

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING
151



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

May 11, 1949

ASSEMBLY APPROVES MORRIS HOUSING PLAN

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A \$300 million building program to eliminate slums and provide for low cost housing by nonprofit or charitable organizations, to be financed by private capital, passed the Assembly May 3 by a vote of 48-22. The measure, AB 21, by Assemblyman Delbert Morris of Los Angeles, provides in addition that the state shall contribute only interest charges above 2 percent, but not to exceed $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent, which the nonprofit corporation has to pay to banks, insurance companies, or the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The passage of this bill is a definite step forward in a splendid home building program.

During Assembly action on Assemblyman Morris' measure, an amendment by Conrad, Hollywood, to limit purchases, rentals or leases under the project to families whose incomes did not exceed \$2,000 annually was defeated. Another parliamentary maneuver by McCollister, Marin, to recommit the bill to the solidly conservative Ways and Means Committee was also defeated.

On May 9, AB 21 came up for reconsideration on a motion by Dolwig, San Mateo. The motion was defeated 43-24, with the following voting in opposition to the interests of the people and of labor:

Babbage	Connolly	Dolwig	Hagen	Lipscomb	Stanley
Burke	Conrad	Erwin	Hoffman	McCollister	Stewart
Butters	Cramer	Grant	Huyck	Reagan	Tomlinson
Caldecott	Dickey	Grunsky	Levering	Smith	Way

This measure will undoubtedly meet with opposition in the Senate, but widespread popular support may succeed in bringing about its passage in the upper house.

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ASSEMBLY ACTS ON OTHER LABOR LEGISLATION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--With only three votes to spare, the Federation succeeded in obtaining the passage of AB 191 on May 9, providing for an increase in salaries for the medical director and assistants of the Industrial Accident Commission. Those voting in favor of this measure were as follows:

Anderson	Doyle	Rosenthal	Maloney	Luckel	Davis
Beck	Elliott	Thomas	McCarthy	Niehause	Dolwig
Bennett	Evans	Yorty	Meyers	Brown	Hagen
Burkhalter	Geddes	Berry	Dickey	Coats	Lewis
Collier	Hawkins	Brady	Dunn	Condon	McCollister
C. Dills	Hollibaugh	Geo. Collins	Rumford	Cooke	Way
Ralph Dills	Kilpatrick	Gaffney	Cramer	Crichton	Weber
Morris					

The Assembly Committee on Finance and Insurance on May 9 reported out a number of vital bills dealing with disability insurance:

The following bills were approved by the Committee:

Federation bill AB 112, eliminating the need for employer consent to a voluntary plan. The following voted for AB 112: Geddes, Doyle, Beck, Maloney, Meyers, Dunn and Brady.

Federation bill AB 898, which was considered with AB 1596, providing that a person eligible for disability benefits and unemployment benefits in the same year may receive the maximum of both. AB 898 was voted out of the Committee unanimously.

AB 1597, reducing the waiting period for disability benefits from 7 to 4 days for illness and disease, and eliminating entirely the waiting period for accidents. The only opposition to AB 1597 came from Levering.

The following bill was killed in the Assembly Finance and Insurance Committee, May 9:

AB 1595, to establish a maximum weekly benefit of \$40. Votes in opposition to this measure were Grunsky, Levering, Lipscomb, Morris, Stanley and Geddes. Brady and Dolwig were absent.

Other unemployment disability bills previously scheduled for May 9 will be heard on May 16 by the Assembly Finance and Insurance Committee.

On May 31, the Assembly Public Health Committee will hear AB 863, the Federation's health insurance bill.

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SENATOR MICHAEL BURNS PASSES AWAY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Labor will mourn the passing on May 1, 1949, of Senator Michael J. Burns, 62, of Eureka, a member of the State legislature for 17 years. Senator Burns pioneered in the organized labor movement in California, was a member of the International Association of Machinists, and has been highly respected by his brother members for his forthrightness and honesty. His courage in standing by his convictions irrespective of the consequences has been admired by all.

He was unceasing in his efforts to help the people of the state and particularly those of his own district in northern California. He was a strong proponent of safety legislation; typical was a Burns-sponsored measure which increased penalties on reckless drivers, and another bill requiring red reflectors on all bicycles. He was also instrumental in creating legislation which assured a five-day week for all State employees.

Senator Burns was a native of County Waterford, Ireland, and a graduate of the Engineering School of Devonport in England. He came to the United States from Ireland in 1909 and was apprenticed to the machinist trade in Eureka. In addition to his widow, he is survived by six children.

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WAGE INCREASES WON BY AFL AND RELATED UNIONS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Collective bargaining agreements renegotiated during the month of April showed gains up to 50 cents an hour. Of the 21 contracts tabulated below, 11 provided for increases equivalent to 8 cents an hour or more. This does not include the four Bay Area metal trades agreements, which will provide for extensive health and welfare plans, the exact cost of which to the employer has not been determined.

Machinists, Bay Area. California Metal Trades Association. Health plan, to be paid by employer. 20,000 workers. Agreement effective 4/1/49. Health plan to go into effect 8/1/49.

Molders No. 164, Bay area. California Metal Trades Association. Health plan as above. 4,000 workers.

Metal Polishers, Bay area. California Metal Trades Association. Health plan. 200 workers. 4/1/49. Health plan as above.

Boilermakers, Bay area. California Metal Trades Association.
6 paid holidays. 2500 workers. 4/1/49.

Millmen. Bay area. Mill and cabinet shops. 3 cents per hour,
4 paid holidays, improved vacation clause. 3000 workers. 5/1/49.

Electrical Workers No. 465, San Diego. Gas company electrical
line contractors. 10 cents an hour. 150 workers. 5/1/49.

Plasterers, Oakland. Contracting Plasterers Association of
Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. 50 cents an hour. 100 workers.
4/27/49.

Sheet Metal Workers, Vallejo. Solano County Builders Associa-
tion. Contract continued. About 100 workers. 4/15/49.

Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council. West Coast new
ship construction. Agreement continued. 4/49.

Laundry Drivers No. 209. Alameda County. 125 members Alameda
County Laundry Owners Association. \$4.00 per week for driver salesmen
serving homes. \$6.00 per week for drivers serving hotels and restau-
rants. 400 drivers. 4/27/49.

Chauffeurs No. 265, San Francisco. Master city-wide agreement.
New minimum \$9.75 per day or 50 percent of bookings. Previous \$9.00
a day or 49% of bookings. 2400 workers. 5/8/49.

Milk Wagon Drivers No. 302, Alameda. Milk distributors. \$1.00
a day. 1200 workers. 4/1/49.

Sales Drivers No. 683, San Diego, Beverage industry. \$3.20 to
\$5.00 a week increase. 172 workers. 4/1/49.

Culinary Workers No. 483, Monterey. Taverns, hotels and res-
taurants. Time and one-half for New Year's Eve, and other gains.
300 workers. 4/19/49.

Culinary Workers No. 324 and No. 694, San Fernando Valley.
"Big Boy" Drive-Ins and Restaurants. 40 cents a day for cooks and
waitresses. 50 cents for miscellaneous help. Paid vacations, 6 paid
holidays, other improvements. 250 workers. 4/30/49.

Retail Clerks No. 1222, San Diego. Industrywide grocery agree-
ment. \$6.25 weekly, better working conditions. 800 clerks. 4/3/49.

Retail Clerks No. 775, San Mateo. Master grocery agreement.
\$5.00 a week. 550 employees. 4/1/49.

Typographical Union No. 174, Los Angeles. Job printers. \$5.00
a week, 1 paid holiday. 675 workers. 4/1/49.

Pressmen No. 18, Los Angeles, 3 newspapers. \$6.80 per week on
day shifts, \$7.60 per week on night shifts, retroactive February 1,
1949. 150 workers or more. 5/6/49.

Cemetery Workers No. 265, San Francisco. 35 cents per day,
retroactive to 4/1/49. About 130 workers. 5/4/49.

Butchers No. 193, Bakersfield. Packing houses. 4 cents per
hour. 150 workers. 5/6/49.

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WEST COAST SHIP CONSTRUCTION -- CORRECTION

The last issue of the News Letter stated that Representative Allen's bill on the allocation of ship construction had been introduced at the request of the Pacific Coast Committee for Shipbuilding for National Defense, Thomas A. Rotell, Chairman. Such is not the case. Mr. Rotell feels that the bill is a step in the right direction, but that it does not go far enough; he did not request its introduction. Far-reaching and effective action is necessary to assure a balanced ship construction program which will keep shipyards in good operating condition on both coasts.

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TEACHERS' ORGANIZING DRIVE SUPPORT URGED

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The California State Federation of Labor is supporting the California State Federation of Teachers in its current organizing drive and in its efforts to obtain contributions from local unions of this state. A new local has already been chartered in San Diego and substantial progress is being made elsewhere, but further improvements depend upon the support of AFL unions in the state. Contributions should be sent to the California State Federation of Teachers, Dr. Herbert Copeland, 2925-27th Street, Sacramento 17, California.

The Teachers hope to canvass the 50,000 teachers in the state, but realize that the achievement of this objective may take three years and can only be obtained with the financial and moral support of the entire labor movement. Such organization will benefit not only the teachers themselves, but will be extremely useful to the trade unions as well. The anti-labor bias of education can be removed only by bringing the teachers into the union movement. The organization of white collar workers is always an uphill process, but they constitute a major and important part of the workers of the country.

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Send in your contributions to the CALIFORNIA LABOR LEAGUE FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION. The Taft-Hartley Act has not been repealed, and labor must be able to support its candidates in the 1950 elections.

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