

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

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GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY POLL ON TAFT-HARTLEY EXPOSED

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Another phony public opinion poll on labor relations and the Taft-Hartley Act has recently been prepared by the General Electric Company. The questions are clearly and obviously biased to give an answer unfavorable to labor and in support of the present Taft-Hartley Act.

GE urges recipients of the questionnaire to fill it out and sent it in to their senators and congressmen in Washington. We urge all unions members to disregard this questionnaire, and, instead, inform their senators and congressmen of its phony angles.

The GE questionnaire is inordinately concerned with the need to protect the "scab" and "free rider."

Question No. 13 asks: "Should labor laws permit the forcing of an employer to hire only workers who belong to a given union?" And No. 16 asks: "Do you believe labor laws should protect individual workers in the right to join or not to join a union -- to remain or not to remain members -- just as they individually wish?" At first glance the obvious answer to both these questions is "Yes." And that is the answer GE wants.

A fair phrasing of the question would be: "Do you believe that the benefits of union activities should be given only to those who actively support and are members of the union?"

Many of the questions ignore the present factual and legal situation. Question No. 14 asks: "Do you believe it should be unlawful for an employee to be prevented from working by the use of violence,

force, or intimidation?" The question implies that such actions are now legal, when actually the contrary is the case. Local police regulations in every city and county in the country prevent the use of force or violence in any situation. Similarly, Question No. 10 concerning financial reports by unions is based on an inaccurate factual background. Most unions do make financial reports to their members, and did prior to the Taft-Hartley Act. On the other hand, the implication that companies make public financial statements is completely inaccurate, as any union negotiator learns when he questions an employer's ability to pay wage increases out of profits.

Other questions ignore some of the truly disputed points in a situation. Question No. 18 asks if an economic striker, who has been replaced, should be permitted to vote in a collective bargaining election. The obvious answer from the GE phrasing of the question, and also from a labor point of view is "Yes." But another equally important point, not even covered by the GE question, is: Should scabs have the right to vote in an election.

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STRIKE INSURANCE PLAN BEING PUSHED BY ASSOCIATED FARMERS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The plan inaugurated for insuring large-scale farmers in the state against what it terms "losses sustained by strikes and other labor difficulties" is being promoted among prospective employer clientele in agriculture, according to a report by the Associated Farmers.

In a previous issue of the News Letter, this insurance was attacked as the kind that would encourage lockouts and promote industrial strife. The Federation protested the issuance by the State of California of a permit for this type of insurance, but was overruled. It is evident that while the notoriously anti-labor Associated Farmers are concerned with providing protection of this kind for the employer, they

oppose most vigorously making farm workers eligible for unemployment insurance, as has been suggested by Governor Warren and as is being vigorously advocated by the Federation. This opposition to the Governor's proposal was voiced in Sacramento by Associated Farmers' spokesmen.

Under the policy of "strike insurance" which is now being pushed, indemnity would be provided for all charges and expenses incidental to the production of a crop. The coverage would include (1) cutting or picking; (2) transportation; (3) canning or processing. The various crops are classified, and the rates would range from Class A, \$2.00 per \$100 of insurance, to Class D, 50 cents for \$100 of insurance. There would also be coverage for loss of transportation and processing at \$1.00 per \$100 of insurance.

It appears that the anti-labor association is anticipating organization of agricultural workers in California and is preparing all of its forces and resources to stave off such organization.

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TIME OF DAY OF MOST DISABLING
INDUSTRIAL INJURIES REPORTED

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--More workers suffer disabling industrial injuries between 10 and 11 in the morning and between 3 and 4 in the afternoon than at any other hours of the day. Such was the report released by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the State of California.

In the morning, the number of accidents increases steadily each hour to reach a peak between 10 and 11 a.m. The number drops slightly between 11 and 12 but remains relatively high. After a very sharp decrease during the noon hour the number again begins to build up to reach a second peak between 3 and 4. It appears that this same regular daily fluctuation in the relative frequency of accidents during

different hours occurs in almost every industry.

This general pattern was disclosed in an analysis of the time-of-day factor in 10,000 disabling industrial injuries reported to the Division of Labor Statistics and Research during August 1948, and relates to accidents which occurred during the second half of July and the first half of August. The data was obtained from the employers' reports of industrial injuries required to be filed with the Division.

For a more complete analysis of the time factor, it would have been desirable to tabulate data on the length of time the injured persons had been at work prior to the accident and time of lunch period, but such information was not available. Also desirable would have been the number of persons employed each hour so that the number of injuries could be related to employment.

The study itself is detailed and is very significant. It should be extremely interesting to those interested in this subject.

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STATE COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS MEETS IN SAN JOSE MARCH 4-6

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The official call for the 21st Annual Convention of the California State Council of Carpenters, representing more than 100,000 craftsmen, was issued this week by Harry C. Grady, State Secretary. They will meet in San Jose at the St. Clair Hotel, March 4-6.

The sessions will be preceded by a meeting of the Carpenters State Apprentice Committee on Thursday, March 3.

Joseph Cambiano, San Mateo veteran President of the State Council, will call the convention to order at 10 a.m., Friday, March 4, in the Empire Room where all sessions will be held and headquarters for officers maintained.

More than 150 delegates are expected. All communications regarding reservations should be addressed to V. S. Swain, Reservations Chairman, 72 North Second Street, San Jose.

"There is a great amount of business transacted at the annual convention that is of vital interest to the carpenters of California," Secretary Grady said, "and we sincerely hope that all local unions and district councils will be represented."

The Ladies Auxiliary will hold its 6th annual convention at the same time.

Officers of the State Council are: Joseph F. Cambiano, San Mateo, President; C. O. Johnson, San Pedro, Vice-President; Harry C. Grady, Oakland, Secretary-Treasurer; and the following district members of the Executive Board: District 1, J. N. Skelton, Hollywood; District 2, C. C. Krakow, Modesto; District 3, W. P. Kelly, San Francisco; District 4, Frank Heath, Redding; District 5, R. L. Sessions, El Centro.

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DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PEACE OBJECTIVE OF UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO THIRD LABOR-MANAGEMENT COURSE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Development of lasting industrial peace in the San Francisco Bay area is emphasized as a primary objective of the University of San Francisco's third Labor-Management Course, March 1 to May 5.

Father George E. Lucy, S. J., director, said that the Labor-Management School's program had been drawn up with a view to exploring the mutual interests of local capital and labor and solving their differences through understanding of the issues involved. As a community service, he disclosed, faculty members and others who will conduct classes will receive no payment, thus enabling the University to offer the courses without charge.

The courses are being given on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the Spring Session, and, according to Father Lucy, will interpret in simple, non-technical language the moral basis of industrial peace, the fundamentals of our economic system, past and present labor legislation and the more controversial aspects of employer-employee relations. There will also be additional courses.

Further information can be obtained by writing the Labor-Management School, University of San Francisco, San Francisco 17, or by phoning Skyline 1-1663.

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