

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

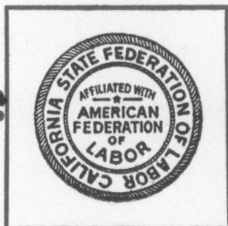
CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING



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Christmas



San Francisco,
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December 14, 1949

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

by C. J. Haggerty, Secretary

The Christmas season is a particularly wise time to remind the world that peace on earth shall be achieved only through the effort of men of good will. International harmony and industrial harmony are alike dependent upon such men.

It is the historical purpose of the American Federation of Labor to achieve an orderly society in which economic and social justice shall prevail.

We therefore believe the Christmas season has a special significance for our movement, since we are dedicated to the defense of all who work, of all who toil in fields and stables, of all who wander through the night seeking aid and shelter.

Mindful of this high obligation, we pledge our continued good will and continued energy to accomplish that society which was the dream of the first Christmas--Peace on earth--Justice for all.

FEDERATION PLAN BECOMES LAW

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--California's liberalized state disability program becomes effective January 1, 1950, it was announced this week by the State Department of Employment.

Among the new provisions are: (1) hospitalization benefits of \$8 a day for up to 12 days in a year; (2) elimination of the seven-day waiting period for claimants who are hospitalized. Both wage and hospitalization benefits begin the day the worker enters the hospital.

These amendments to the basic Unemployment Insurance Act were adopted at the 1949 session of the state legislature upon the sponsorship of the California State Federation of Labor. They were adopted over the frantic and bitter opposition of the potent insurance lobby which killed all other liberal amendments to the law.

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STATE DISABILITY PLAN PAYS SUPERIOR
"LONG-HAUL" BENEFITS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Private insurance programs offering "voluntary" disability protection to the workers of California have been providing less total benefits than the state-sponsored plan, according to statistics released this week by the State Department of Employment.

All American Federation of Labor unionists are now being urged to withdraw from participation in the various private disability systems in accord with the unanimous boycott action of such plans adopted at the 1949 convention of the California State Federation of Labor.

Necessary withdrawal forms have already been issued to more than 125,000 AFL workers by the Federation office in San Francisco. The boycott move was taken in response to the ruinous tactics of the insurance lobby during the recent general session of the state legislature during which the private carriers sought to frustrate the true purpose of the disability law.

The Department of Employment comparative survey, which concerns the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949, reveals that while the private carriers have been paying an average weekly benefit of \$27.32 as measured against the \$22.28 paid by the state plan, the average number of weeks compensated per spell under private control is only 5.7, or 44 percent lower than the 10.1 weeks compensated under the state plan.

In addition, the benefits paid per spell of disability under private plans were only \$154.73 or 32 percent below the average \$227.99 paid under the state system.

Thus, while granting higher weekly benefits, the private carriers have actually given considerably lower total benefits.

Also significant is the fact that the reserves available for state plan disability benefits now total \$205.1 million for the approximately 1.2 million workers covered by that operation. Thus, the state offers an average potential "rebate" of \$171 per employee so covered.

Equally large potential rebates may exist under the private plans, but they will be paid, not necessarily to the workers, but often to insurance company stockholders in dividends or to employers in the form of rebates.

Disability plans, state or private, are financed entirely by the workers of California who contribute one percent of their paychecks to the program. Because of this, the California State Federation of Labor has maintained that the working people should receive greater benefits, a position vigorously fought by the insurance lobby which apparently fears a reduction of profit in any liberalizing of the present disability law.

The State Department of Employment comparative survey follows:

CALIFORNIA DISABILITY BENEFITS PAID UNDER STATE
AND PRIVATE PLANS, JUNE 1948 - JUNE 1949

	<u>State plan</u>	<u>Private plans</u>
Average number of weeks compensated per spell		
1948, 3rd quarter	10.3	6.0
4th quarter	10.4	5.7
1949, 1st quarter	9.9	5.2
2nd quarter	9.8	5.8
<u>AVERAGE</u>	<u>10.1</u>	<u>5.7</u>
Average benefits per spell		
1948, 3rd quarter	\$227.85	\$159.94
4th quarter	233.74	155.30
1949, 1st quarter	225.96	143.80
2nd quarter	224.39	159.91
<u>AVERAGE</u>	<u>227.99</u>	<u>154.73</u>

Average weekly benefits	<u>State plan</u>	<u>Private plans</u>
1948, 3rd quarter	\$22.12	\$26.66
4th quarter	22.48	27.25
1949, 1st quarter	22.71	27.56
2nd quarter	22.82	27.79
<u>AVERAGE</u>	<u>22.28</u>	<u>27.32</u>

Source: California Department of Employment,
Report 1031, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 1949.

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SIX CENTS WAGE INCREASE WON
BY 14,000 AFL UNIONISTS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Wage increases amounting to an average of 6 cents an hour were won by some 14,000 AFL union members in California during the month of November, according to reports filed with labor newspapers throughout the state.

The survey follows:

Building Trades

Painters No. 1104 (Glaziers), Salinas, AND employers: 8 cents, and time and a half for Saturday work; 12/15/49; about 40 workers.

Clerks

Council of Department Store Employees, San Francisco, AND San Francisco Retailers Council: (1) Clerks, non-selling, 6½ cents; commissioned, 8.7 cents; retroactive to 9-1-49; 3000 union members covered; (2) warehousemen, 10 cents; retroactive to 6-1-49 for general warehousemen and to 8-1-49 for furniture warehousemen; 350 workers; (3) building service, 9 cents, of which 6 cents is retroactive to 3-1-49 and 3 cents to 8-1-49; 11/49; 300 workers.

Clerks No. 373, Vallejo, AND Retail Drug Association: \$2.50 per week; 11/49; about 50 workers.

Culinary

Bartenders and Culinary Workers No. 126, San Rafael, AND Marin County Tavern and Restaurant Owners' Assn.: \$1.00 a day for waitresses and dishwashers; \$2.00 a day for cooks and bartenders; 11/49; about 600 workers.

Bartenders and Culinary Workers No. 248, Fort Bragg, AND 18 employers: \$1.00 a day for waitresses and \$2.00 per day for bartenders; 11/49; about 75 workers.

Teamsters

Teamsters No. 315, Martinez, AND Contra Costa Laundry and Dry Cleaners Assn.: small wage increase; 11/49; 50 men.

Teamsters No. 315, Martinez, AND American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Co. of Richmond: 7½ cents and health and welfare plan; 11/49; 62 warehousemen.

Teamsters No. 315, Martinez, AND Richmond Motor Car Dealers Assn.: health and welfare plan; 11/49; 150 workers.

Teamsters No. 386, Modesto, AND Poultry Producers, Inc.: 9½ cents for men; 4½ cents for women; 7½ cents additional for drivers on 1/1/50; 11/49; about 100 workers.

Teamsters No. 542, San Diego, AND wholesale grocery firms: 11½ cents; 11/21/49; about 200 drivers and warehousemen.

Dried Fruit and Nut Packers No. 616, Fresno, AND Glacier Frozen Foods, Sanger: 2½ cents; 11/49; about 100 workers.

Teamsters and Warehousemen No. 624, San Rafael, AND feed and egg firms: 9½ cents; retroactive to 6/1/49 for warehousemen and to 5/1/49 for drivers; 11/49; about 100 workers.

Miscellaneous

Sailors Union of the Pacific AND Pacific Maritime Assn., West Coast ports: off-shore, coastwise and Alaska trades, 25 cents a day per man employer contribution to health and welfare fund; 11/49; 8000 sailors.

Masters, Mates and Pilots No. 90 AND Pacific Maritime Assn., West Coast: 1.56 percent wage increase and \$7.50 monthly clothing allowance; retroactive to 6/16/49; welfare plan; 1500 workers in inter-coastal, offshore and Alaska trade.

Building Service Employees No. 102, San Diego, AND 9 downtown office buildings: 5 cents; 12/49; about 100 workers.

Motor Coach Employees, 7 western states, AND Pacific Greyhound Co.: 4 cents; 11/49; 2600 workers.

Motion Picture Projectionists No. 150, Los Angeles, AND 146 theatres; 10 cents and other benefits; 11/49; about 300 workers.

Meatcutters No. 508, South San Francisco, AND Swift and Co. (benefits through national agreement): 3 cents for skilled workers and other benefits; 11/49; 450 workers.

Machinists No. 1173, Concord, AND garages: health and welfare plan; 11/49; 400 workers.

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A T T E N T I O N : ALL AFL UNIONS AND COUNCILS :

JOIN THE CALIFORNIA LABOR LEAGUE FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION ! =====
=====Prepare now for the important convention of April 1950.
DON'T DELAY - LABOR'S POLITICAL ACTION PROGRAM CAN'T WAIT! =====

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