

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

February 15, 1950

AFL FLATTENS CIO IN PG&E BARGAINING ELECTION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The swing of CIO unionists to the American Federation of Labor received terrific impetus last week with the NLRB announcement that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers had won collective bargaining rights for the 12,500 employees of the giant Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

O. G. Harbak, vice president IBEW Ninth District, and Merritt, Snyder, international representative, led the intensive campaign which resulted in the AFL union rolling up an approximate 3 to 1 majority over the CIO utility workers.

The election was the largest ever conducted by the National Labor Relations Board in California. It covered 46 counties of the state.

Prior to the election the IBEW held bargaining rights for more than 7,500 PG&E workers and the CIO represented some 5,000 workers in the San Francisco Bay area. The election was called to designate one union for the entire utility system.

The IBEW triumph placed the California AFL among the largest state bodies of the American Federation of Labor. There are now well over one million members of the AFL in California.

Merritt Snyder, IBEW campaign director, declared the AFL success represented a "team victory." The campaign actually had its beginning late in 1948 when CIO rank and file members, seeking local autonomy, voted to set up their own local under the IBEW. A charter was issued to the group at its own request through the offices of Oscar Harbak.

Harbak assigned international representative Chuck Hughes to the campaign. Hughes directed the AFL planning during the long drawn out NLRB hearings. The groundwork laid by Hughes and Merritt Snyder was largely responsible for the NLRB decision permitting an election, although that decision was not to come until November 26, 1949, nearly one year after the IBEW local charter had been given and just six months after Hughes retired from the campaign under doctor's orders.

Upon the withdrawal of Hughes, Snyder was given the reins of campaign direction.

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STATE COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS TO HOLD
SAN DIEGO CONVENTION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The twenty-second annual convention of the California State Council of Carpenters will be held in San Diego, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 3, 4, and 5, it was announced this week in Oakland by Harry C. Grady, state secretary.

Convention headquarters will be in the U. S. Grant Hotel, San Diego.

The convention will be preceded on Thursday, March 2, by a meeting of the Carpenters' State Apprentice Committee.

President Joseph F. Cambiano will call the convention to order at 10:00 a.m. Friday.

Convention business will conclude with the election of officers on Sunday.

Present officers of the State Council are: Joseph F. Cambiano, San Mateo, president; Cecil C. Johnson, San Pedro, vice president; Harry C. Grady, Oakland, secretary-treasurer; Executive Council: District 1, J. N. Skelton, Hollywood; District 2, B. M. Snodgrass, Fresno; District 3, W. P. Kelly, Oakland; District 4, Victor La Chappelle, Sacramento; District 5, C. W. Mitchell, Riverside.

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PETRILLO URGES REPEAL OF
ENTERTAINMENT TAX

(CPNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--President James C. Petrillo of the American Federation of Musicians this week charged that the 23 percent drop in the cabaret and dance hall business in two years is largely due to the 20 percent entertainment tax.

The operation of this special tax on live entertainment, one of the host of wartime excise levies now being urged for Congressional repeal, is treated in a comprehensive statistical survey appearing in the February issue of the musicians' journal, "The International Musician."

The tax, Petrillo claims, discriminates against musicians and other entertainers and is unsound as a means of revenue because it "shows very rapidly diminishing returns, dries up the source on which it is levied, adversely affects employment." Petrillo seeks repeal of the tax.

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TORIES CAN'T ESCAPE PENSION PROBLEM -
IT'S HERE FOR KEEPS

(CPNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Security for the aged has become a "major long-run social and economic problem in this country," the Labor Information Bulletin, a U. S. Labor Department publication, points out in its current issue. The problem of meeting these needs most effectively is "of prime importance," according to the Bulletin.

In this connection, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin has recently stated: "I have insisted time and again that while private pension plans are an important supplement to a public system, they cannot take the place of a comprehensive and basic system of Federal old-age insurance. I am for a major revision of the Federal Social Security Act, liberalizing its benefits so that they will come somewhere near providing adequate support of the great majority of our aged people."

In 1900, only about 3 million persons, or 1 out of 25, were in the 65-or-over age group. Now, however, with 11 million, or 1 out of 13, in that group, a "declining proportion" of elderly workers has been able to remain in the labor force, the Bulletin says.

"The social security program of 1935 was an effort to provide the answer, based on certain fundamental principles: (1) That pensions are a matter of right and so without a means test; (2) that whatever the exclusions, the system applies to workers in the covered industries; and (3) that pensions are financed by contributions from both employers and employees. Experience has shown that these principles are sound, but it has also shown flaws in the system."

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GREEN PRAISES BROTHERHOOD WEEK OBSERVANCE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, has urged all Americans to unite in the observance of Brotherhood Week, February 19-26, a nationwide tribute to tolerance sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Green joined with other U. S. leaders in pointing to the tradition of tolerance which should be the legacy of every American.

The AFL chief declared: "We must follow in the footsteps of those who wrote the Declaration of Independence, who helped lay the foundations of this Republic, who announced to the world the principles on which it rested--that America is the home of those who believe in liberty, freedom, and justice. We must all work together to keep it so."

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WORK INJURIES IN CONSTRUCTION COST \$770 MILLION IN 1948

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Construction workers who lost time because of work-connected injuries in 1948 equal in number the population of Richmond, Virginia--193,000--according to final estimates of

the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

These injuries resulted in 2.7 million man-days of lost time during the year--equivalent to a wage loss of over \$26 million, only part of which was covered by workmen's compensation payments.

Future losses arising from these same injuries will increase the cost by 23 million more man-days, or \$228 million at present wage values. When employers' losses in terms of medical costs, property damage, and other indirect costs are added, the total reaches \$770 million.

The more serious injuries included 2,100 killed, 300 totally disabled for the rest of their lives, and 7,800 permanently impaired. The other 182,800 each lost at least 1 full day of work because of an injury.

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IBEW JOURNAL ADVOCATES AID FOR LLPE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Electrical Workers' Journal this month called on all trade unionists "to cooperate to the very best of their ability" in the 1950 fund-raising campaign of Labor's League for Political Education.

The Journal, official publication of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, has asked the IBEW to maintain its splendid contribution record of 1948 when "electrical workers gave twice as much to Labor's League as any other international union."

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PREPARE FOR THE PRIMARIES NOW
JUNE IS ALMOST HERE!
JOIN THE CALIFORNIA LABOR LEAGUE FOR
POLITICAL EDUCATION!
For details, write LLPE headquarters, 402 Flood Building,
San Francisco 2, California