

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

September 7, 1949

BOYCOTT OF PRIVATE INSURANCE COMPANIES LAUNCHED AT CONVENTION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The 47th Convention of the California State Federation of Labor adopted unanimously the Statement of Policy and the report of the Committee on Resolutions, authorizing and urging an immediate boycott of all private disability insurance carriers.

The Resolutions Committee in its report stated that it believed this matter was one of the most important questions to be decided by the delegates to this Convention. It said, "The boycott on private plans is essential because the continued adherence to such types of plans will ultimately destroy the entire structure of the original law."

It pointed out that contributions under the program are compulsory by law, whether the employee is under the state or private plan, and it further pointed out that the program is exclusively for the benefit of employees who pay for its entire cost.

Under the State Plan, any reserves accumulated in excess of the cost of administration in benefit payments remain available for the benefit of the employees under the law, but reserves obtained by private companies are retained by the companies and used either as refunds to employers or as dividends. Employees are thus put in the position of turning over large sums of their own money to their employers through the insurance companies.

The Committee strongly urged all unions to drop their private plans as soon as possible without violating collective bargaining agreements.

This matter was considered of such importance that Secretary-Treasurer Haggerty took the floor to explain the whole background of the disability law. He pointed out that the Medical Association and insurance carriers were so opposed to the disability law when it was proposed in 1946 that it was necessary to give private carriers some role in the law. He pointed out that the AFL in California has believed, and will always believe, in free enterprise, and was therefore willing to give private carriers a chance to show what they could do.

However, Secretary Haggerty pointed out, "Insurance companies told you, and they are still telling you, that they are writing policies to benefit the worker. I want to say here and now that that has proven not to be the fact. They are not written for the benefit of the worker. They are written for the profit of the insurance company."

He pointed out that the insurance companies had combined with all anti-labor forces in Sacramento to oppose all types of social legislation, as well as to promote anti-labor legislation.

Every delegate, Secretary Haggerty urged, must understand the crucial importance of this boycott of the private carriers. He urged the delegates to renounce for the present the higher benefits which can be obtained in some instances under private carrier plans in order that the monopolistic and legislative power of the insurance lobby might be broken and a true liberalization of the disability law obtained for the benefit of all workers in the state.

(Additional details of convention action will be given in the next issue of the News Letter)

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CONVENTION ELECTS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The Executive Council elected by the 47th Convention carries into office almost all the officers

of the preceding year. Two new faces are those of O. T. Satre and Thomas A. Small.

The complete slate of officers is as follows:

John F. Shelley, President
2940 Sixteenth Street, Rm. 214
San Francisco

C. J. Haggerty, Secretary-Treas.
402 Flood Building
San Francisco

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Max J. Osslo, Dist. No. 1
227 "E" Street
San Diego

Thomas A. Small, Dist. No. 8
306-7th Avenue
San Mateo

Jack Arnold, Dist. No. 2
324 East 4th Street
Long Beach

Arthur F. Dougherty, Dist. No. 9
1623½ Market Street
San Francisco

Elmer J. Doran, Dist. No. 3
760 13th Street
San Bernardino

George Kelly, Dist. No. 9
3705 25th Street
San Francisco

Harvey Lundschen, Dist. No. 3
1542 W. 7th Street
Los Angeles

Harry Lundeberg, Dist. No. 9
105 Market Street
San Francisco

Maurice A. Skates, Dist. No. 3
536 Maple Avenue
Los Angeles

Victor S. Swanson, Dist. No. 9
474 Valencia Street
San Francisco

C. T. Lehmann, Dist. No. 3
1628 So. Fifth Street
Alhambra

Robert S. Ash, Dist. No. 10
2315 Valdez Street
Oakland

Thomas L. Pitts, Dist. No. 3
846 South Union Avenue
Los Angeles

Harry C. Grady, Dist. No. 10
2315 Valdez Street
Oakland

Pat Somerset, Dist. No. 3
7046 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood

Howard Reed, Dist. No. 11
729 Castro Street
Martinez

O. T. Satre, Dist. No. 4
Box 996
Wilmington

Lowell Nelson, Dist. No. 12
316 Virginia Street
Vallejo

William A. Dean, Dist. No. 5
302 La Cumbre Road
Santa Barbara

Harry Finks, Dist. No. 13
5257 "H" Street
Sacramento

Paul L. Reeves, Dist. No. 6
1035 Broadway
Fresno

Albin J. Gruhn, Dist. No. 14
P. O. Box 259
Eureka

C. A. Green, Dist. No. 7
1005 "F" Street
Modesto

Roy Walker, Dist. No. 15
Box 1136
Westwood, Lassen County

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CONVENTION RECEIVES PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S
LABOR DAY MESSAGE

(CFNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The 47th Convention was highly honored in receiving President Truman's Labor Day Message, which was delivered by Under-secretary of the Interior, Oscar Chapman.

While the message was not received by the Federation in time for release through the News Letter for Labor Day, the AFL in California may well take pride and pleasure in being thus honored by the President of the United States. The original of this 1949 Labor Day Proclamation Message will long be retained in the place of honor in the Federation's offices.

President Truman pointed out in his message that "Labor Day is more than a holiday for celebrating the achievements of the worker and extolling his contribution to the forward march of our economy. This year more than ever it is a time for a sober evaluation of the problems that labor, together with all other groups in our country, faces in our complex world and of our mutual responsibilities in meeting them."

Labor in California is well aware of these many problems, and the actions of the convention have laid down a broad program for labor to follow during the coming year. Their fulfillment will require the hard work and devotion which President Truman called for in his message, saying "Today labor must also be a full partner in all undertakings not only within our borders, but beyond the seas."

MOLDERS MAKING PROGRESS IN STRIKE
AGAINST WATERMAN'S INDUSTRIES, INC.

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--After nearly five months of dickering and negotiations, Frank Brown, of the Molders Local 164, reports that the management of Waterman's Industries, Inc., at Exeter, California, is showing a more reasonable attitude. Trouble

Since that time the plant has been trying to get scabs throughout the entire Los Angeles Area, but has had no success. The company has had continuous support from the California Employers' Association, which represents employers throughout the state.

The plant is a very elaborate one in which nearly a half million dollars are invested, and it appears at the present that the company is realizing the futility of letting such an investment lie idle.

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