

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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### OFFENSIVE AGAINST LABOR LAUNCHED IN BOTH HOUSES OF STATE LEGISLATURE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--A concerted offensive against the labor movement was launched in both houses of the State Legislature the final week in March.

Senator Hatfield (Madera, Merced), relying heavily on the Legislative Counsel Bureau and its extensive staff of twenty attorneys, instigated a determined effort last Friday to smash and obliterate the constitutional right of labor to bargain collectively through cooperative action. The vehicle for Hatfield's blows directed against every union member in California is SB 1066, the "hot cargo" bill and the "darling" of the Merchants and Manufacturers Association, the Associated Farmers, the Waterfront Employers Association and innumerable other fiercely anti-labor groups.

No quarter is being given as organized employers' groups, powerfully reenforced by eastern lobbyists from huge financial and insurance trusts, converge on Sacramento, intent on depriving trade unions of all their hard-won gains during recent years. Management representatives appear determined to deal severe setbacks to the progressive laws as a result of their defeat on the national scene.

Amendments to the "hot cargo" bill by Senator Hatfield were withdrawn in toto when Senator O'Gara (San Francisco) and Senator Judah (Santa Cruz), Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, charged Hatfield with attempting to force a vote without due consideration of the proposed changes. The withdrawal of the amendments by Senator Hatfield was to avoid further hearings in the committee and a possible adverse vote by that group.

On March 24, the Committee passed SB 1066 to the floor of the upper house by a vote of 5-2, Senators O'Gara and Johnson (Nevada, Placer and Sierra) voting "No." In voting "Aye," Senator Judah indicated that he was very hesitant to pass the bill out of the committee due to its having been vigorously denounced as unconstitutional by three state attorney generals, Earl Warren, Robert Kenny and Frederick Howser. This "hot cargo" legislation is now set as a special order of business for the Senate at 2:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 31.

The Federation-sponsored workmen's compensation bill, AB 125 (Maloney), guaranteeing minimum weekly compensation payments of \$15 to approved claimants, and maximum awards of \$40, was passed by the Assembly on March 28 on a roll call vote of 44-26. Those opposing passage of this badly needed legislation were Babbage (Riverside), Burke (Alhambra), Butters (Brawley), Clarke (Planada), Collier (L.A., 54), S. L. Collins (Fullerton), Connelly (San Francisco, 21), Conrad (Hollywood), Erwin (Puente), Geddes (Pomona), Grant (Long Beach), Grunsky (Watsonville), Hinckley (Redlands), Hoffman (Acampo), Huyck (Beverly Hills), Kirkwood (Saratoga), Levering (Los Angeles, 60), Lindsay (Loomis), Lipscomb (Los Angeles, 56), Regan (Pasadena), Sherwin (Piedmont), Silliman (Salinas), Smith (Glendale), Stanley (Balboa Island), Stewart (Pasadena) and Tomlinson (Santa Barbara). Regretfully to the Federation legislative representatives, both Conrad and Geddes only saw fit to support this measure in committee, but switched their beliefs once this bill reached the floor. Passage of this measure in the Senate is considered doubtful.

The upper house, on Monday, March 28, passed SB 313, authored by Senator Desmond (Sacramento), which permits a sliding scale from 6 percent to 9 percent for employers' contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Fund in place of the present flat rate of 7 percent. This measure was criticized in debate by Senator Crittenden (San Joaquin) as promising no benefit to seasonal workers but only to

large-scale year-round employers. However, before an inundating flow of words by Senator Kraft (San Diego), the veteran Stockton legislator yielded his progressive position. The Desmond-sponsored measure was hurriedly passed after this brief debate by a vote of 22-7, with only the following senators opposed: Dillinger (Alpine, El Dorado and Amador), Drobish (Butte), Jespersen (San Luis Obispo), Miller (Contra Costa), O'Gara, Powers (Lassen, Modoc and Plumas) and Regan (Shasta and Trinity). Senators Johnson and Keating (Marin) were not present.

The Federation-sponsored proposal, AB 123 (Maloney), removing the 104-week limitation on workmen's compensation payments and permitting the awarding of both permanent and temporary benefits, was favored with passage by a majority of 61 to 3, over the opposition of "die-hards" Levering (Los Angeles), Reagan (Los Angeles), and Stanley (Orange).

Facing an extremely perilous course through the Senate Committee on Education next Thursday, April 7, is the Geddes child care center bill, AB 707, establishing a permanent program. Communications should be directed to Chairman Jespersen in addition to the senators from the respective counties.

At the present time, only three measures are scheduled for hearing in the Senate Committee on Labor for April 7. They are:

\*SB 399 (Johnson), a Federation-sponsored bill, provides for the initial payment of workmen's compensation benefits for permanent disability commencing after seven days of the sustaining of such an injury.

SB 186 (Dillinger), creates California Mediation Panel as a fact-finding board with power to make recommendations in the direction of compulsory arbitration if only 70 percent of members agree to accept directives handed down.

SB 1097 (Busch and others), extends workmen's compensation benefits to domestic and agricultural workers. This is a similar measure to AB 1063 (Condon and AB 1371 (G. D. Collins).

In the Assembly Committee on Industrial Relations, the following bills will be heard at the April 7 meeting:

\*AB 106 (Doyle). Every employment agency shall notify each applicant before sending an applicant in response to a request for employment whether a labor contract is in existence at the establishment to which the applicant is being sent.

\*AB 113 (Fletcher). Provides that declaration of public policy of State with respect to collective bargaining is applicable to all operations of municipally owned public utilities.

\*AB 127 (Maloney). Deals with apprenticeship to provide that apprenticeship instructors shall be union journeymen in the crafts which they teach.

AB 160 (Grunsky et al). Provides equal pay for equal work.

\*AB 264 (Thomas). Unlawful to engage any alien who is subject to deportation under the U. S. Immigration laws to work in any branch of labor.

\*AB 307 (Anderson). Employment of minors is forbidden under 18 years of age in agricultural, horticultural, viticultural, or domestic labor for more than eight hours in one day or more than 48 hours in one week.

AB 393 (Fletcher). All contracts relating to employment must be in writing and executed in duplicate.

AB 933 (Anderson et al). Provides a minimum wage for both men and women of \$1 an hour.

AB 949 (Hawkins and Anderson). Women doing the same work as men shall receive the same pay as men.

AB 1190 (Gaffney and George Collins). A refusal to work where order of the Division of Industrial Safety is violated shall not be a violation of any collective bargaining agreement or individual agreement of employment and no such employee can be laid off or discharged by reason of or as a result of such refusal.

\*AB 1370 (George Collins). Increases minimum age of employment of minors from 16 to 18 years in dangerous or immoral employment.

AB 2480 (Morris). Relates to workmen's compensation benefits for members of the State Highway Patrol.

AB 2481 (Morris). Provides that presumption as to hernia, heart trouble and pneumonia among members of the police and fire department and other firefighters is conclusive.

AB 2645 (Condon). Establishes a conclusive presumption that an individual has knowledge of safety orders, directions, etc.

AB 2908 (Condon). Gives employees freedom of choice of doctors.

AB 3063 (Brady et al). Grants firemen the increased death benefits.

AB 3086 (Coats). Provides equal wages for women who are doing the same kind of work as men.

\*Federation-sponsored bills. OETU-3-AFL(31)