

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

November 9, 1949

### INSURANCE BOYCOTT MOVES INTO SECOND MONTH AS FEDERATION FIGHTS LOBBY BLOC

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The month-old boycott of private disability insurance plans received added impetus this week with the announcement that the California State Council of Cannery Unions has voted to concur in the State Federation campaign against the powerful Sacramento insurance lobby.

Under the state disability insurance law, workers now receive protection against wage loss when unemployed because of non-industrial illness or non-industrial injuries, such as those suffered in the home.

The disability insurance plan is financed exclusively by the workers, who contribute one percent of their wages to the state fund or to a private insurance unit when they have so consented.

More than 75,000 withdrawal forms have already been requested by AFL workers throughout California in response to the boycott action launched at the Federation's 1949 convention in Los Angeles.

This unanimous convention policy was adopted only after the private insurance carriers had used all their lobbying power during the 1949 session of the state legislature not only to block any liberalizing of disability benefits, but also to raid funds accumulated in the disability reserves for eventual payment to disabled workers.

The insurance boycott concerns the disability program only, and is not to be confused with any welfare plans which unions might accept as part of their collective bargaining agreements.

Unions are urged to write the State Federation office for withdrawal forms to be signed by employees wishing to conclude their participation in private disability plans. All such communications should be addressed to C. J. Haggerty, Secretary, California State Federation of Labor, 402 Flood Building, San Francisco 2, California.

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#### AFL UNIONISTS WIN WAGE GAINS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Some 15,660 members of American Federation of Labor unions in California won wage gains through collective bargaining amounting to an average increase of seven cents per hour, during October.

In view of the fact that major agreements for 1949 have already been settled, the number of workers covered and the amount gained are quite substantial and indicate that collective bargaining is a year-round process.

Details are given below as reported in union newspapers.

#### Building Trades

Carpet and Linoleum Workers No. 1290 and No. 1235, Oakland and San Francisco, AND employers' association: 15 cents, retroactive to 8/1/49, and 10 cents additional 4/1/50; 200 workers in Oakland, 400 in San Francisco.

Operating Engineers No. 12, Los Angeles, AND 14 rock and sand plants: 4½ cents in cash and other improvements; 10/49; 450 workers.

Paint Makers No. 1101 and No. 1071, Oakland and San Francisco, AND Golden Gate Paint Club, United Employers, Inc., and San Francisco Employers' Council: 10 cents; effective 10/1/49; 500 employees in Oakland, 320 in San Francisco.

#### Clerks

Retail Clerks No. 870 and No. 1179, Oakland and Richmond, AND all chain and independent food stores except Safeway: \$2.00 per week; 10/49; 2100 in Alameda County, 500 in Contra Costa County.

Retail Clerks No. 1119, San Rafael, AND Alberts, Inc.: \$3 per week; 10/25; 140 workers.

Culinary

Bartenders and Culinary No. 126 AND Marin County Restaurant and Tavern Owners' Association: \$1 to \$2 per day; about 400 workers.

Teamsters

Chauffeurs No. 481, San Diego, AND cab companies: improved commissions and vacations; 9/49; 600 workers.

Teamsters, Los Angeles and Modesto, AND Budget Pack, Inc.: 5 to 25 cents; 10/49; about 500 employees.

Warehousemen No. 853 and No. 860, Oakland and San Francisco, AND AFL Warehouse Employers' Association and San Francisco Employers' Council: 10 cents, retroactive to 6/1/49; 700 in Oakland, 4,000 in San Francisco.

Garage Employees No. 665, San Francisco, AND Garage Owners' Association and independents: 2½ cents and health and hospitalization plan, or 3½ cents; retroactive to 8/11/49; 850 workers.

Garage Employees No. 665, San Francisco, AND new and used car dealers' associations: 7½ cents; retroactive to 6/1/49; 600 workers.

Bakery Wagon Drivers No. 432, Oakland, AND Bakers' Club: \$3 to \$4 per week; 10/1/49; 550 workers.

Teamsters No. 490, Solano County, AND bakeries: \$3 per week; about 100 workers.

Retail Delivery Drivers No. 278, San Francisco, AND Retail Owners' and Operators' Association (39 companies): \$2.50; 10/49; 275 workers.

Miscellaneous trades

Apartment and Hotel Employees No. 14, San Francisco, AND Apartment Employers' Council of San Francisco: medical and hospital plan paid by employer contribution of \$3 per month per employee; 12/1/49; 700 workers.

Hospital Workers No. 250, San Francisco, AND Hospital Conference (9 institutions) and one independent: hospital, medical and surgical plan, improved vacation clause; 10/1/49; 1500 employees.

Pattern Makers, San Francisco, AND California Metal Trades Association: 5 cents; 10/49; 175 workers.

Stereotypers No. 29, Bay Area, AND 8 jobbing firms: \$4 per week; 10/49; 90 workers.

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#### CHRISTMAS SEAL DRIVE OPENS NOVEMBER 21

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, this week urged that all AFL unionists in the state cooperate in the annual Christmas Seal Sale to raise funds to fight tuberculosis, heart disease and rheumatic fever.

The campaign will be held from November 21 through Christmas.

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#### "WELFARE STATE CRY IS SCARE TACTIC" -- WRIGHT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Today's reactionaries, who are losing the fight against progressive legislation now as they did in times past, are using the scare technique to fight further progress, Assistant Secretary of Labor Ralph Wright told the Kentucky State Federation of Labor convention in Louisville last week.

"These reactionaries say we are creating a welfare state," Wright continued. "Do they want to do away with social security, unemployment insurance, bank deposit insurance, minimum wage legislation, TVA, SEC, or other New Deal and Fair Deal measures that have done so much to help the people?"

Then Wright asked which of these the reactionaries would abolish if they came to power. "I suspect the answer is 'none,'" he said. "But only because they would not dare openly to advocate depriving our country of any of these benefits."

Wright assured his audience that certain reactionaries might not actually advocate repeal of any of these laws, but they would seek to water them down, if possible, to the point of innocuousness.

"Failing that," he added, "they would try to nullify them through poor administration, lack of enforcement, and lack of appropriations to the agencies administering these laws. In addition, they would block attempts to move forward in the field of social legislation.

"Improved social security legislation, the minimum wage laws, health insurance, and all other extensions of New Deal policy are being fought today with this false cry of 'welfare state,'" Wright said. "No such empty charge will fool the American people."

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NEWLY CHOSEN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
TO MEET IN SAN FRANCISCO

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The next quarterly session of the California State Federation of Labor Executive Council will be held November 19 and 20 at the Whitcomb Hotel, San Francisco.

This will be the first meeting of the officers elected at the recent state convention in Los Angeles.

Main item on the council agenda will be organization of the California Labor League for Political Education for the 1950 elections.

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GREEN ENDORSES COMMUNITY CHEST

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, this week issued an appeal to all AFL bodies, asking that they cooperate with the various Community Chest campaigns now being sponsored across the nation.

The Chest has received the traditional support of organized labor in its effort to relieve the hardship and suffering of those in economic want.

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JOIN THE CALIFORNIA LABOR LEAGUE FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION

1950 IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

FOR AFFILIATION DETAILS, WRITE LLPE HEADQUARTERS  
402 Flood Building  
San Francisco 2, California