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# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

July 13, 1949

### INSURANCE LOBBY LED ANTI-LABOR WAR AT SACRAMENTO

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Perhaps the most significant and ominous development of the recent California legislative session was the emergence of the insurance lobby as a commanding power on the employer front.

The violent character of the insurance attack was particularly evident throughout the closing weeks of the session, when Montgomery Street campaigners smeared and misrepresented virtually every measure introduced by the State Federation of Labor for the social welfare of the people of California.

Working in close concert with the controlling employer interests at Sacramento, the insurance lobby sought to frustrate the unemployment insurance system, the disability insurance system, and the workmen's compensation system.

Thus, the insurance raiders sought to destroy not only the welfare ambitions of the present, but the hard-earned gains of the past.

The American Federation of Labor, recognizing the folly of total state control, has never challenged the right of private insurance existence.

Devotion to a free economy does not mean, however, that labor must contribute to its own destruction. Nor does it mean that labor must give muscle and power to the same arrogant forces that would wreck the organized worker movement of this nation.

The insurance bosses have long posed as the benefactors of the American home. Through countless newspaper and magazine ads, they

have pictured themselves as brotherly protectors in the hour of family need and sorrow.

They present another picture at Sacramento, for in the legislative arena, they would combat the claim of the grieving widow and the cry of the injured worker; they would treat the unemployed as mere burdens on society. And they would do all of these things in the name of free enterprise, California style.

Through the means of the disability insurance system, the working people of this state have brought profit and wealth to the private insurance carriers. The voluntary insurance plan serves those who would exploit and degrade all who toil for a living.

The insurance lobby has declared open war on the workers of California. Labor shall and must answer that challenge.

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(Editor's Note: Watch the News Letter for a series of articles detailing the insurance lobby's attacks on worker insurance functions.)

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#### DEADLINE NEARING ON ASILOMAR LABOR SCHOOL

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--It's deadline time on reservations for the Summer Labor Institute to be held at Pacific Grove (Asilomar Hotel) on the Monterey Peninsula, August 14-20.

Reservations should be made direct to University Extension, University of California, Los Angeles 24, California. The school is sponsored jointly by the University of California and the State Federation of Labor.

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#### 228,000 AFL UNIONISTS WIN WAGE INCREASES IN CALIFORNIA DURING JUNE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Collective bargaining agreements effected by AFL unions in California during June brought continued wage increases and other contract gains affecting an estimated 228,000 workers.

The following compilation was drawn from local union and central labor council papers in California.

#### BUILDING TRADES

Six basic building and construction trades unions in 12 Southern California counties AND the Associated General Contractors; effective August 1, 1949; 8 and a fraction cents an hour increase; 125,000 workers.

Electricians No. 465 AND San Diego Transit System; 2 cents an hour increase for service, 3 cents for mechanics; 200 workers.

Painters No. 364 AND Painting Contractors of Sonoma County; effective June 1, 1949; no change; about 50 workers.

Stationary Engineers No. 526 AND Kelco Company, 6 to 11½ cents an hour increase; 80 workers.

#### CLERKS

Clerks No. 899, Drug Clerks AND Santa Barbara druggists; reduction from 48 to 40 hours per week, which is comparable to 20% increase in hourly pay; about 50 workers.

Clerks No. 899, Textile Clerks AND textile stores, Santa Barbara; \$3.00 per week increase or 6% increase, whichever is greater; about 50 workers.

Five Southern California locals AND Owl Drug Company; reduction from 44 to 40 hours per week, which is comparable to 10% increase in pay, and improved holiday pay; about 150 workers.

#### CULINARY

Cooks No. 402, San Diego AND Chadwick's Restaurant; \$1.00 per day increase; 80 workers.

Culinary No. 703, Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo master agreement; 50 cents to \$1.00 per day increase; 800 workers.

#### TEAMSTERS

Eleven Teamster locals in Southern California AND Western Line Drivers Council; effective May 1, 1949; 5 cents an hour increase; 15,000 workers.

Brewery and Bottling Workers AND California State Brewers Association; \$3.00 per week increase; inauguration of health and welfare plan; 3,500-4,000 workers.

California State Council of Cannery Unions AND California Processors and Growers, covering 75 fruit and vegetable canning and freezing plants; no wage increase, but six paid holidays added and pay provided for "stand-by" time; improved seniority clause also provided; 65,000 workers.

AFL STATE GAINS  
Teamsters (Cont'd)

Teamsters, Agricultural and Horticultural agreement, statewide, effective May 1, 1949; 5 cents an hour increase; over 2,000 workers.

Teamsters, Live Stock Agreement, statewide, effective May 1, 1949, 5 cents an hour increase, 1,000 employees.

Teamsters No. 70 AND Draymen's Association of Alameda County; 50 cents a day increase; 2,000 workers.

Teamsters No. 70 AND Wood Products Association of Alameda County; effective May 4, 1949; 5 cents an hour increase; 250 workers.

Teamsters No. 315 AND Wood Products Company and other retail lumber yards in Contra Costa County; effective June 1, 1949; 5 cents an hour increase; about 100 workers.

OTHER TRADES

Laundry Workers No. 143, San Mateo; 5 cents an hour increase; about 100 workers.

Optical Workers No. 18791, Oakland; retroactive to November 1, 1948; 10 cents an hour increase; about 50 workers.

Office Employees No. 174 and eight major film studios, Hollywood; wages to be reopened in August; two weeks' sick leave provided as well as other gains; 2,200 workers.

Mailers No. 9 AND Newspaper Publishers, Los Angeles; effective May 1, 1949; \$1.63 per day increase; about 100 workers.

Bookbinders No. 40 AND Commercial Printers of San Diego; 12 cents an hour increase for journeymen and 8 cents for journeywomen; about 50 workers.

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CONVENTION REMINDER !

Unions or councils which have not yet received credentials for the California State Federation of Labor convention (Los Angeles -- August 29-September 3) are requested to notify the Federation office at once and a check will be made on the omission.

"APPRENTICESHIP WEEK" HONORS  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Tom Rotell, Executive Secretary of the Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council, AFL, and Almon Roth, President of the San Francisco Employers Council, will speak on behalf of San Francisco's labor and management at the mass graduation of approximately 500 apprentices in Civic Auditorium, July 19.

The public graduation of apprentices, who have spent from two to four years of on-the-job training and related classroom instruction, is the first of its kind here since before the war, and the second since the apprentice training program was instituted in San Francisco in 1939. In recognition of the program, Mayor Elmer E. Robinson has designated the week of July 17-23 as "Apprenticeship Week."

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COST OF LIVING INDEX SHOWS SLIGHT DECREASE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Consumers' Price Index (cost-of-living index) declined 0.3 percent between April 15 and May 15, 1949, according to the announcement this week of the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices of all major groups except rent were lower, with decreases of 1.5 percent for fuels, 1.3 percent for housefurnishings, 0.6 percent for apparel, and fractional declines for food and miscellaneous goods and services. Rents advanced 0.1 percent during the month.

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LET'S DRIVE THE REACTIONARIES OUT OF SACRAMENTO AND WASHINGTON !!

JOIN THE CALIFORNIA LABOR LEAGUE FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION.

CONTRIBUTE NOW!

AFFILIATE NOW!

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