He also came out for the establishment of a commission to investigate, study and report conditions to the legislature and the Governor on issues of political and economic equality. This deals definitely with the question of civil rights in California. Such a commission has been urged before, and is in line with the Federation's program.

He came out for increasing the coverage of unemployment and disability insurance to include agricultural workers and others not now included. This is also a part of the Federation's program, which it will fight for as it has in the past sessions of the state legislature.

In coming out for the coverage of farm workers by unemployment and disability insurance, the Governor stated that "the exclusion of

farm workers has worked unfairly against many rural communities which have had to deal with unemployment of farm workers by the unsatisfactory and costly method of relief." He further stated: "I have always believed that, if unemployment insurance is sound government policy for some employees, it is equally good for all."

Once again he advocated a health insurance system which would cover serious illness. He proposed that certain hospitalization fees be paid from the present Disability Insurance Act.

He also called for a law setting an interest ceiling on loans over \$300 to give adequate protection to necessitous borrowers in this state.

A number of the points in the Governor's message coincided with those the organized labor movement has advocated. The Federation will do its utmost to implement such a program by the submission of bills covering these and many other subjects affecting the basic interests of the wage earners of the state of California.

The Federation's legislative office is now functioning in Sacramento under the direction of the Legislative Representative, C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the Federation.

In the future, the News Letter will keep our readers informed of the doings of the state legislature with reports on developments in Sacramento. It is anticipated that a record number of bills will be submitted. Already it is evident that the Associated Farmers and the employers, organized for the first time on a several-state basis, will push vigorously for a program of restrictive labor legislation. This time the employers' reactionary interests are better organized than they have been at any previous session of the state legislature, and labor expects to meet one of the stiffest fights in this session.

TRIBUTE PAID IN TESTIMONIAL CEREMONY
TO JOHN C. LYONS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--With over 500 in attendance, including state legislators, C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the Federation, chaired a testimonial ceremony for John C. Lyons at the Sacramento Labor Temple on Tuesday evening, January 4. Governor Warren delivered one of the other principal addresses.

Lieutenant Governor Knight likewise spoke, as well as Speaker of the Assembly Collins, Speaker Pro Tem Maloney, and Harold J. Powers, Speaker Pro Tem of the Senate. The Secretary of State and other state officers were also in attendance, joining in the tribute paid to the veteran labor leader and legislator who had represented the interests of labor.

The ceremony was conducted in conjunction with the installation of the incumbent officers of the Sacramento Federated Trades Council, all of whom were returned in the new election. It was a very impressive demonstration in memory of a man who so richly deserved it.

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COMMERCE DEPARTMENT BULLETIN REPORTS BUSINESS TRENDS
MIXED IN PAST YEAR

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Year-end business below that of last year is reported by the Bulletin of Commerce, issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce Field Service. This has caused business men to "focus a more critical eye upon sales curves, inventory balances, and commitments."

According to Carleton Green, Regional Economist, generally below year-end expectations so far are retail sales, trade employment, and construction activity. It is pointed out that although all major segments of the region's economy are operating at or near their post-war peaks, the tendency of retail sales and employment to sag at this time of year presents a pattern different from that witnessed in 1946

and 1947. In 1946 and 1947 a marked hesitation took place in the late winter and early spring, after which business moved steadily ahead.

A few significant facts for California's food processing industry are also raised in the Bulletin. According to S. L. Kedzierski, Chief, Domestic Commerce Division, the average person in the United States in 1948 consumed $4\frac{1}{2}$ times as much canned juice, about 30% more canned fruit, and 23% more canned vegetables than in the 1935-39 period. On the overall food consumption per capita, it is indicated that the 1948 output will be 16% above the prewar average, but below the 1946 peak.

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NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN CONSTRUCTION
IN CALIFORNIA DECREASES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--According to the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, the number of employees in contract construction in California decreased to 194,900 in October, from 199,700 in the preceding month. The October employment level is approximately 5,000 below the same month last year.

The Department lists the following statistics indicating the trend:

Estimated Total Number of Employees in Contract Construction
California, May - October 1948

| Industry | 1 9 4 8 | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Oct. | Sept. | Aug. | July | June | May |
| All Contract Construction | 194,900 | 199,700 | 208,100 | 208,100 | 205,700 | 204,500 |
| Building Construction, General Contractors | 67,500 | 67,800 | 69,300 | 70,600 | 71,100 | 71,200 |
| General Contractors, Other than Building | 46,300 | 47,600 | 52,400 | 50,800 | 48,700 | 46,400 |
| Special Trade Contractors | 81,100 | 84,300 | 86,400 | 86,700 | 85,900 | 86,900 |

Average Hourly Earnings of Construction Workers
California, May - October 1948

| Industry | 1 9 4 8 | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Oct. | Sept. | Aug. | July | June | May |
| All Contract Construction | \$2.097 | \$2.117 | \$2.094 | \$2.077 | \$2.026 | \$1.993 |
| Building Construction, | | | | | | |
| General Contractors | 2.028 | 2.012 | 1.995 | 1.989 | 1.928 | 1.899 |
| General Contractors, | | | | | | |
| Other than Building | 2.028 | 2.034 | 2.068 | 2.032 | 1.984 | 1.934 |
| Special-Trade Contractors | 2.207 | 2.254 | 2.193 | 2.176 | 2.139 | 2.110 |
| Plumbing, Heating, and | | | | | | |
| Air Conditioning | 2.131 | 2.165 | 2.134 | 2.036 | 2.014 | 2.007 |
| Painting, Paperhanging, | | | | | | |
| and Decorating | 2.180 | 2.098 | 2.078 | 2.086 | 2.070 | 2.002 |
| Electrical | 2.357 | 2.557 | 2.424 | 2.382 | 2.275 | 2.252 |
| Masonry, Stonework, | | | | | | |
| Tile Setting, and | | | | | | |
| Plastering | 2.409 | 2.452 | 2.406 | 2.430 | 2.433 | 2.345 |

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FEDERATION URGES ALL MEMBERS TO SUPPORT MARCH OF DIMES

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Give to the March of Dimes more generously than ever before, and do it right away!

This is an urgent reminder by the Federation to each and every one of its members to take the only step possible to protect themselves, their families and their communities from the ravages of infantile paralysis, which reached epidemic proportions in California in 1948. Support of the March of Dimes was voted by the Federation's recent convention in Long Beach.

California was hit harder by this disease than any state in the Union last year, with more than 5,700 cases reported. By comparison, only 848 cases occurred in 1947. So heavy was the demand for care of those stricken that more than \$700,000 was sent to California by the National Foundation, New York, in addition to \$106,000 transferred from chapters of counties less heavily hit.

Infantile paralysis can be fought only with money to provide treatment for the stricken, facilities for research which will eventually isolate the polio germ, training for specialists and physical therapists, respirators and hospitalization. All these are made available by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis through the March of Dimes drive for funds.

We strongly recommend that State Federation of Labor members form their own Labor Committees to assist the various county chairmen in this drive. Several films showing the facilities used and the functions of the program of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis are available for group showings or labor council meetings.

The official campaign period is January 14 to 31, but don't wait. As individuals and through your unions, get to work now to make the campaign a success.

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