

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

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NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

by C. J. Haggerty, Secretary

The year of 1950 will present grave and dangerous threats to the American labor movement. The plotting powers of American reaction will arouse their commercial satellites as never before in a frantic effort to impose the Corporation State upon the people of our nation.

We are determined to repel that attack in the year before us. And what is more affirmative, we are determined to achieve the essentials of a state devoted to the service and security of the masses of the people, a state devoted to the common good of society, a state that will recognize the responsibilities as well as the rights of our traditional free economy.

Specifically, we shall seek first to guarantee the rights of every American worker, rights which are under constant attack by the truculent leaders of the jungle philosophy that would pit toiler against toiler in savage competition for the lowest possible wage.

We are further determined to aid the ill-housed, the ill-fed, those impoverished by illness, and those rendered helpless by age. Indeed, we are determined to aid all whose social suffering pulls at the conscience of America.

In practical language, we must espouse the following aims throughout 1950:

- (1) Political action at the local, state, and national level.
- (2) Repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.
- (3) A social security system that will offer benefits to the aged, the sick, and the injured.

- (4) A realistic employment program geared to the realities of consumer purchasing power.
- (5) Maintenance of rent controls.
- (6) Adequate public housing for urban and rural communities.
- (7) Water and power development for and by the American public.
- (8) Federal aid to education.
- (9) A civil rights system that will assure every American of his natural and constitutional heritage.

AFL WILL START NATIONAL
RADIO PROGRAM ON JANUARY 2

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The American Federation of Labor will initiate a nationwide radio program over the Mutual Broadcasting System beginning January 2, 1950.

Frank Edwards, nationally known in the broadcasting field, has been engaged as commentator.

The program will have the following California outlets:

San Francisco:	Station KFRC	10:15 p.m.	Monday through Friday
Los Angeles:	Station KHJ	10:15 p.m.	Monday through Friday
Sacramento:	Station KXOA	10:15 p.m.	Monday-Wednesday-Friday
San Diego:	Station KGB	10:15 p.m.	Monday-Wednesday-Friday

Purpose of the ambitious national program is to publicize the story of the American Federation of Labor and to interpret news of the day in the light of labor principles.

TOBIN INDICTS TAFT-HARTLEY ACT -- 16 TIMES

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.- Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin last week listed 16 commanding reasons calling for the immediate repeal of the notorious Taft-Hartley Act.

Tobin's analysis, issued officially from Labor Department headquarters in Washington, was given in answer to numerous public requests for a summary of his testimony to Congress on the Act.

The Secretary declared that the Taft-Hartley Act has brought

confusion to the field of labor relations, limited the scope of collective bargaining, unnecessarily injected the government into labor disputes, and abridged the rights of workers.

Among the principal defects of the Act, Tobin named the following:

1. The Act's banning of union security agreements mutually beneficial to both labor and management for a period of over 100 years.

2. The special emphasis placed by the Act on the use of injunctions to settle labor disputes.

3. The Act's removal of the Conciliation Service from the Department of Labor.

4. The broad discretionary power placed by the Act in the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, making him "a virtual labor czar."

5. The Act's provisions for numerous elections which keep employer-employee relations in a constantly unsettled condition.

6. The Act's outlawing of peaceful picketing in many situations.

7. The Act's restrictions on the check-off.

8. The Act's denial of the right to vote to economic strikers.

9. The Act's provisions for employers' petition for representation elections.

10. The Act's restrictions on health and welfare funds.

11. The Act's surrender of federal jurisdiction where state laws are more restrictive on union security.

12. The Act's broad ban on political contributions and expenditures by labor organizations.

13. The Act's provision for damage suits against unions.

14. The Act's indiscriminate outlawing of secondary boycotts whether justifiable or not.

15. The Act's provision for mandatory injunctions against certain union unfair labor practices.

16. The Act's elaborate and inflexible procedures, including an 80-day waiting period enforced by injunction in emergency disputes, combined with the prohibition against recommendations by boards of inquiry to assist the parties to settle such disputes.

U. S. WORKER KILLED OR CRIPPLED EVERY FOUR MINUTES
BY JOB ACCIDENTS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Inadequate attention to factory safety is causing a frightful loss in money and power, industrial hygiene experts were told in Pittsburgh, Pa., last week by Clinton S. Golden,

labor adviser to the Economic Cooperation Administration, which directs the Marshall Plan.

"Four billion dollars were lost to labor and management last year due to industrial accidents," Golden said. Job injuries during the year reached 1,950,000 and caused 16,500 deaths as well as 86,000 permanent disabilities.

"One American worker continues to be killed or crippled every four minutes and one injured every 15 seconds," he declared.

Golden made a strong plea for labor-management cooperation in the job of solving the safety problem: "It's unfortunate that management, in far too many instances, has failed to enlist the active participation of labor organizations and their representatives in this work."

U. S. TORIES DISTORT EMPIRE ELECTIONS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Thomas Stokes, liberal Washington columnist, whose daily writings are carried across the nation, last week cautioned American Tories against gloating over the recent successive defeats of the labor governments of Australia and New Zealand.

Stokes declared all major parties in the two dominions are committed to welfare policies "far beyond the Truman Fair Deal program."

"In other words," he continued, "they are already well ahead of what President Truman as yet is only seeking."

Stokes also reminded that English Conservatives have pledged themselves to keep what the labor government has already enacted, which is again "far beyond anything President Truman even has suggested."

While American papers largely heralded the fall of the labor governments of Australia and New Zealand, they conveniently played down the 36th consecutive by-election victory of the Labor government in England -- a victory won the very week of the dominion retreats.

While quoting the exulting Tory press of Britain, American papers also ignored the news that in that same week the neighboring Republic of Ireland voted to nationalize the Irish railroad system.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, last month protested the press treatment given news from the democratic labor nations of the world. He knew whereof he spoke.

RUMOR DOCTORS ENTER POLITICAL DEAL WITH INSURANCE LOBBY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--With news that the American Medical Association has launched unconditional warfare against prepaid health insurance, there also came rumblings from Washington last week that the Whitaker-Baxter publicity combine has entered into an alliance with major insurance companies to align the A.M.A. against HR 6000, the Truman measure to liberalize the Social Security Act.

At their annual meeting in Washington, the A.M.A.'s House of Delegates voted to assess most of its members \$25 a year to the end of raising an annual political war chest of three million dollars.

The assessments, which are compulsory, replace a plan in effect for the past year under which doctors were asked to contribute \$25 to whip national health insurance. A total of \$2,350,000 was collected through this method.

News of the Whitaker-Baxter move to place the American doctor in direct battle with the masses of the working people follows a pattern established in the 1949 session of the California legislature when the medical lobby joined with the insurance forces in fighting the liberalizing of disability benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act.

It is one thing for the doctors to fight prepaid health insurance as an alleged burden to medical practice. It is quite another thing for those doctors to campaign against social progress in distant fields.

We trust the responsible elements of the profession will halt this madness which could make the once-beloved figure of the family doctor an object of contempt and scorn in millions of American homes.

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