

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

810 DAVID HEWES BUILDING
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151



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

September 20, 1950

AFL CONVENTION OPENS IN HOUSTON

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The 69th convention of the American Federation of Labor opened this Monday in Houston, Texas, as more than 700 delegates poured into the Texas city for the annual meeting of the world's largest free labor organization.

President William Green officially started the convention at 10:00 a.m. in the Houston Civic Auditorium.

C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, is representing the state AFL.

Convention representation is open to delegates from national or international unions, central bodies and state federations, from local trade unions not having a national or international union, and from federal labor unions.

Headquarters for the national Executive Council is the Rice Hotel in downtown Houston.

Main matters on the convention agenda include the role of the AFL in the present Korean conflict, and the need for proper labor representation in all phases of the civilian war effort.

Special memorial services by the Gompers Centennial Committee will recall the life of Samuel Gompers, first president and founder of the American Federation of Labor, the centennial of whose birth the AFL has observed throughout the nation during 1950.

The convention will continue in session from day to day until the business of the annual meeting has been completed.

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AFL TOMATO PICKERS STRIKE
FOR LIVING WAGE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--AFL farm workers in the upper San Joaquin Valley last Friday morning struck the rich tomato fields of the Tracy territory as hundreds of members of the National Farm Labor Union walked off their jobs in order to secure wage boosts and union recognition.

Following a Thursday night mass meeting, Local 300 of Tracy voted to strike at 4:00 a.m. on Friday.

The struck area includes a territory 10 miles north and south of Tracy and four miles east and west.

More than 90 percent of the tomato pickers left the struck farms. Meanwhile the powerful farm labor contractors were reportedly importing unemployed workers from the streets of downtown Oakland in order to break the AFL strike threat.

Tracy tomato pickers are currently paid 12 cents a box. However, two cents are held back as an alleged "bonus," payable to the worker upon completion of the job. Union officials charge that the "bonus" is denied all workers dismissed before completion of the picking season.

The pickers are asking the contractors to employ union help at a scale of 18 cents per box, with elimination of the "bonus" provision.

Poverty of farm workers in the rich San Joaquin Valley has been the subject of recent federal and state investigations, as commissions have toured the area seeking to prevent further occurrence of death by malnutrition in the farm labor camps. The starvation deaths of farm workers' children last winter caused both President Truman and Governor Warren to appoint investigating bodies.

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THEATRICAL FEDERATION
ANNOUNCES OCTOBER CONVENTION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The California State Theatrical Federation, AFL, will hold its 30th anniversary convention at the Hotel Mar Monte, Santa Barbara, over the weekend of October 7-8, 1950.

President Pat Somerset will call the convention to order at 10:00 o'clock Saturday morning, October 7. Somerset is a vice-president of the California State Federation of Labor from the Los Angeles district.

The Theatrical Federation is composed of the theatrical and amusement crafts affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and was organized April 25, 1921.

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STATE WAGE AND EMPLOYMENT STUDIES EXPANDED

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Additional wage, hour, and employment data on California workers will be available in the future as a result of the expanded coverage of the state Department of Industrial Relations publication, "California Labor Statistics Bulletin."

Information will now be included for construction, mineral extraction, transportation, finance, insurance, real estate, and government.

Another innovation will feature area breakdowns for San Diego and San Jose counties.

Copies of the publication are now available without charge from the Department of Industrial Relations, 965 Mission Street, San Francisco 3, California.

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AUGUST WAGE GAINS (CONTINUED)

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--AFL and related unions in California gained an estimated average increase of 11.1 cents per hour for approximately 64,000 workers during August.

The major part of these negotiations were listed in last week's News Letter. The remainder follow:

Clerks

Retail Clerks No. 373, Vallejo, AND Sears Roebuck: \$2.50 a week; 8/50; about 40 workers.

Retail Clerks No. 428, San Jose, AND Safeway: \$2.00 a week; 8/1/50; 120 workers.

Retail Clerks No. 541, Eureka, AND bakery employers: \$2.50 a week and improved vacation clause; retroactive 7/1/50.

Metal Trades

Electrical Workers No. 892, Sunnyvale, AND Westinghouse Corporation: $5\frac{1}{2}$ cents; 8/50; 400 workers.

Machinists No. 1178, Santa Rosa, AND Santa Rosa Motor Car Dealers and the Independent Garagemen's Association: 9 cents and improved hours; 8/50.

Machinists No. 1596 (production workers), Santa Rosa, AND employers: $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents and 2 additional paid holidays; 8/50.

Machinists No. 238, Santa Rosa, AND A. G. Schoonmake Co. and Vincent Whitney Co, (Sausalito): $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents; one additional paid holiday; retroactive 7/1/50; 45 workers.

Machinists No. 238, Santa Rosa, AND Petaluma Motor and Machine Shops: 4 cents, six additional paid holidays; 8/1/50.

Machinists No. 238, Santa Rosa, AND four Santa Rosa welding shops: 5 cents and seven additional paid holidays; 8/50.

Sheet Metal Workers No. 283, Stockton, AND employers: \$1.00 a day; 8/50.

Sheet Metal Workers No. 356, Santa Rosa, AND Marin County employers: $17\frac{1}{2}$ cents; 8/50.

Miscellaneous

Barbers No. 333, Fresno, AND employers: about \$5.00 a week; 8/50; about 50 workers.

Bill Posters, West Coast, AND employers in 5 western states: 10 cents; 8/50; about 150 workers.

Building Service Employees No. 87 and Elevator Operators No. 117, San Francisco, AND 31 San Francisco department stores: 8 cents for elevator operators and janitors; $11\frac{1}{2}$ cents for matrons and maids; 11 cents for starters and assistant starters; 8/1/50; over 500 workers directly and indirectly.

Cemetery Workers No. 265, San Francisco, and No. 322, Oakland, AND employers: 50 cents a day; 8/1/50; 350 workers.

Butchers No. 115, San Francisco, AND San Francisco Meat Dealers Assn.: \$3.00 to \$4.00 a week, and \$10.18 per month per worker contribution to health and welfare fund; 8/50; 1800 workers.

Butchers No. 506, San Jose, and Poultry and Egg Workers No. 364-B, Petaluma, AND Poultry Producers of Central California (egg workers): $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents; retroactive 6/1/50.

Firefighters No. 1050, Santa Rosa, AND City of Santa Rosa: 6 percent 8/1/50, and 6 percent 1/1/51.

Laundry & Dry Cleaning Workers No. 52, Los Angeles, AND employers: $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents and welfare plan; retroactive 6/1/50 and 4/1/50.

Fish Cannery Workers of the Pacific, Monterey, AND Monterey Fish Processors Association and all independent cannery operators; 12 cents; 8/50; 2800 workers.

Garment Workers (belt), Los Angeles, AND Los Angeles belt industry: 5 to 15 cents, 2 additional paid holidays, employer's contribution to welfare fund increased from 3% to 4%, 8/50, and from 3% to 5½% eff. 1/1/51; 300 workers.

Printing Specialities and Paper Products Union No. 382 and No. 362, Oakland and San Francisco, AND paper box plants: 12½ cents for journeymen and 4½ to 7½ cents for others; 8/50; 600 workers.

Printing Specialities No. 382, Oakland, AND Dobeckmun Co.: 7½ cents of which 2½ cents retroactive to 4/1/50; 130 workers.

Bus Drivers No. 1309, San Diego, AND San Diego Transit System: 5 cents, 8/50; 3 cents, 9/1/51; 525 workers.

University of California Employees No. 371 (custodians), Berkeley, AND University of California: \$20 to \$25 a month; 8/50; 150 workers.

Upholsterers No. 26, Fresno, AND Evans Mfg. Co. and New Valley Bedding and Furniture Mfg. Co.: 7½ cents, 3 percent of earnings to health and welfare fund, 1 additional holiday; eff. 8/1/50; 10 cents, eff. 8/1/51.

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WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BENEFITS RISE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--During the last three years, 1947-1949, benefits paid under the California workmen's compensation law have increased from \$45,667,000 to \$53,000,000, or 16 percent, according to data compiled by the U.S. Federal Security Administration and the State Department of Industrial Relations. These figures include payments by private carriers, the state fund, and self-insurers for direct wage losses and medical benefits.

The increase is due to improvements in the law gained through labor's legislative efforts, for in the same period accident rates have been cut through safety campaigns from 149,729 in 1947 to 128,520 in 1949, or a 14 percent reduction.

The Department of Industrial Relations reports that in 1949 private carriers paid benefits amounting to \$35.3 million, the state fund paid \$12.6 million, and self-insurers paid about \$4.8 million. Approximately 3,018,000 workers are covered by all three types of insurance.

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