

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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AFL RADIO COMMENTATOR RATES TOP REVIEW; NEW OUTLETS OPENED

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Frank Edwards, crack liberal newscaster sponsored by the American Federation of Labor, is winning national acclaim among radio listeners.

Top tribute last week came from Variety, the famed show business paper, which praised the selection of Edwards by the AFL, and lauded his nightly analysis as "refreshing" in an era of "right-to-center" slanting by virtually all commentators.

The hard-bitten show journal is noted for its caustic reviews of stage, screen, and radio. Thus, the Edwards tribute was comparable to rave notices in commercial dailies.

Meanwhile two new radio outlets appeared for California fans of the Edwards program.

Station KFMV-FM, Hollywood, and Station KWIK, Burbank, now carry the 15-minute review of daily events at 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Both stations are owned and operated by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, AFL.

The complete California outlet schedule follows:

San Francisco	Station KFRC	10:15 p.m.	Monday through Friday
Los Angeles	Station KHJ	10:15 p.m.	Monday through Friday
Hollywood	Station KFMV-FM	7:00 p.m.	Monday through Friday
Burbank	Station KWIK	7:00 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

TOBIN CALLS FOR REVISION OF MINIMUM
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin recommended last week that the federal government set minimum standards of unemployment insurance throughout the United States.

Speaking on a televised American Forum of the Air program, Tobin called for a nationwide revision of minimum benefits that would take into account the increased cost of living since the unemployment insurance law was originally written in 1935.

"The objective that was set in 1935 was to give an unemployed worker approximately 50 percent of his earning wage," Tobin said.

"There is one state which still has the \$15 a week maximum payment authorized in 1936 when the state passed its first unemployment law. That maximum has remained unchanged for 14 years. That gives the average worker in that state a maximum which is equal to only \$6.22 a week in purchasing power based on 1939 costs."

Tobin cited recent statements by the National City Bank of New York and the magazine "Business Week" approving unemployment insurance as a useful measure against recession.

"After 14 years of experience and 14 years of opportunity for the states to approach good standards, it is sound for the federal government to establish minimum standards for the protection of the economy and for the protection of individual workers," he said.

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FEDERATION HOLDS DISABILITY RATING CONFERENCE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The second state conference for discussion of the proposed revision of the Permanent Disability Rating Schedule was held last Friday in the San Francisco Labor Temple under the auspices of the California State Federation of Labor.

Approximately 100 delegates attended from all parts of the state. A similar Federation conference had previously been held in San Francisco in December.

Conference recommendations were made following discussions led by Charles P. Scully, Federation attorney.

The session was attended by officials of the state Industrial Accident Commission, who assured the audience that full consideration would be given the labor proposals.

The present Permanent Disability Rating Schedule was adopted in 1914.

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READER'S DIGEST ECHOES BIG BUSINESS LIES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Recent labor charges that Reader's Digest magazine was guilty of bellicose anti-labor prejudices were confirmed this week with publishing of the February monthly issue.

The Digest devotes its first 19 pages to a condensation of "The Road Ahead," newly written work of John T. Flynn, notorious labor-baiter and violent domestic foe of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Mr. Flynn is a fading apologist for 19th century, laissez-faire capitalism, but the Digest paints him as a new, virile crusader against the terrors of the "welfare state."

The barrage on the interests of ordinary Americans continues on page 43 with the introduction of a distorted, juvenile attack on prepaid medical service by Harold E. Stassen, a GOP reject, but still the hope of old-line Republicans for 1952.

In a concluding blow at the majority mind of the nation, the Digest presents on page 108 a trite, dull editorial directed against President Truman and the Fair Deal program.

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45 PERCENT OF COTTON GARMENT WORKERS EARN UNDER 75 CENTS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Nearly 45 percent of workers employed in cotton garment manufacturing plants earn less than 75 cents an hour, according to a survey recently made by the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The average factory worker in the 5 branches of the industry studied earned 83 cents an hour at straight-time rates. Workers making work pants and work shirts had the lowest wage levels, with a majority of the workers earning less than 75 cents.

In the men's dress shirts and nightwear branch, workers averaged 83 cents an hour. Other averages were: overalls and industrial garments, 83 cents; washable service apparel, 94 cents.

About 90 percent of the workers in the industry are women, who averaged 81 cents, with 47 percent earning less than 75 cents. Men averaged \$1.02, with less than one-fourth earning under 75 cents.

Workers in the south averaged 72 cents an hour, nearly two-thirds earning less than 75 cents. Highest wage levels were found in the Pacific Coast states, where the average was \$1.09, and only 13 percent earned less than 75 cents. In the Middle Atlantic states the average was 95 cents. About one-fourth of the workers were under 75 cents.

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GOOD RIDDANCE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--When Arnold Beichman, New York correspondent for the AFL News Service, recently wrote that the "New York Sun, an ultra-rightist, vitriolically anti-labor journal died after living to an overripe old age of 117 years," he wasn't fooling.

The Sun died as it had lived in its late years, spewing hate and poison at the organized labor movement of the nation.

Official death occurred on January 4 when its journalistic functions were assumed by the New York World-Telegram of the Scripps-Howard chain.

Thomas W. Dewart, president and publisher of the Sun, blamed rising labor costs for the demise of his paper.

However, as Beichman wrote, "The Sun died because it had to die, just like the dinosaur or pterodactyl. The Sun died because in

Dewart himself issued the best post-mortem when he listed those things his sheet had constantly espoused. He included "free enterprise" and "sound money," but nary a mention of workers' rights or social reform.

Historians should note the Sun opposed "paternalism" and the "welfare state."

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(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Washington political observers are agreed that whatever the fate of national health insurance legislation, the 81st Congress will pass medical bills providing for:

(2) Medical examinations and physical checkups for all school children, whether in private or public schools.

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