

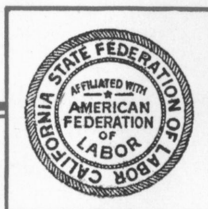
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

March 9, 1949

UNIONS URGED TO CONTACT U.S. SENATORS TO REPEAL TAFT-HARTLEY ACT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Federation strongly urges all of its affiliated organizations to wire Senators Downey and Knowland, requesting that they support Senate Bill 249, ordering the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, which was favorably reported without amendments by the Senate Labor Committee.

Washington has been flooded with communications as a result of the drive of the National Association of Manufacturers and various industrial organizations requesting that the Taft-Hartley Act be maintained, with all of its vicious provisions.

The fight is centering on Administration Bill 249, which the Labor Committee of the Senate has reported out and which would eliminate the prejudicial clauses which have victimized the labor unions since the enactment of the Act.

A concerted, nationwide effort is being made to influence Congress, as evidenced by the great amount of advertisement and the elaborate mailing conducted by these industrial concerns to mobilize public opinion behind the Taft-Hartley Law. The campaign is aimed to discredit the Administration's effort to repeal the clauses against which labor has been fighting and which have interfered destructively with labor-management relations.

The House Labor Committee is conducting hearings at the present time on a companion measure and it will be necessary for the unions to wire the congressmen of their respective districts to support that measure.

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Unless labor meets this challenge, it is conceivable that many congressmen will be impressed by the avalanche of messages they are receiving from business favoring the retention of the Taft-Hartley Act. The Federation wishes to stress the importance of the unions taking action on this matter at once.

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NAM CONCENTRATES ON ANTI-LABOR PUBLIC RELATIONS JOB

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--In a huge, elaborate, loose-leaf mimeographed book running into hundreds of pages, the National Association of Manufacturers has concentrated its new so-called "industrial leaders' program" to put over its anti-labor message and philosophy to the public at large. Regional conferences are arranged with local Chambers of Commerce and this elaborate book is furnished to train speakers for the program, as well as to provide considerable data in substantiation of its viewpoint.

This "Industrial Leaders' Manual" is designed to teach employers the economic facts of life, NAM-style, and to enable them to give various kinds of speeches to people upon so-called advantages of free enterprise and the profit system.

Disregarding what has occurred, the NAM has the effrontery to say that "industry as a group has been able to reduce prices, increase wages and shorten hours and to do all this without seriously undermining the rate of profit." Even its own statistical material, impressively arranged in the manual, shows that, since 1939, the cost of living (BLS Consumer Price Index) has gone up 76 percent. Profits before taxes have gone up 359 percent; profits after taxes have gone up 202 percent; and average weekly earnings before taxes have gone up 125.7 percent. It is clearly evident, using its own material, that there has been no serious reduction in profits in recent years.

The trends in the cost of living, wages and profits since V-J Day would show even more clearly the falsity of the NAM statement, for

since the war, prices and profits have outstripped wages by a substantial margin.

This NAM campaign is calculated not only to mobilize opinion in the various communities with its so-called "industry leaders' programs," but efforts are made consistently to get speakers into various schools and forums to propagate their one-sided story on the present situation, with labor always made the bad influence.

To counteract this effort, labor must redouble its activities and take advantage of every opportunity in the various communities to tell its story. Even the figures produced by the NAM show that labor does have a story to tell, and a very effective one. The labor movement in the various communities should make the same effort to explain the economics of collective bargaining to the members of the unions, as well as to the public at large. For this purpose, the Federation has collaborated with the University of California's Department of Industrial Relations in conducting institutes for the various unions, as well as continuing the statewide institute that will again be held at Asilomar this year.

The role of workers' education institutes is of greater importance now than it has been in the past, and labor must take advantage of every opportunity to present its point of view. It does not have to manufacture the facts. All it has to do is explain them clearly and simply. There is no question that when people hear them, they will understand what the situation really is.

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WAGE INCREASES THROUGH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--AFL unions in California gained wage increases of $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 25 cents an hour through collective bargaining negotiations between mid-November and the end of December. Increases affecting more than 500 workers, as reported to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' regional office in San Francisco are given below:

Sugar Refinery Employees No. 20037, Crockett, 10 cents or 8%, effective 12/2/48, 1380 employees.

Bakery and Confectionery Workers No. 418, Los Angeles, cookie shops, 6½ cents; macaroni shops, 7½ cents, retroactive to 8/22/48, 800 workers.

Bakery Wagon Drivers No. 432, Bakers Club, Oakland, \$5.00 to \$7.00 per week increase plus commission, and improved vacations, effective 10/1/48, 550 workers.

Butchers No. 506, retail, Santa Clara, Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties, \$5.00 to \$8.00 per week, effective 12/9/48, 500 workers.

Retail Clerks No. 428, food, same counties as above, \$5.00 to \$10.00 per week, effective 12/9/48, 700 clerks.

Butchers No. 421, retail, Los Angeles, \$10.00 per week, effective 11/26/48, 2500 workers.

Retail Clerks No. 1179, Contra Costa, clothing and dry goods, \$3.50 per week, effective 11/1/48, over 600 clerks.

Motor Coach Employees, Greyhound Bus Company, 7 Western states, 10 to 14%, retroactive to 10/24/48, 3600 workers.

Laundry Workers No. 2, Alameda County, 5½ cents, effective 12/1/48, 2½ cents effective 3/1/49.

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CALIFORNIA NEEDS AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND MORE HOMES

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--All of the members who attended the Economy Housing Conference held in San Francisco in February agreed that there is a shortage of five hundred thousand houses in California and that most of them should be built for rental purposes.

The 600 members of the home building industry and Bay Area construction leaders who attended this conference discussed the question of providing low-cost housing, \$7500-\$8500, for those who cannot afford to buy homes in the higher brackets. Even these prices, of course, are not accessible to hundreds of thousands of workers in dire need of housing.

There is no question but what the achievement of any comprehensive program to provide sufficient housing must have the support of municipal, state and federal governments, because the job cannot be

accomplished by private enterprise alone. That a considerable portion of the cost can be eliminated from the cost of housing is evidenced in a publication of the Department of Commerce, "Research Report on Construction Methods," which outlines how small scale house builders can save up to 20 percent on construction costs. Another publication, "Construction and Construction Materials," issued monthly, provides basic facts on volume of construction, production, and price trends of principal building materials.

The need for housing has long since passed the discussion stage. Without a federal program, however, the public will still be unable to meet the basic and essential need of being properly housed.

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EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN CALIFORNIA INCREASES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The number of women employed as factory workers in California manufacturing industries was higher in 1948 than in 1947, representing the first annual increase to be registered since 1944, according to Paul Scharrenberg, Director of Industrial Relations.

The total of 101,400 women production workers in 1948 was 2 percent above the 1947 average of 99,200 and 53 percent above the average of 66,400 in 1941. In 1944, manufacturing plants in the State employed a wartime peak average of 240,900 women wage earners.

The 1947-48 rise in female factory employment primarily reflected significant gains in the apparel and food products industries. Smaller increases were registered in textiles and stone, clay and glass products.

The largest year-to-year decrease was recorded in the aircraft industry. The machinery, rubber, and furniture industries indicated small losses in 1948.

The proportion of women in the total manufacturing force was 21 percent in 1948 compared with 15 percent in 1941.

In 1948, the food industry among the various manufacturing groups employed the largest average number of women production workers, 29,900, followed by apparel with an average of 29,000. These two industries together employed 58 percent of all female factory workers. The aircraft industry which had the largest female factory force during the war dropped to third place in 1948 with an average of 6,000.

In the Los Angeles Industrial Area the trend of female factory employment was similar to that of the State as a whole. The first annual increase since 1943 was registered in 1948 when the average number of women wage earners in manufacturing industries in the area rose to 55,300 from 54,400 in 1947.

The female factory force in San Francisco Bay Industrial Area manufacturing industries fell off slightly to an average of 24,200 in 1948 from 24,500 in the preceding year.