

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

November 16, 1949

SHELLEY TRIUMPH FEATURES NATIONAL LABOR VICTORIES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The overwhelming victory of State Federation President John F. Shelley in his campaign for election to the vacancy in the Fifth Congressional District of San Francisco highlighted labor triumphs in the elections of November 8.

Shelley swept to triumph over his two opponents, a Republican Taft-Hartley apologist, and an IPP candidate who ran a hopeless third.

The Shelley election was part of a continuing national trend to labor candidates.

Joseph D. Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, this week declared that the success of November 8 "demonstrated beyond a doubt that the ballot victory of 1948 was not an accident."

In a statement released from Washington headquarters of LLPE, Keenan claimed: "The American people have come of age and can no longer be terrorized by scare words and deceived by vague and meaningless promises. The elections of November 8 were a vote of confidence for the program of the AFL and for the legislative accomplishments of the last 16 years."

He added that in the three special elections to the United States Congress and Senate, LLPE-backed candidates were victors in every case.

In the vital New York test, former Governor Herbert Lehman defeated Senator John Foster Dulles who had denounced virtually everything the AFL advocated for economic and social action.

In addition to the Shelley win in San Francisco, Mrs. Edna Kelly was elected by a wide margin in Brooklyn's Tenth Congressional District.

Political observers throughout the nation were unanimous in holding that labor had once again proven the decisive factor in the rout of old-guard Tory politicians.

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STATE BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL
HOLDS ANNUAL CONVENTION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The 34th convention of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California began this Monday in Santa Barbara, with president Frank A. Lawrence officially opening the annual meet.

C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, and John F. Shelley, Federation President, addressed the Monday morning session.

Haggerty reminded the delegates of the necessity for successfully boycotting private disability insurance carriers and the need to organize efficiently to carry out the AFL political program in 1950.

Hubert Humphrey, liberal Minnesota Senator, delivered a fiery message at the Tuesday meeting, warning that labor must work with unity and vigor at the business of political action if government would be kept from the control of reactionary business powers.

The convention was scheduled to adjourn Friday, November 18, with installation of newly elected officers.

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GENERAL MOTORS EARNS BIGGEST PROFITS
IN HISTORY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--"We can't afford to raise wages," screams Big Business.

"We've got to have tougher laws regulating labor, or we'll bleed to death," shout the NAM and the Chamber of Commerce.

One wonders why they take that tack in view of earnings recently reported by some of the major corporations.

Here are net earnings statements released by 11 of them.
(General Motors has earned already in 1949 more money than in any 12-month period in its history):

| Company | (Millions of Dollars) | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | 1949 | 1948 |
| du Pont..... | \$136 (9 mos.) | \$102 (9 mos.) |
| Westinghouse..... | 49 (" ") | 37 (" ") |
| Bethlehem Steel..... | 23 (3rd qtr.) | 23 (3rd qtr.) |
| National Distillers..... | 16 (9 mos.) | 16 (9 mos.) |
| Minn.-Honeywell..... | 5 (" ") | 3 (" ") |
| CIT Financial Corp. | 19 (" ") | 12 (" ") |
| Standard Brands..... | 6 (" ") | 6 (" ") |
| Colgate-Palmolive-Peet..... | 9 (" ") | 7 (" ") |
| Proctor & Gamble..... | 20 (" ") | 13 (" ") |
| Murray Corp. | 7 (" ") | 3 (" ") |
| Chrysler..... | 98 (" ") | 60 (" ") |

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VOICE OF AMERICA SENDS HAGGERTY'S INSURANCE
MESSAGE 'ROUND THE WORLD

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Voice of America, U.S. radio agency now beaming news and views to the world on both sides of the iron curtain, last week broadcast a summary of the national AFL convention attitude on social insurance prepared by C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the California State Federation of Labor.

Haggerty's message, which went to all corners of the world, follows in full:

Unquestionably, the desire for security is one of the outstanding objectives of the workers of our country today. The convention, therefore, devoted a great deal of consideration to this problem and arrived at several important decisions on future policy that the American people ought to know about.

First, the convention unanimously endorsed the bill passed by the House of Representatives in Washington which would increase social security benefits and extend coverage to millions of persons

now excluded. The delegates also called upon the Senate to approve this measure and enact it into law without delay. The American Federation of Labor has pioneered in the social security field and is constantly trying to improve its services to the people. Many proposals to strengthen the social security system were voted by the delegates. One very important one is to insure workers against temporary disability which deprives them of wage income.

The second major step taken by the convention to carry out the mandate of its members for real social security was to endorse a national health insurance system. No amount of opposition, no extremes of villification and no propaganda campaigns warning about a "welfare state" will deter the American Federation of Labor from this goal. The health insurance law we favor is really a law to protect all the American people against the costs of medical care, which are now so high that the savings of a lifetime can be wiped out overnight when illness attacks some one in the family.

There is nothing radical or impractical about having the federal government operate such a health insurance program toward which both the workers themselves and industry would contribute. It is such a huge undertaking that private insurance companies could not handle it. The insurance premiums would take the form of payroll taxes, just as social security is now financed.

Finally, the convention took up the stormy question of industry's responsibility in the matter of pensions for retired workers which is now disrupting labor-management relations in several important industries.

The convention pointed out--and this is news--that the unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor paid out more than \$100,000,000 to their members in benefit services during the past year alone. It emphasized that the government must assume its share of the burden by improving the social security system, along the lines I have

already mentioned. And it declared that industry, too, must shoulder part of the responsibility, instead of heartlessly discarding injured or aged workers like broken or worn-out pieces of machinery.

Social insurance from trade unions, from public funds and from industry's funds must supplement each other.

That, in brief, sums up the convention's statement of policy on this vital subject. To my mind, the principle of sharing the burden and responsibility makes sound common-sense and will commend itself to the good judgment of the American people.

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AFL MEMBERS URGED TO AID
EUROPE'S NEEDY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--American Federation of Labor workers interested in aiding the hungry, dependent people of Europe through the CARE relief program were urged this week to send all contributions and orders for CARE packages directly to the AFL Representative, CARE, 20 Broad Street, New York 4, New York.

The Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe, Inc., functions as a non-profit corporation dedicated to the service of building of democracy in Europe through direct relief action.

The Labor League for Human Rights, AFL, and twenty-five other relief agencies founded this government approved body.

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CARPENTERS HELP FIGHT ON INSURANCE LOBBY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Bay Counties District Council of Carpenters was busy this week effecting machinery to bring the story of the State Federation boycott of private disability insurance plans to all members of affiliated unions.

The council is mailing a letter to each member explaining the reasons for the boycott action adopted at the 1949 convention of the Federation.

Unions seeking supplementary help in the boycott program are asked to write the Federation headquarters, 402 Flood Building, San Francisco 2, California

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