

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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LABOR LOSES LOYAL CHAMPION AS CONGRESSMAN WELCH DIES AT 80

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--California labor lost a faithful and constant friend of the years in the recent death of Congressman Richard J. Welch, Fifth District, San Francisco.

Mr. Welch was the ardent champion of labor long before it enjoyed its present strength and prestige. In both Washington, and Sacramento, where he once served as a legislator, he led the fight for progressive government.

He was the unfailing defender of public power principles, of land reclamation, and of water development for the benefit and use of the people. He was particularly active in establishing Federal protection for the men of the American merchant marine in their historic fight for decent living conditions aboard ship.

Congressman Welch was 80 years of age when fatally stricken on September 10 en route to a water conference in Kingman, Arizona.

He was a life-long member of the AFL Molders Union, and throughout his long political career he never forgot his early years in the Union Iron Works of San Francisco, nor did he ever forget the plight of the working people from whom he came in the crowded South of Market district of fifty years ago.

The California State Federation of Labor extends its deepest sympathies to the family of Congressman Welch, and submits also the heartfelt gratitude of organized labor for an honorable life devoted to the advance and aid of the working people of this state.

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INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
PREPARING ANNUAL SURVEY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Division of Labor Statistics and Research, Department of Industrial Relations, is currently compiling its annual survey of union labor in California.

Under the direction of M. I. Gershenson, division chief, questionnaires have been mailed to all local unions in California, asking for essential data as to membership, jurisdiction, and nature of employment.

The California State Federation of Labor has always favored and supported the development of such statistical work by the state government, and therefore recommends that all AFL unions cooperate in this appeal by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research.

As the printing deadline is now at hand, union secretaries are requested to forward the desired material at their earliest possible convenience.

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STATE FEDERATION RELEASES LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--"The Sacramento Story," a survey of the activities of the California State Federation of Labor during the 1949 session of the California State Legislature, was released to delegates attending the recent Federation convention in Los Angeles and will be distributed throughout the state.

Of crucial importance in approaching elections is the detailed tabulation of roll call votes in the Senate and Assembly.

Major achievements listed in the report by Secretary C. J. Haggerty were the defeat of all anti-labor legislation and the passage of important additions to the workmen's compensation, unemployment, and disability insurance laws.

In addition to major bills already reviewed in the Weekly News Letter, the report covers 400 additional measures of interest to labor in some thirty topics ranging from civil rights to water and power.

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"GOVERNMENT OF, BY, AND FOR THE LOBBIES"

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The faking frauds of the big business world who have lately taken to shouting about the menace of the "labor lobby" in Washington are themselves the perpetrators of the most expensive prostitution of government known in American history.

The American Medical Association spent \$508,397 from January to July 1949 for lobbying. And yet the Association cries "Keep politics out of the sick room!"

The Committee for Constitutional Government, Inc., which fights everything that would help the people, spent \$306,297 in that time.

The National Association of Electric Companies, mastermind lobby for the utilities companies, spent \$224,222.

The National Small Business Men's Association, front group for big business, spent \$129,637.

The National Association of Real Estate Boards spent \$86,493.

The Chamber of Commerce of the U. S. spent \$55,177.

The big business lobbyists also do very well. Take the cases of Gerard D. Reilly, former solicitor for the Labor Department, and Rufus G. Poole, a former associate solicitor for that Department.

Reilly, who made \$10,000 yearly in the government, now has an annual income of \$83,000. He gets that kind of money for being a lobbyist for General Motors, Pond Creek Coal Company, and the Printing Industry of America, Inc.

Reilly paid Joe Ball, who was bounced out of the Senate by Minnesota voters last November, a total of \$3,475 from his fees from General Motors and General Electric during the second quarter of 1949.

Poole has jumped from a \$10,000 annual Federal salary to \$18,000 a year as a lobbyist for six department stores and a \$250 a day retainer from the National Automobile Dealers Association.

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IBEW RESCUES THE FREE PRESS
OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The AFL's International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has come to the rescue of Charles A. Crowder, publisher of the Flora Sentinel (Flora, Illinois), with a \$12,500 loan to save his paper from shutdown by a group of anti-labor businessmen.

The Sentinel, a small semi-weekly, has aroused the enmity of local employers and the southern Illinois oil industry generally because it has printed strike news and editorial comment favorable to labor's objectives since Crowder bought it in 1945.

Pressure was turned on with increasing force when Crowder sided with employees of Flora's municipal power plant who struck against the city's refusal to recognize their union, the IBEW, as bargaining agent.

Some local merchants withdrew their advertising and threatened a boycott. Other local merchants, however, stuck by the paper. All unions in the area organized subscription campaigns to raise the paper's circulation, and the boycott failed.

The next thing that happened to Crowder was the sudden purchase of his mortgage, which was \$800 in arrears to the White County Bank. The Circuit Court in its hearing traced the purchase move to opposing business men of the district.

"I was at the end of my rope," Crowder told a reporter for the AFL Weekly News Service. "The Sheriff had demanded the machinery in my plant under replevin proceedings. I had to raise \$12,500 or get out."

It was then he received a telegram from D. W. Tracy, International prexy of the IBEW, offering the loan. Tracy said that the union considered it a straight business transaction and would not use its financial interest to influence the editorial policy of the paper.

Crowder accepted the offer with great relief, declaring, "I am happy to know the people of the United States, and especially the Electrical Workers Union, realize the full value to our democracy of a free press."

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CONCENTRATION OF PRODUCTIVE FACILITIES SHOWN
IN U. S. REPORT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Forty-six percent of the total net capital assets of all manufacturing corporations in the United States in 1947 was concentrated in the 113 largest manufacturers, the Federal Trade Commission states in a report transmitted to Congress on August 24.

These manufacturing corporations, each with assets in excess of \$100,000,000, owned \$16,093,000,000 of net capital assets, representing property, plant and equipment.

In the face of these figures it is clear that employers are merely diverting the public attention from their own activities when they fling the false charge of "monopoly" at labor unions.

Those manufacturing industries in which extreme concentration of wealth occurs are as follows:

	Percent of control by 3 or fewer companies
Aluminum	100.0
Tin cans and other tinware	95.3
Linoleum	92.1
Copper smelting and refining	88.5
Cigarettes	77.6
Distilled liquors	72.4
Plumbing equipment and supplies	71.3
Rubber tires and tubes	70.3
Office and store machines and devices	69.5
Motor vehicles	68.7
Biscuits, crackers, and pretzels	67.7
Agricultural machinery	66.6
Meat products	64.0