

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

151



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

April 27, 1949

SENATE LAUNCHES ATTACK ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND DISABILITY INSURANCE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The first of Senator Kraft's many bills to weaken the Unemployment Insurance Act passed the Senate Committee on Social Welfare on April 20. This measure, SB 902, requires indi-

"HOT CARGO" STILL PENDING IN ASSEMBLY

SB 1066 is still pending in the Assembly, together with a similar measure, AB 2189, which comes before the Assembly Industrial Relations Committee, May 5.

These unfair measures force one employer to help another during a strike or lockout, but forbid unions to help each other in such situations.

Write your assemblyman today opposing these measures!

viduals applying for benefits to accept any available employment in various areas at arbitrary wages. The only dissenting committee vote was that of Senator Collier.

Senator Kraft's other bills attacking the Unemployment and Disability Insurance Act are listed in the "Summary of Proposed Legislation," beginning on page 91. If successful, these measures would reduce the unemployment insurance system to a mere employment service and would make it almost impossible for an unemployed worker to collect insurance benefits.

Union members can protect their rights in this matter by writing to Senator H. E. Dillinger, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Social Welfare, and to the other members of the Committee, whose names are as follows:

Fred H. Kraft, San Diego
Fred Weybret, Monterey, San Benito
F. Presley Abshire, Sonoma
Charles Brown, Inyo, Mono

Burt W. Busch, Lake, Mendocino
Randolph Collier, Del Norte, Siskiyou
Nelson S. Dilworth, Riverside
Clyde A. Watson, Orange

On the floor of the Senate, SB 389, removing the right of workers who do not constitute over 25 percent of the employees in any plant freely to choose their insurers, was passed. Friends of labor voting against this measure, April 20, on a motion by Senator Collier to reconsider, were:

Edwin J. Regan, Shasta, Trinity
Chris N. Jespersen, San Luis Obispo
Randolph Collier, Del Norte, Siskiyou
Hugh M. Burns, Fresno
Nathan F. Coombs, Napa, Yolo
Bradford S. Crittenden, San Joaquin
H. E. Dillinger, Alpine, Amador,
El Dorado
Hugh P. Donnelly, Stanislaus
Jess R. Dorsey, Kern

Harry E. Drobish, Butte
George J. Hatfield, Madera, Merced
Thomas F. Keating, Marin
George Miller, Jr., Contra Costa
Gerald J. O'Gara, San Francisco
Harold J. Powers, Lassen, Modoc,
Plumas
Jack B. Tenney, Los Angeles
Jesse M. Mayo, Calaveras, Mariposa,
Tuolumne

The Assembly Committee on Finance and Insurance also approved, April 18, SB 1330, allowing master contracts blanketing all union members under an industry-wide agreement for unemployment and disability insurance.

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SENATE BLASTS HOPE FOR IMPROVED WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--On April 21, the Senate Committee on Labor killed practically all chances for improved workmen's compensation legislation. A major Federation bill, AB 125, which would have increased maximum benefits from \$30 to \$40 a week, was killed by the Committee. Employers argued that they could not afford the increased cost under present uncertain conditions, and claimed, further, that the increased cost would be fantastic. Federation counsel Scully pointed out that the cost would be but \$6 million annually, since employers would recover more in refunds than they would pay out in increased premiums. It is not clear why the members of the Senate Committee felt that workers could more easily bear the cost of an accident in a depression than could employers.

On the same day, the same committee also killed SB 575, a Federation bill which would have increased death benefits under workmen's compensation. Committee votes on both AB 125 and SB 575 were: for labor -- H. E. Dillinger, Harold T. Johnson and Gerald J. O'Gara; against labor -- H. R. Judah, Clarence C. Ward, J. Howard Williams, and Fred Weybret.

The same committee also amended Federation bill AB 185, requiring supplemental awards for attorneys' fees, and the bill now bears little resemblance to the measure originally introduced by the Federation.

The only bright spot in the otherwise black record of the Senate during the week of April 20 was the passage of Federation bill AB 123 by the Senate. Senator Regan's thoroughly convincing argument and excellent handling of the debate on the floor obtained unanimous approval of this measure, which guarantees that no deductions can be made from individual benefits accruing from simultaneous temporary and permanent disabling injuries.

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UNIONS URGED TO IGNORE ACTIVITIES OF CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The California Legislative Conference is apparently planning renewed activities during the coming months. This organization has been and will continue to be condemned by the California State Federation of Labor as a communist-front organization. The statewide meeting of the Conference held in Los Angeles in August 1947 served as the launching platform for the Independent Progressive Party. An hour after the Conference meeting adjourned, the Conference's leading delegates reconvened to establish a committee, under Hugh Bryson, to make the IPP a legal political party in California.

The co-chairman of the California Legislative Conference, Reuben Borough, has had extensive affiliations with communist-front organizations, was chairman of the IPP Platform Committee during 1948, and was a member of the IPP State Central Committee. He resigned his co-chairmanship of the Conference in September 1948 in order to devote all his energies to the IPP.

Of the 29 persons whose names have appeared in connection with two or more of the Conference's meetings, 13 have had extensive affiliations with communist-front organizations and/or have been active in the Independent Progressive Party. An additional 9 individuals have had some affiliation with communist-front organizations.

This organization is clearly controlled by communists and communist sympathizers and, regardless of its program, is a completely unsuitable organization for AFL unions.

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LABOR MOURNS PASSING OF O. A. ROWAN

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--All labor will join with Mrs. O. A. Rowan and her family in mourning the passing of Brother Rowan on April 21, 1949. Brother Rowan has been a member for twenty-seven years of Division 192 of the Carmen's Union, Oakland, affiliated with the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America. From 1933 to 1940, Brother Rowan served as President and Business Agent of Division 192. Since that time, he has been a member of the General Executive Board of the International Union. In that capacity, he was tireless in his assistance to all local street car unions throughout the West in helping them to organize and to renegotiate their contracts. Members knew that when Brother Rowan arrived on the scene, his effective work would bring their efforts to a successful conclusion.

Brother Rowan has established a fine tradition, which all members of organized labor must seek to follow.

The funeral was held April 23 at 10 a.m. at the Truman Funeral Home in Oakland.

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EMERSON RADIO MANUFACTURING COMPANY REMOVED
FROM FEDERATION UNFAIR LIST

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Emerson Radio Manufacturing Company was placed on the Federation's Unfair List at the request of Studio Electrical Workers No. 40, of Hollywood. This organization and International Vice-President O. G. Harback, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, have requested the removal of this company from our Unfair List.

The Emerson Radio Manufacturing Company now has a contract with the IBEW in its New York plant, where the difficulties originally occurred.

All affiliated unions and organizations are urged to give this matter favorable publicity.

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LIQUOR INITIATIVE PROVIDING FOR LOCAL CONTROL
AND STATE SALES TO BE CIRCULATED

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Attorney General issued a title and summary on April 25, 1949, for an initiative measure to replace the present Section 22 of Article 20 of the State Constitution.

From the title and summary, it appears that the initiative will provide for the exclusive sale of liquor through state-owned package stores for off-sale purposes. It also provides, apparently, for local option on all types of liquor sales. The state-owned package stores would be operated by a Liquor Control Commission, which would be empowered to borrow money, collect taxes, manufacture liquor, regulate and prohibit advertising, as well as administer the state liquor laws. Customers at package stores would be required to buy an annual permit costing \$1.00.

The proponent of the measure is Charles A. Cooper, 8812 Haas Avenue, Los Angeles 44, California. Before the measure can qualify for the ballot it must obtain the necessary 204,672 valid signatures.

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SENATE AND ASSEMBLY BILLS SCHEDULED
FOR HEARING MAY 5

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The following bills will be heard before the Senate Committee on Labor on May 5 at 9 a.m.:

SB 516, giving labor unions the right to refuse membership to communists.

SB 1110, prohibits the closed shop or union shop on public construction projects.

AB 412, Federation bill to extend the jurisdiction of the Industrial Accident Commission from 245 weeks to 5 years.

AB 231, Federation bill to provide that persons under 21 years of age shall be entitled to the maximum workmen's compensation benefit.

AB 949 and AB 3086, providing that women doing the same work as men shall receive the same pay.

AB 1731, dealing with conflicting claims for unemployment compensation benefits and workmen's compensation benefits.

The following bills are scheduled for hearing on May 5 before the Assembly Committee on Industrial Relations, Carl Fletcher of Long Beach, Chairman:

AB 230, Federation bill to increase temporary disability benefits under workmen's compensation.

AB 324, Federation bill to limit deductions from workmen's compensation awards to amounts actually received from federal or state funds.

AB 413, Federation bill dealing with interest due on awards of the Industrial Accident Commission.

AB 483, giving the Department of Industrial Relations power to intervene in labor disputes on its own initiative and without request.

AB 1173, permitting the Industrial Welfare Commission to amend wage orders on its own motion.

AB 1359 and AB 2149, defining and prohibiting feather-bedding.

AB 2189, a "hot cargo" measure.

AB 2375, providing that professional employees may not be included in collective bargaining units with non-professional employees unless a majority so votes.

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Send in your contributions to
the California Labor League for
Political Education.

Labor's enemies must be defeated in the Legislature and in Congress!!