

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING  
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SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

June 8, 1949

### FEDERATION MAKES GAINS ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND DISABILITY INSURANCE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Amid continual bickerings over budget items the Legislature last week acted on important unemployment and disability insurance bills, as follows:

Federation AB 896 (Brady), making specific procedures mandatory for the Employment Stabilization Commission, passed the Assembly June 1.

Federation AB 669 (Berry), to require that all due but unpaid wages shall figure in final computation of benefit amounts, passed the Assembly June 1.

AB 444 (Butters), exempting employees engaged in limited hay baling operations from all provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act, while a bad bill, was amended in the right direction. Prior to amendment the Assembly had refused to approve it. On final passage, June 1, the vote was 61 to 2, with Anderson and Elliott (Los Angeles) voting against it.

SB 389 (Desmond) has been amended to provide that if 85 percent of the employees, instead of 75 percent, agree to a voluntary unemployment disability insurance plan, then all employees must be covered; the bad features of the bill are thus somewhat reduced. Under the present law, only individual employees agreeing to the voluntary plan are covered by such a plan.

Federation AB 112 (Fletcher), to remove the necessity of acquiring consent of employers to voluntary plans, has been removed from the Assembly inactive file and will come up for passage soon.

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# WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL GETS LEGISLATIVE ACTION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Some important improvements in workmen's compensation legislation have been obtained through Federation efforts in Sacramento during the week ending June 3.

Federation AB 154, to eliminate the waiting period under workmen's compensation in cases where the disability lasts more than 49 days, will come up soon for Assembly concurrence in Senate amendments.

Federation AB 172 (Dunn), to extend the term "injuries" to include damages to medical braces, eye glasses, etc., passed the Assembly June 1, with only Sherwin (Piedmont) in opposition.

Federation AB 169 (Meyers, Gaffney, and Berry), to increase the maximum award from \$2500 to \$3750 in cases of serious wilful employer misconduct, passed the Assembly June 1.

Federation AB 164 (Gaffney and George D. Collins), to reimburse individuals for all expenses in procuring x-rays and medical reports in contested claims, passed the Senate June 2 unanimously. On the same day, however, Senator Ward (Santa Barbara) forced reconsideration of this vote in order to make minor amendments to references in the Industrial Accident Commission's rules of practice and procedure. Thus the bill has now been placed at the bottom of the Senate calendar.

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## WAGNER ACT, FEPC AND OTHER MATTERS BEFORE LEGISLATURE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--On June 2 Assemblyman Collier (Los Angeles) withheld consent for George D. Collins' request to amend the FEPC bill, AB 3027, but at the close of the week the measure was changed to define a misdemeanor and to remove any appropriation. Thus the anti-discrimination measure is still in the Governmental Efficiency and Economy Committee of the Assembly.

A little Wagner Act was scheduled to be heard June 6 in the Governmental and Efficiency Committee. This bill, AB 3150 (Anderson), is generous in its guarantees of labor's existing rights, but is drawn up

to deal harshly and abruptly with all jurisdictional disputes.

A serious threat to the initiative process is being presented in an Assembly Constitutional Amendment, ACA 85 (Dolwig), to increase by 50 percent the number of signatures necessary to qualify an initiative petition.

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METAL TRADES AND GOVERNMENT WORKERS LAUNCH  
ORGANIZING CAMPAIGNS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Metal Trades Council of Southern California is in the midst of a vast organizing program designed to bring the unorganized workers in the manufacturing industries of southern California into the American Federation of Labor. This program was endorsed by all the International Unions through their representatives, at San Diego in January of this year. The Metal Trades Department also agreed to assist in the drive and assigned B. A. Gritta to work on the campaign. The drive is already making considerable headway.

Although sponsored by the International Unions, this organizing program was requested by the local unions of the area. They are determined to make it a success, and are asking complete cooperation and help in both manpower and finances from all metal trades and other locals.

The American Federation of Government Employees is also renewing its organizing campaign among federal government employees on the West Coast. It is only through their organization and through the additional help and cooperation of Central Labor Councils and State Federations of Labor that government workers can bring pressure to bear upon senators and representatives to increase their pay through legislation. In addition, organization will help these workers materially in obtaining a just and fair handling of promotions, layoffs, and grievances in their particular departments and offices.

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### TAFT-HARTLEY, HOUSING BILLS REACH HOUSE AND SENATE FLOOR

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--During the week beginning June 6, the Senate will begin debate and consideration of S. 249, the Administration bill to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act and reenact the Wagner Act with amendments. Senator Taft is expected to offer the usual Taft-Hartley amendments and attempt to get a modified bill passed in his name. Constant pressure upon the Senate by organized labor will result in favorable legislation.

The Administration bill to provide low-rent public housing, HR 4009, will probably come before the House shortly, although it is now tied up in the House Rules Committee, of which Representative Adolph J. Sabbath (D), Illinois, is chairman. This bill, as approved by the House Banking and Currency Committee, provides for 1,050,000 low-rent dwellings and farm home aids, as requested by Mr. Truman. It also includes provision for farm labor camps. A similar bill passed by the Senate provides for 810,000 low-rent dwelling units and makes no provision for farm housing.

Urge the chairman of the Rules Committee to act and your own congressmen to act favorably upon the housing bill.

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### 26,500 AFL UNIONISTS WIN WAGE INCREASES IN CALIFORNIA

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Collective bargaining negotiations conducted by AFL unions in California during the month of May resulted in a typical gain of 8 cents per hour in most contracts. Settlements were somewhat lower in at least one major agreement, so that the average increase per worker affected is estimated at around 5½ cents per hour for the 26,500 workers reported. The information obtained is from local union and central labor council papers. The sending of additional and comprehensive information to your paper will make this and other summaries more complete. Details are as follows:

#### Building Trades

Asbestos Workers No. 5, Los Angeles: 25 cents; about 190 workers, 5/49.

Electrical Workers No. B-11, Los Angeles: 10 cents; 100-1000 workers; 5/49.

Electrical Workers No. B569, San Diego County, & electrical contractors: 12½ cents; 600 workers; 5/5/49.

Painters' District Council No. 36, most of southern California, and Painting and Decorating Contractors of America: an increase when ratified by locals.

Painters No. 333, San Diego, and Painting Contractors Ass'n: fringe gains; about 500 workers; 5/15/49.

#### Teamsters

22 Teamster locals, long line and turn-around drivers, California, and Truck Owners' Ass'n: 5 cents; 16,000 workers; retroactive to 5/1/49.

Teamsters No. 386, Modesto: \$5.50 per week, 5/49.

#### Retail Clerks

Retail Clerks No. 1179, Richmond, variety stores: \$3.00 per week; about 100 workers; 5/49.

Culinary

Culinary Workers & Bartenders No. 560, Vallejo, and restaurant and tavern employers: contract continued; about 800 workers; 5/25/49.

Bakers

Bakers No. 37 and No. 31, Los Angeles County, and major wholesale bread and cake bakeries: 10 cents, 8 cents for women in cake shops, and 36-hour rest period; 2200 workers; 5/27/49.

Bakers No. 119, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, and 65 retail stores: 12 cents; 5/23/49.

Bakery and Confectionery Workers No. 125, Oakland, and Sunshine Biscuits, Inc.: 5 cents for one-third of employees and 7 cents for two-thirds; about 100 workers; 5/49.

Bakers No. 315, San Diego, and six major wholesale bakeries: 9 cents retroactive to 5/1/49; 270 workers; 5/27/49.

Other Trades

Inland Boatmen, San Diego Division, and San Diego & Coronado Co.: 2 cents; 5/18/49.

Mailers No. 75, San Diego, and three daily newspapers: \$4.15 per week retroactive to 2/1/49; 35 workers; 5/49.

Typographical Union No. 144, Fresno: \$6.25 per week retroactive to 3/4/49; 5/49.

Cemetery Workers No. 322, East Bay, and 11 cemeteries in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties: 35 cents per day; 150 workers; 5/49.

Cement Workers No. 46, Santa Cruz, and Santa Cruz Portland Cement Co.: 7½ cents; about 40 workers; 5/49.

Street Carmen No. 1277, Los Angeles, and LA Transit Co.: 4 cents and other benefits; 4600 union members; 6/1/49.

Upholsterers No. 3, Bay Area, and 10 firms: 3 percent payroll contribution by employer to health and welfare plan and 5 paid holidays; 108 workers; 5/6/49.

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