

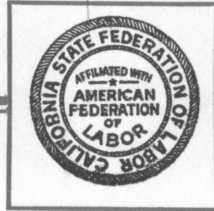
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

810 DAVID HEWES BUILDING
995 MARKET STREET

151



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

June 28, 1950

STATE FED PLANS REGISTRATION DRIVE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Issues of political and social importance received primary consideration at the quarterly meeting of the California State Federation of Labor Executive Council held June 24 and 25 in Hollywood.

In response to an appeal for intense political effort voiced by Judge Edward Solomon of New York, who appeared before the council in behalf of the national Labor League for Political Education, the state AFL executive body voted to launch an all-out registration drive for the November elections.

The council also voted the following key policies:

(1) To oppose vigorously the Senator Knowland amendment to H.R. 6000, the Social Security bill now being considered by Congress. The Knowland amendment, allegedly inspired by California employer powers, would allow states to establish unemployment insurance standards below federal requirements, and would protect the state policies against federal action until the courts had fully reviewed the controversy, a delaying tactic which would deny thousands of unemployed workers their compensation when most critically needed. The Knowland amendment is reportedly directed at the federal government's action in banning the California Department of Employment's recent attempts to deprive locked-out employees of unemployment payments.

(2) To urge all AFL unions and councils to petition city councils and boards of supervisors to utilize the facilities of the State Community Redevelopment Act and the National Housing Act to eliminate slums and to rebuild blighted areas.

(3) To unite with legitimate public housing supporters in opposing the public housing initiative now being studied for placement on the November ballot. The concerned initiative would amend the state constitution by demanding an election before any low-rent public project could be started. Under present law, approval by the county board of supervisors or city council is the only authorization needed to permit the local unit of government to seek national housing action. The proposed amendment would seriously impede needed housing construction, since wealthy real estate companies could pour untold thousands into such elections while the champions of public housing would be limited to the financial support of low-income groups.

In a separate session devoted exclusively to business of the California Labor League for Political Education, the LLPE executive council developed a proposed constitution which will be submitted to the next state LLPE convention for consideration and approval by the membership.

Harry Finks, Federation vice president from the Sacramento district, presided over both meetings in the absence of president John F. Shelley, now busy with congressional duties in Washington.

Minutes of the council session are now being printed and will soon be distributed to all affiliated unions.

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1949 WEEKLY NEWSLETTER INDEX AVAILABLE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--An index to the 1949 issues of the California State Federation of Labor's Weekly News Letter has been compiled for use in the Federation office.

If demand is sufficient, copies will be made for general distribution. Interested parties are advised to fill out the following form and mail it to the Federation office, Room 810, David Hewes Building, 995 Market Street, San Francisco 3:

Gentlemen:

Please send me the index of the 1949 Weekly News Letter.

Name -----

Union -----

Address - Street: -----

City: -----

COST OF LIVING RISES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Recent changes in the price level of foods in San Francisco show an upward trend, according to Max D. Kosoris, Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, who last week issued the following price analysis:

1. Prices are rising slowly, but steadily. The rise between mid-April and mid-May interval amounted to 0.1 per cent, but continues upward.

2. The food price index for May, 213.2, was almost identical with that of October 1949 (213.1). The intervening price decline has been erased.

3. Like the rest of the country, San Francisco consumers can expect a slow but steady rise in the price level of foods.

4. The May 1950 price level is only 1 percent below that of May 1949. Meat prices are generally higher than a year ago.

5. In comparison, the national food index moved up 1.9 percent between April and May, and the all-commodity index moved up 0.8 percent to an index of 168.6. (The average for the base period 1935-39 is 100.)

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NEW HOME BUILDING IN MAY
SMASHES ALL RECORDS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--May home building broke all previous monthly records by spiraling to 140,000 new permanent dwelling units started, according to preliminary estimates of the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics issued this week in Washington, D.C.

The May figure was 11 percent greater than that for April 1950 and almost 50 percent ahead of the May 1949 level.

The half-million mark for new housing starts was reached this year in May--two months earlier than last year. The cumulative total for the first 5 months of 1950 was 538,000 units, compared with 354,000 units in the like period of 1949. The sharp gain in home construction this year over last has been country-wide and has been shared by cities as well as outlying areas.

Telegraphic reports of local building permits issued for new dwelling units in May in principal cities of the country show increases over April for all regions but the Middle Atlantic, West North Central, and South Atlantic States, where the volume remained about the same. Two-thirds of the cities reporting showed an increase over April in the number of units for which building permits were issued.

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TULARE JUDGE ISSUES PERMANENT INJUNCTION
AGAINST COUNTY PICKETING LAW

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Organized labor won a clear cut victory in Tulare County last week with the issuance of a permanent injunction against the enforcement of the county's so-called anti-caravaning ordinance. The decision was handed down in an action filed last Fall following the arrest of William Trafton, organizer for the National Farm Labor Union, for violation of the ordinance in the cotton pickers' strike of the Union, an AFL affiliate.

The action was filed by J. H. McLaughlin, individually and as Secretary of the Tulare-Kings Counties Labor Council, and named as defendants the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, sheriff, district attorney and the justice of the peace who issued the warrant for Trafton.

The permanent injunction which was issued following a trial on June 8th corresponds to a previously issued preliminary injunction and bars the defendants and their agents from:

1. Attempting to enforce said Ordinance No. 222 of Tulare County, California, so as to obstruct, abridge or in any manner interfere with the constitutional rights of plaintiff, the said Labor Council, the said affiliated unions or the members thereof, to free speech as expressed by peaceful picketing, whether by means of individual pickets, on foot, or pickets in automobiles, acting in concert, or to publicize the facts of their labor disputes by picket banners or emblems or inscriptions or other form of writing, or by word of mouth, including the use of amplifiers or loud-speakers.

2. Prosecuting in any court or courts plaintiff or any of said union organizers or members for alleged violation of said Ordinance No. 222.

3. From pressing or continuing the prosecution of said William Trafton before any other court or tribunal whatsoever; and it is further ordered that any bail which may have been advanced, posted or deposited by or on behalf of said William Trafton in connection with said prosecution be and the same is hereby exonerated.

The decision was handed down by Superior Court Judge Frank Lamberson, and it is understood that the Board of Supervisors and other defendants do not intend to appeal.

The council filed the initial action which won the temporary injunction but was joined in securing the permanent injunction by the California State Federation of Labor represented by the law firm of Todd and Todd.