

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

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INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS TAKE HUGE TOLL

One of every 22 California workers last year suffered a disabling industrial injury, according to the annual summary of industrial accidents for 1948 released by Paul Scharrenberg, Director of the State Department of Industrial Relations.

This alarming condition is emphasized by the rates for workers in mineral extraction (largely petroleum drilling and production) and in construction, which were much higher. In both of these industries approximately one of every 9 workers sustained a lost-time injury in 1948.

In sharp contrast, and at the other extreme, one of every 100 employees in finance suffered a disabling injury.

During the year 1948 the Department of Industrial Relations received notices of 141,528 nonfatal disabling industrial injuries and 649 deaths.

The only favorable, but at the same time not too encouraging aspect of these figures is that they represent a drop from 1947 of 5 percent in nonfatal injuries and 13 percent in deaths.

Heading the list, as has been the case in previous years, is the manufacturing division, with 178 deaths and 39,913 nonfatal disabling injuries, accounting for 28 percent of all injuries reported.

Retail and wholesale trade establishments reported 72 deaths and 27,145 nonfatal disabling industrial injuries. This was at the rate of one disabling injury for every 29 employees.

One-sixth of all lost-time injuries in 1948 occurred in the construction industry. The total number of reported injuries increased

from 21,225 in 1947 to 22,979 in 1948. The number of fatalities declined from 121 to 116, furnishing very little consolation.

Although the number of disabling injuries in mineral extraction decreased 3 percent, the number of deaths increased from 36 in 1947 to 45 in 1948.

The number of deaths in agriculture dropped by nearly one-half, from 102 in 1947 to 54 in 1948. The total of lost-time accidents, however, decreased by only 4 percent, from 13,992 to 13,407.

This terrible waste in human life and in production is remediable if enough attention is centered on the problem. Something must be done to overcome this appalling state of affairs.

The Federation has constantly emphasized the need for a comprehensive safety program to prevent occurrences of this kind. Furthermore, only a very small percentage of the workers who suffer these disabling injuries are obtaining workmen's compensation to which they are entitled. The Federation again urges its affiliated organizations to inform their members of their rights under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Federation is ready and eager at all times to represent these workers in obtaining for them the compensation that is due them under the law.

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AVERAGE UNITED STATES INCOME IN 1947 WAS \$3,000

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Despite the flurry of sensational propaganda about the great prosperity enjoyed by the wage earners of this country, the average income of the United States family in 1947 was \$3,000, the Census Bureau reports, adding that it was the highest figure up to that time.

Distributing the nation's income among 37 million families, the Bureau specified that 4 million had under \$1,000. Six million had \$1,000 to \$2,000. Eight million had \$3,000-\$4,000. Four million had \$4,000-\$5,000. Three million had \$5,000-\$6,000. Three million had \$6,000-\$10,000, and one million had \$10,000 or more.

Only 4 million families, therefore, or slightly fewer than one out of every 9 families in the entire country, had the \$6,000 in 1947 which President Truman has suggested as the starting point for the income tax increase he has requested of Congress. This proposed tax increase would actually fall on still fewer persons, of course, since, according to the Bureau, in about one out of each 3 cases the family income in 1947 was derived from two or more paid workers.

In one-quarter of the families, women made 25 percent or more of the family income.

These figures are very revealing. Also, they annihilate the spurious contention that the workers of this nation have enjoyed and are enjoying prosperous conditions.

In view of the noticeable developments in our economy, it stands to reason that accumulated savings cannot remain as a factor in staving off the dips which have been anticipated and are even now being experienced. These facts also disclose that there is ample justification for a new wage increase for the workers of this country.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RISES IN CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Factory employment in California experienced the largest December-January percentage drop since January 1939, according to joint reports issued by the Department of Industrial Relations and the Department of Employment. The number of production workers employed in California industrial plants fell about 5 percent from 480,700 in December to 457,600 in January.

In the Los Angeles industrial area, factory workers numbered 236,900 in January, a decrease of 8,300 from the 245,200 of December. In the San Francisco Bay industrial area, factory employment experienced the largest December-January percentage drop since January 1938. The number of plant workers decreased to 104,600 in January from 111,400 in December, a decline of 6 percent.

In both the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas the drop was attributed to declines in manufacturing activity, as well as to post-holiday contraction in trade and losses in construction.

As a result of declining factory employment, unemployment has risen sharply. For the week ending February 3, a total of 383,348 persons throughout the state asked for unemployment benefits. This was 127,899 more than for the same period last year. In the San Francisco Bay area the total number of applicants was 65,630 as against 43,721 for the same period in 1948.

The Department of Employment further reported that in the San Francisco Bay area the demand continues good for young people with clerical experience and for workers in certain specialized professions and trades. The number of job openings received by local offices in January from the employers of this area was 40 percent under that of January 1948.

Developments in California are similar to those occurring throughout the country. The U. S. Department of Commerce reports an increase of 700,000 in the number of unemployed throughout the nation between December and January. As a result, total unemployment reached 2,650,000 in the first week of January, or 600,000 higher than a year ago. At the same time, total civilian employment dropped to 57.5 million in January, or 2 million lower than in December, as a larger than usual mid-winter curtailment took place in nonagricultural industries. The U. S. Department of Commerce stresses that these changes are more than the usual seasonal changes.

About $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent of all persons in the labor force are now unemployed.

These trends during the last month indicate again the need for an extensive increase in unemployment and social security benefits as well as in minimum wage legislation, in order to maintain purchasing power and thus production. Unemployment benefits must also be increased to support unemployed workers at present prices.

California State Federation of Labor
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UNIONS URGED TO FIGHT FOR REPEAL OF TAFT-HARTLEY ACT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A vicious, intensive national campaign has been unleashed by the anti-labor employers of this country to prevent the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. Anti-labor members of the Labor Committee in Congress have deliberately stalled hearings with unnecessary lengthy questioning of witnesses, which the pro-labor majority called filibustering. This campaign was supplemented by screaming "steam roller" against the February 10th deadline originally set by the committee for hearing witnesses. The compromise on the extension to hear witnesses was set by Senators Murray, Pepper and Morse, all of whom voted against the Taft-Hartley Act. This will eliminate grounds for any further stalling by the Taft-Hartley forces, or attempts to send the bill back to the committee.

William H. Davis, lawyer and former Impartial Chairman of the War Labor Board, in answer to Senator Donnell's inquiry concerning the Taft-Hartley right to sue unions in federal courts, said: "Senator, that is the rottenest provision ever put in a statute of the United States....it is thoroughly un-American, and it was put in the Act, in my opinion, in a vengeful spirit." About the Act in general, he said: "There is too much money for lawyers in it."

To counteract the campaign in favor of the Taft-Hartley Act, the unions are requested to send wires and letters to their congressmen, and to have the members of their unions do likewise, demanding the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and the consummation of the campaign to eradicate the most vicious anti-labor bill enacted by Congress.

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PRESIDENT GREEN URGES SUPPORT TO AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
CAMPAIGN AGAINST DREADED DISEASE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--In a letter addressed to all National and International Unions, State Federations of Labor, and Central Labor Councils, President Green has urged full support of the nationwide campaign against heart disease by the American Heart Association.

This organization sponsors and finances research to determine the causes and mechanism of heart disease, and the formation of heart associations in every important area of the country, so that even the smallest community will receive the benefits of the overall program.

Deaths resulting from this dreaded disease are increasing everywhere. That is why the campaign to prevent the development of this disease and its increasing number of victims is worthy of support.

Organizations are requested to make such financial contributions as they may find possible. They may be sent to Mr. David Robertson, Assistant Director, American Heart Association, 1775 Broadway, New York 19, New York.