

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

May 4, 1949

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE PIGEONHOLES "HOT CARGO"

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Any further action on SB 1066, the "hot cargo" measure, was postponed indefinitely by the Assembly Industrial Relations Committee on April 28, by a vote of 11 to 1. The only dissenting vote to this action was that of Harold Levering, Los Angeles, 60. J. J. Hollibaugh, Huntington Park, was unavoidably detained due to a concurrent meeting of another committee, of which he is chairman, and John Collier, Los Angeles, 54, was absent.

All arguments by proponents of Senator Hatfield's oppressive bill were brilliantly counteracted by Federation spokesmen C. J. Haggerty, Charles P. Scully and John Stevenson, who stripped all vestiges of pretense from the faltering anti-labor witnesses, whose stories broke down completely under forthright interrogation.

Beyond any question, the fate of this bill stems from the united efforts of the entire labor movement and progressive citizens, who made known the need to preserve our hard-won rights.

Further action by the Assembly is a remote possibility, and it is therefore still important that unions explain to their assemblymen the underhanded nature of this "hot cargo" bill, which strikes very effectively at primary picketing and the right to observe a picket line.

Other vicious anti-labor bills are still pending in the Senate, and a powerful clique, headed by Ward, Weybret, Williams and Judah, is launching a further attack upon labor unions through the medium of so-called "right-to-work" and "featherbedding" bills. Senator Rich's

SB 1110, prohibiting any type of union security among employees of contractors working on public construction projects, is set for hearing at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 12.

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LEGISLATURE STALLS ON OTHER MEASURES

CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Senate action on major proposals for improved health and hospitalization was deferred indefinitely by the Senate Committee on Governmental Efficiency on April 28, when the Committee postponed action on SB 157 (Salsman), the Governor's bill for prepaid medical care, and on SB 566 (Mayo), providing for liberalized disability insurance benefits and hospitalization payments.

The Federation's health insurance bill, AB 863, is still in the Assembly Committee on Public Health. Also pending are other bills to enact medical insurance and to improve the disability insurance law which may receive action if sufficient popular interest is shown.

On the Assembly floor, Federation bill AB 113, to give employees of public utilities the right to engage in collective bargaining, was defeated April 26, by a vote of 28 to 42. Friends of labor in the Assembly voting for this measure are as follows:

Anderson	Dickey	Gaffney	Meyers
Bennett	C.A. Dills	Geddes	Niehouse
Berry	Doyle	Hawkins	Rosenthal
Burkhalter	Dunn	Hollibaugh	Rumford
G.D. Collins	Elliot	Lewis	Thomas
Crichton	Evans	Maloney	Weber
Crowley	Fletcher	McMillan	Yorty

The Assembly also gave final approval on April 28 to SB 1330, providing for compulsory coverage for all workers under industry-wide voluntary disability insurance plans.

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MARCH COST OF LIVING 2 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO --
PROFITS 22 PERCENT HIGHER

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics consumers' price index for San Francisco stood at 174.6 in March 1949. This represents an increase of 1.9 percent over March 1948. The index for Los Angeles for March 1949 is 171.0, an increase of 2.2 percent over March 1948. Details are as follows:

	March 1949	December 1948	March 1948
San Francisco	174.6	176.7	171.4
Los Angeles	171.0	172.7	167.4

Profits of 3,262 leading corporations in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries rose 22 percent after taxes between 1947 and 1948. The percentage rate of return on net assets amounted to 12.3 percent in 1947 and rose to 14.0 percent in 1948. Industries reporting higher than average profits are as follows:

Silk and rayon	Coal mining
Petroleum products	Oil and gas
Cement	Class 1 railroads
Agricultural implements	Telephone and telegraph
Autos and trucks	Sales finance companies

The above data is based on a tabulation by the National City Bank of New York. Scattered reports from major corporations on profits for the first quarter of 1949 show that more than half of the reporting companies revealed a gain in 1949 as compared with the same quarter a year ago.

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REVIVAL OF WEST COAST SHIPBUILDING SOUGHT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Legislation is now pending to amend the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 to provide for 100,000 workers in shipyards and to allocate them as follows: 60,000 to the Atlantic Coast, 10,000 to the Gulf Coast, and 30,000 to the Pacific Coast. This legislation has been introduced by Representative John J. Allen, Jr.,

Oakland, at the request of the Pacific Coast Committee for Shipbuilding for National Defense, Thomas A. Rotell, Chairman.

Since the end of the war, gross discrimination has existed against West Coast shipyards, and little or no new construction has occurred. Such action is not only discriminatory, but represents a tremendous waste of our national resources and threatens our national defense. For example, if our country was attacked now and the Panama Canal were closed by the attack, we would be placed in a very critical state. Shipbuilding and shipbuilding facilities would be concentrated in eastern ports. West Coast yards are now being either torn down or put in mothballs, and their employees have dispersed to other occupations. Thus, in case of an emergency, the resumption of shipbuilding on the West Coast would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, in the absence of any prior planning.

Americans on both the East and West Coasts should realize that an attack at one point in the United States is an attack upon the entire United States, and that the entire country must be properly defended.

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EAST BAY APPRENTICES TO GRADUATE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Maurice J. Tobin, Secretary of Labor, will be the principal speaker at the second annual mass graduation of apprentices in the East Bay, to be held at the Oakland Auditorium Arena on May 17, 1949. John F. Shelley, President of the California State Federation of Labor, and Governor Earl Warren will also participate in the ceremonies and are expected to stress the outstanding achievements in California in apprenticeship training.

Mr. Tobin is making his first appearance on the Pacific coast since the inauguration to honor more than 600 apprentices in forty crafts who have completed their apprenticeship training and will receive journeyman certificates at the graduation exercises.

As last year, the mass graduation of apprentices is being sponsored by fifty-five joint labor and management apprenticeship committees in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BILLS SET FOR HEARING
IN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Major bills covering the Federation's unemployment insurance program for increased benefits, expanded coverage, elimination of the waiting period, and amendment of the law relating to seasonal workers and strikers, are set for hearing before the Assembly Committee on Finance and Insurance, Ernest R. Geddes, Chairman, on May 9, 8 p.m. Digests of these bills appear on pages 86 and 87 of the "Summary of Proposed Legislation," and those scheduled for hearing are as follows:

*AB 122	*AB 177	*AB 303	*AB 482	*AB 744	*AB 896
*AB 175	*AB 178	*AB 327	*AB 669	*AB 803	*AB 1238
					*AB 1372

In addition, *AB 112, eliminating the need for employer consent to a voluntary plan for disability insurance, *AB 182, reducing the waiting period for disability insurance, and *AB 898, providing for payment of both disability and unemployment benefits in the same year, are scheduled for hearing.

On May 16, this same committee will hear a series of bad bills dealing with unemployment insurance and disability insurance. These bills are by Senators Ward and Desmond and provide as follows:

SB 313: lowers contribution rate under the merit rating system.

SB 375: limits benefits strictly to workers laid off by employer.

SB 378: limits benefits chargeable against an employer and thereby reduces the employer's contribution rate.

SB 379: requires the Department of Employment to make public a claimant's previous employers, etc.

SB 389: compels non-consenting individuals to be covered by voluntary instead of state plans so long as 75% of the unit consents.

Other bad bills will also be heard.

*Indicates Federation bills.

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Contributions to the California Labor League for Political Education are coming in well. DO YOUR SHARE BY SENDING IN YOURS. Remember: This contribution must not be combined with your regular per capita tax to the State Federation.