

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

151



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

August 10, 1949

U.S.-MEXICAN PACT MENACES CALIFORNIA FARM WORKERS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO,--Declaring that the new agreement between the U. S. State Department and the Mexican Government to import 35,000 Mexican farm workers is "a carefully timed back-room deal to break down labor standards and wages in California," Hank Hasiwar, western director of organization, and Ernesto Galarza, research and education director of the National Farm Labor Union, AFL, have issued a joint condemnation of the immigration plan.

It is reported that some 80,000 men have assembled south of the border, hoping to be selected for the American farm jobs.

The plot to run farm labor into the United States comes at a time when U. S. unemployment is at its highest peak since prewar days, and when California is experiencing its most dangerous unemployment crisis in more than ten years.

U. S. unemployment now totals almost four million, while California unemployment hovers about the half-million mark.

The National Farm Labor Union states the new pact is a slap at the Anglo-American, Mexican, Negro and Filipino farm workers of America who have been subjected to ruthless union-busting tactics by the Di Giorgio interests and other corporate farm powers of California.

An intense campaign of resistance to the "cheap-labor" plan is being organized by the National Farm Labor Union.

The Hasiwar-Galarza joint statement points the finger of accusation at the Associated Farmers, old hands in the anti-labor wars of California.

The statement concludes:

"We know that the Associated Farmers wrote this ticket. And we know their Taft-Hartley apprentices in the State Department gave it the o.k. They want to put over a prevailing-misery standard under the disguise of a mythical prevailing-wage theory. They want to give Joseph Di Giorgio a boost to break the two-year old AFL strike on his ranch. Thousands of farm workers are now employed only part-time in California. They are looking ahead with fear to the next winter. This pact will make the State of California one vast clip-joint for fleecing Mexican nationals."

THE INSURANCE LOBBY - V

(Editor's Note: This is the fifth in a series of articles treating the activities of the insurance lobby at Sacramento. This week's review concerns the lobby and its relationship to labor efforts to liberalize the Workmen's Compensation Law.)

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Workmen's Compensation Law, first enacted in California in the year 1911, is founded on the assumption that every employer is morally obligated to aid a worker who has lost employment because of injuries or illness suffered in the pursuit of company profit.

Every year in America an approximate 17,000 workers die on the job, while serving as the producers of our national wealth. For their survivors, for their wives, children, mothers, brothers and sisters, no true compensation is possible. No employer power may replace this loss.

However, through company insurance the employer is obliged in California to make some economic compensation for the worker who has gone. And so, just as the employer insures against fire and property damage, he insures against the industrial injury, illness, and death of his personnel.

It has been the historic function of the American Federation of Labor to fight at once for industrial safety and for proper compensation in every state in the union.

The appalling indifference to maimed and crippled workers forms one of the blackest chapters in the annals of American business. If reform has been approached, if some measure of succor has been won, then that reform and that succor are the accomplishments of the organized labor movement, fighting against commercial greed in every generation.

This fight has often been waged on the political front. In the recent session of the California legislature, the State Federation of Labor introduced a bill to raise the minimum injury compensation from a pitiful \$9.75 weekly payment to \$15.00, and to raise the maximum from \$30.00 to \$40.00.

The bill passed the Assembly, but perished at the hands of the insurance-employer lobby combine in the Senate. It was the combine's greatest victory in the compensation battles, a victory effected at the expense of working people, many of them breadwinners for the very families that keep American business alive.

Further, the insurance-employer combine opposed all other vital liberalizing measures. Nevertheless, in spite of this opposition, the State Federation succeeded in winning increased benefits amounting to \$10,000,000 annually for the laboring masses of California.

More subtle was the attempt to harass the Industrial Accident Commission by depriving it of the right to employ attorneys, thus retarding the intelligent prosecution of disputed cases. This and similar bills were successfully opposed by the California State Federation of Labor.

The insurance-employer action here again warrants the question: "Just what do we mean by popular government?" The insurance lobby might well answer: "Government of, by, and for commercial profit."

The American Federation of Labor argues that popular government will survive only if dedicated to the common good. The profit motive has its place, but it must remain subordinate to the welfare of all.

SEBASTOPOL LEARNS A
LESSON -- WE HOPE!

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The current apple surplus crisis in Sebastopol, Sonoma County, has brought both sympathy from the labor movement for the suffering community and scorn for the militant anti-union tactics which have traditionally dominated that farm area.

In an effort to show that the American Federation of Labor holds a genuine regard for true farmer interests, a union delegation attended an emergency meeting of apple growers held at Sebastopol last Monday night.

The delegation was comprised of Lowell Nelson, vice-president of District No. 12 of the California State Federation of Labor, Lowell Goodyear, secretary of the Petaluma Central Labor Council, Earl Sevic, business agent of the Teamsters Union, Sonoma County, and M. S. Vidaver, editor of the AFL Cannery Reporter, official organ of the California State Council of Cannery Unions.

Brother Nelson advised the growers that the AFL would be only too glad to cooperate with farmers in their distribution problems, if given similar recognition in the basic rights of worker organization.

The AFL Cannery Reporter has endorsed the idea of giving aid in this emergency period, but reminds that growers' greed is primarily responsible for the surplus.

LOOK FOR THE LABEL !

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--National Union Label Week will be held this year from September 3 to September 10.

It is imperative that the organized workers of California recognize the importance of this campaign to support the producers of union goods.

The fundamental purpose of this annual demonstration is to draw public attention to the many excellent products which contribute to

better living and which are manufactured by American workers receiving good wages, under healthy, sanitary conditions.

Governor Warren has been asked to proclaim Union Label Week as an official part of the California calendar for 1949.

'T WAS THE YEAR OF THE GREAT WAIL

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Despite the moans and groans of starving millionaires, the facts of life in 1949 reveal that this year the profits of all private corporations, after taxes, will be nearly double what they were in 1929.

Corporate earnings will be more than three times as high in 1949 as in 1939.

The 1949 profit figure will be more than one-half times 1941 earnings.

Corporations will earn more this year than in any one of the years during World War II.

Here are the corporate profit figures, after taxes, in billions of dollars. (Statistical source: U. S. Department of Commerce)

1929.....	\$8.4	1944.....	10.8
1939.....	5.0	1945.....	8.7
1940.....	6.4	1946.....	12.8
1941.....	9.4	1947.....	18.1
1942.....	9.4	1948.....	20.1
1943.....	10.4	1949.....	15.3

(Editor's Note: The 1949 figure, necessarily an estimate, is furnished by the President's Council of Economic Advisers.)

JOIN THE LABOR LEAGUE FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION -- BUT QUICK !

YOUR FUTURE INCOME AND SECURITY WILL BE DETERMINED
IN LARGE BY THE 1950 ELECTIONS!

FOR DETAILS, WRITE LLPE HEADQUARTERS - 402 FLOOD BUILDING,
SAN FRANCISCO, 2