

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

151



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

January 11, 1950

SAMUEL GOMPERS -- AND 1950

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The President of the United States addressed the Samuel Gompers Centennial Year dinner last week in Washington, D. C., while the Vice President of the nation and more than 1000 men and women jammed the Hotel Statler affair in honor of the founding genius of the American Federation of Labor.

It wasn't always that way. In the time of his prominence Sam Gompers was maligned and despised by the insolent leaders of American capital.

His cause was tolerated, but never accepted by the political charlatans of his era. Their affection was reserved for others -- for the men who governed party funds in Wall Street and allied financial centers.

In this hostile environment Gompers established the foundations of the largest free labor organization the world has ever known. He built a movement which survived the villainous attacks of 19th century industrialists and which has become in our time a mighty instrument for national advance.

The current prototypes of 19th century reaction acknowledge the Gompers contribution. They place him with the heroic figures of American history.

Labor accepts this belated recognition with pride and satisfaction. But labor must repudiate the interpretation of Gompers given the nation in this centennial year by the commercial press.

The controlled press would tell us that Gompers limited the ambitions of labor to wages, hours and conditions of work.

That press would tell that Gompers abhorred the concept of political action by labor.

The press has tailored the memory of Sam Gompers to suit its own economic and political tastes.

However, facts defy this press fiction. Gompers gave legitimate emphasis to the concentration on wages, hours, and conditions of work, because without these essentials there could be no national labor movement.

But Sam Gompers never renounced labor's pursuit of a better life for all. Nor did he ever renounce the idea of political action.

It was Sam Gompers who said: "We must make manifest the fact that we have political power and that we intend to use it; otherwise the ballot will become an impotent weapon." (Report to AFL Convention, Toronto, Ont., Canada, Nov., 1909.)

It was Sam Gompers who said: "The vital legislation now required can be more readily secured through education of the public mind and the appeal to its conscience, supplemented by energetic political activity on the part of trade unionists than by any other method." (From Annual Report to AFL Convention, Atlantic City, N.J., June, 1919.)

The centennial year of Sam Gompers' birth will be one of test and trial for the movement he founded.

It is therefore imperative that we find inspiration and courage in his warning that political virility is necessary if labor would seek a finer world for all who work.

Labor will honor Sam Gompers best in 1950 by organizing the unorganized and by driving from public life all who would strangle the cause to which he gave his days and years.

AFL UNION FACES UTILITY SHOWDOWN
WITH CIO

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--In what promises to be a signal AFL victory for 1950, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers will seek bargaining rights for more than 12,000 employees of the giant Pacific Gas and Electric Company in an NLRB election to be held January 25.

The election will be the largest ever conducted by the NLRB in California. It will cover 46 counties of the state.

More than 7,500 PG&E workers are now represented by the IBEW, but the CIO holds contracts for the San Francisco Bay area which embraces some 5,000 employees.

Result of the election will be the designation of one union for the entire utility system.

An intense AFL campaign has been directed by O. G. Harbak, vice president, IBEW Ninth District, aided by international representatives Merritt Snyder, Larry Drew, Henry Newcombe, and Kenny Favell.

One hundred polling places will be set up for the election and 50 NLRB field representatives will supervise the voting. The PG&E system includes approximately 90,000 square miles of northern California territory.



STATE LLPE OFFERS NEW
LEGISLATIVE REPORT

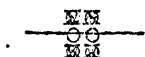
(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, this week released a supplementary report of labor legislation considered during the 1949 general session of the California legislature.

The federation last fall published its "Sacramento Story," which depicted in full the experience of labor with the main economic and social issues of the session.

The supplementary report provides information on selected committee roll calls.

Committee votes are not officially recorded in the California legislature. The report therefore reveals how legislators behave when not under the light of general public scrutiny.

Report copies may be obtained by writing the California Labor League for Political Education, 402 Flood Building, San Francisco 2, California.



AFL UNIONISTS' COLLECTIVE BARGAINING GAINS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Wage and other gains won by AFL unionists during the month of December average three cents for the 19,000 workers covered.

Nine thousand of the workers enjoyed an average gain of six cents.

These findings are based on reports in union newspapers. Details are as follows:

Building and Metal Trades

Blacksmiths No. 212, Los Angeles, AND Revere Copper Co.: 12 cents, improved holiday pay, paid vacations; 11/49; 100 workers.

Bridgemen No. 229, San Diego, AND 3 employers: 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents; 12/49; 25 workers. (Employers had refused to pay regular scale.)

Machinists and Electricians, San Diego, AND Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp.: 5 to 7 cents; 12/49; 4,000 production workers and maintenance electricians.

Sheet Metal Workers No. 162, Sacramento, AND employers: one week paid vacation after 35 weeks' work; 12/49; about 75 workers.

Sign and Pictorial Painters No. 510, San Francisco, AND San Francisco Retailers Council for 30 downtown stores: \$2.50 a week; retro. to 7/16/49; 275 members.

Clerks

Retail Grocery Clerks No. 648, San Francisco, AND San Francisco Retail Grocery Association: \$2.00 a week employer contribution to welfare program; 12/49; 500 stores excluding Safeway; 1500 employees.

Culinary

Culinary Joint Board, Los Angeles, AND 22 Simons chain dairy lunch and drive-ins: \$1.50 to \$3.00 a day; part effective 1/1/50 and part 7/1/50; 664 workers.

Culinary Joint Board, Oakland, AND Restaurant Owners Ass'n of Alameda County and the Tavern Owners Association: improved allowances and conditions; 1/6/49; 10,000 workers.

Teamsters

Teamsters No. 137, MARYSVILLE, AND Poultry Producers Ass'n: 9½ cents retro. to 6/1/49, and 7½ cents additional for drivers effec. 1/1/50; about 75 workers.

Teamsters No. 137, Marysville, AND 8 beverage firms: 10 cents for drivers and bottlers and 5 cents for warehousemen; 12/49; about 75 workers.

Circular Workers No. 422, San Diego, AND Union-Tribune Publishing Co.: \$1.75 to \$4.20; retro. to 10/10/49; 112 employees.

Miscellaneous

Inland Boatmen, and others AND Richmond-San Rafael Ferry: 11.2 percent hourly increase; 12/49; 60 men.

Building Service Employees No. 102, San Diego, AND nine downtown office buildings: 5 cents, employer-paid health fund, other improved conditions; 12/49; about 100 workers.

Butchers (egg workers) AND Poultry Producers of Northern California: 9½ cents for men, 5 cents for women, additional paid holiday; 12/49; 750 workers.

Butchers (egg workers) AND San Francisco employers: 10 cents for men, 5 cents for women; 12/49; 250 workers.

Poultry workers, Santa Barbara and Modesto AND employers: substantial adjustments in wages; 12/49; 800 workers.

Butchers No. 508, South San Francisco, AND tannery employers: 7½ cents; 12/49; 50 workers.

Butchers No. 266, Santa Cruz, AND Santa Cruz Tannery: 7½ cents; effec. 2/1/50; about 50 workers.

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