

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING
151



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

October 12, 1949

AFL CONVENTION PLEDGES IMMEDIATE CAMPAIGN FOR LIBERAL CONGRESS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The 68th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor came to a rousing close this Monday in St. Paul with the giant organization pledged to the greatest political effort ever undertaken by organized labor in the history of the nation.

The 700 delegates, representing 8,000,000 workers, pushed through a social-economic program for 1950 highlighted by the announcement that Labor's League for Political Education will immediately open its drive to elect a Congress that will repeal the Taft-Hartley law and enact liberal legislation.

Joseph D. Keenan, national director of the LLPE, reminded the delegates that labor needs only five more "friendly" members in the Senate and 14 in the House to put over the Taft-Hartley repeal and other union objectives.

President William Green, reelected for his 26th consecutive term, also warned the enemies of labor that the AFL would persist in its traditional crusade, refusing to waive its right to demand wage increases and better conditions of work.

The convention took note of the California State Federation of Labor boycott of private disability insurance plans by unanimously passing a resolution urging that whenever disability benefit laws were passed by state legislatures the existence of any private coverage system should be denied.

C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer, represented the California State Federation at the national session.

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FARM UNION WINS COTTON STRIKE BATTLE,
HOPES FOR TOTAL VICTORY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The National Farm Labor Union, AFL, last week suspended all activity in the San Joaquin valley cotton picking strike in accordance with an understanding with cotton growers reached through the State Conciliation Service.

Spokesmen for the growers promised to bring about a general acceptance of the \$3.00 per hundred pound picking rate through voluntary agreement.

However, permanency of the peace hinges upon acceptance of the pact by all growers. Bitter resistance is still being given by a monopoly-minded group led by W. B. Camp, millionaire Kern County cotton operator, and the San Joaquin Agricultural Labor Bureau, a reactionary growers' association.

The union has agreed to notify the State Conciliation Service of non-conforming growers before taking strike action against finance-farmers paying the forbidden \$2.50 scale.

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INSURANCE BOYCOTT SWEEPS CALIFORNIA

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The AFL boycott of private disability insurance plans moved into its second week with more than 30,000 withdrawal forms being requested by unionists seeking to terminate arrangements with private carriers under the unemployment disability insurance law.

In response to the 1949 convention mandate, the California State Federation of Labor is directing the workers' economic fight on the commercial powers which assailed every progressive social insurance plan offered by the Federation in the state legislature at Sacramento.

Unions seeking withdrawal forms should write the California State Federation of Labor, 402 Flood Building, San Francisco 2.

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37,000 AFL UNIONISTS WIN AVERAGE WAGE INCREASE
OF 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ CENTS IN SEPTEMBER

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Collective bargaining negotiations between AFL and related unions and their employers in California during the month of September resulted in wage increases and other benefits of approximately 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents an hour for the 37,000 workers involved.

The detailed listing below is compiled from reports in council newspapers.

Building and Metal Trades

Bay Area Carpenters, 4 counties, AND Associated General Contractors: 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents; effective 6/15/49; 15,000 workers.

Boilermakers, 7 western states, AND employers in field construction work: 8 cents; effective 10/1/49; about 5,000 workers in California.

Southern California District Council of Laborers, 12 southern counties, AND Mason Contractors Exchange: 8 cents; effective 9/1/49; 3,000 workers.

Elevator Constructors No. 8, San Mateo, AND employers: 13 cents; effective 10/3/49; about 150 workers.

Machinists No. 720, El Segundo, AND Douglas Aircraft Company: 5 cents across the board, plus 2 cents for swing and graveyard shifts, improved sick leave, overtime and reporting time provisions; 9/49; 9,100 workers.

Furniture Workers No. 3141, San Francisco, AND employers: 23 cents; 9/49; 55 workers.

Upholsterers No. 3, San Francisco, AND 11 firms in casket industry: medical, life and accident insurance plan; 9/49; 160 workers.

Clerks

Retail Clerks No. 373, Vallejo, AND food store employers: \$5.00 a week; retroactive to 6/1/49; 300 workers.

Culinary

Culinary trades, Santa Barbara to San Diego, AND Mannings, Inc.: wage increases; effective 9/12/49; 600 workers, not formerly covered by contract.

Teamsters

Wholesale Warehousemen and Drivers, 5 southern California locals, AND 64 wholesale grocery warehouse owners: \$4.50 a week, improved vacation, sick and holiday pay; effective 9/4/49; 2,000 workers.

Bakery Wagon Drivers No. 432, Oakland, AND Bakers Club (major East Bay bakeries): \$3.00 to \$4.00 a week; effective 10/1/49; 600 workers.

General Truck Drivers No. 624, San Rafael, AND milk and ice cream employers: contract continued; 9/1/49; about 200 workers.

Miscellaneous crafts

Bakers No. 37, Los Angeles, AND Latin, Pie and Hand Bakers: 7 cents, 5 cents, and 6 cents, and improved vacation clause; 9/49; about 200 workers.

Street Carmen No. 138, San Francisco, AND California Cable Company: 2 cents; retroactive to 7/1/49; about 135 workers.

Bus Drivers No. 1309, San Diego, AND San Diego Transit System: 4 cents; 8/49; 600 workers.

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EMPLOYMENT UP IN CONSTRUCTION WORK

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Employment in the California contract construction industry increased slightly between July and August, reflecting gains in special-trade contracting and general contracting, other than building, it was announced this week by Paul Scharrenberg, Director of Industrial Relations for the State of California.

The number of employees in the industry as a whole increased by approximately 400 to 186,900 in August. However, the August total was still 10 percent below the 1948 total of 208,100.

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ENGINEERS STRIKE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMPANIES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Over 350 striking employees of fourteen Los Angeles Rock, Sand and Gravel Companies this week renewed their original proposal for ending the week-old walkout, which has idled over 30,000 building trades workmen in the Los Angeles area.

Action was taken by the men, members of the International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL, at a special-called meeting in the Labor Temple, on Monday, October 10, to vote on a substitute truce plan offered by the employers.

The Union's proposal for ending the walkout called for:

1. The declaration of a truce, during which time the men would return to work.

2. The parties would continue to negotiate during the truce period on all issues necessary to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement.

3. At the end of a two-week period, all issues remaining in dispute would be submitted to arbitration.

4. The truce would become permanent on acceptance by both parties of the arbitrator's decision.

The men rejected the employer's substitute truce offer by a vote of more than three to one. This offer called for a three-week truce period, at the end of which time the best offer by both parties would be submitted to each other by secret ballot, with no assurance that a settlement could be reached that would prevent resumption of the strike.

The union's offer to declare a truce and submit the issues to arbitration was reluctantly made in face of the grave consequences likely to result from a widespread tie-up in the construction industry.

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LABOR PAPERS PLEASE NOTE!!

The California State Federation of Labor and the California Labor League for Political Education rely heavily on the local labor press for the dissemination of economic and political news of vital concern to organized labor in this state. In order that the Federation may have a complete listing of all papers, please fill in and return the form below:

Name of paper -----
Editor -----
Editorial offices, street -----
city -----
Official organ of ----- (Union or Council) -----
Publication date ----- Usual number of pages -----

RETURN TO: California State Federation of Labor
C. J. Haggerty, Secretary
402 Flood Building
San Francisco 2, California

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