

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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151



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

November 15, 1950

BROWN ONLY WINNER ON AFL "BIG THREE" TICKET

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, newly elected Attorney General for California, was the lone winner of three AFL-endorsed candidates for major statewide offices in the elections of November 7.

While Brown won by a convincing margin over Edward Shattuck, the Republican candidate, both James Roosevelt and Helen Gahagan Douglas were buried in the GOP avalanche that returned Governor Earl Warren to office and sent Richard Nixon to the United States Senate.

A summary of 1950 primary and final pollings revealed the following:

- (1) AFL-endorsed candidates were elected to five statewide offices: Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Controller, and Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- (2) All four state Board of Equalization candidates endorsed by the AFL won in the primaries.
- (3) Nine AFL candidates for the U. S. House of Representatives were elected. There are 23 House seats in the state.
- (4) Thirty-seven AFL candidates for the State Assembly were elected. There are 80 seats in the Assembly.
- (5) Five AFL candidates for the State Senate were elected. Only 20 Senate seats were open in the 1950 elections. The State Senate has a full complement of 40 seats, with 20 open for election every two years.

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TORY DAILIES GLOAT
OVER GOP GAINS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--With their normal professional disregard for truth, the more abusive segments of the reactionary commercial press lost no time in expounding on the Democratic Party losses in the November 7 elections.

In hysterical editorials and cartoons, the frankly Tory syndicate sheets pronounced that the American people had repelled "creeping socialism," "arrogant labor bosses," and the "Fair Deal of President Truman."

The plain facts contradict the fiction spewed by the Big Business dailies.

The facts are these:

(1) The Democratic Party lost 28 seats in the House of Representatives and five in the United States Senate in the 1950 elections.

(2) Only twice (1906 and 1934) in a century of political history has the party in power WON additional seats in the mid-term elections.

(3) The losses of the Democratic Party in 1950 were the LOWEST in 12 years of mid-term election experience.

(4) In 1938 the Democrats lost 80 seats in the House and six in the Senate.

(5) In 1942 the Democrats lost 47 seats in the House and 10 in the Senate.

(6) In 1946 the Democrats lost 37 in the House and 13 in the Senate.

(7) In 1940, 1944, and 1948, the Democrats won the Presidency and gains in both houses despite the traditional mid-term defections.

Also hidden from the public was the significance of the triumphs of GOP Senators Morse and Tobey. Morse of Oregon and Tobey of New Hampshire were reelected despite militant opposition from the anti-labor elements of their party. * * *

HOUSING DEFEAT

Final returns on 11 proposed amendments to the State Constitution found the voters approving Proposition No. 10 by a narrow majority in the November 7 elections.

No. 10, the anti-public housing proposition squeezed by despite strong labor opposition throughout the state. As of this week in Oakland, real estate powers were already gunning to kill recently negotiated housing contracts.

AFL LABOR PRESS INSTITUTE FOR SANTA BARBARA, NOVEMBER 25-26

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Official programs were mailed to all labor papers and AFL councils in California this week detailing plans for the first annual AFL Labor Press Institute, to be held in the Carrillo Hotel, Santa Barbara, November 25-26, 1950.

The institute is being jointly sponsored by the California State Federation of Labor and the Institute of Industrial Relations and the School of Journalism of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Workshop sessions will be offered on special reporting problems, such as political reporting, collective bargaining reporting, economics, union news reporting, and community relations reporting.

Room reservations may be made with the Carrillo Hotel individually, or through Annette Sherwood, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, Los Angeles 24.

The institute will open Saturday morning, November 25, with registration at 9:30 o'clock, and will close with a summary session at 4:30 p.m., Sunday afternoon, November 26.

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ANOTHER WARRIOR GONE--"SANDY"
WATCHMAN DIES AT 69

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Alexander "Sandy" Watchman, a member of the state Industrial Accident Commission and a past president of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL, died last Sunday in Stanford Hospital, San Francisco, following a three month's illness. He was 69.

The sturdy Scot was an active figure in the northern California labor movement for more than 25 years. A native of Scotland, Brother Watchman entered the movement as a carpenter's apprentice in his native country. He came to California in 1922.

The deceased was a lifelong member of Carpenters Union, Local No. 2164, San Francisco, and was its president from 1936 to 1938, and its financial secretary and business representative from 1938 to 1941.

In 1941 Governor Culbert Olsen appointed Watchman to the state Industrial Accident Commission. He was later reappointed by Governor Earl Warren and held the commission post until the time of his death.

He was also a past director of the San Francisco-San Mateo Agricultural District Board, and a member of the San Francisco Housing Authority, and Tehama Lodge No. 3, F. & A.M.

He is survived by his widow, Agnes, a daughter, Maude Switzler, both of San Francisco, and a grand-daughter, Beryl Emery of Stockton.

Masonic funeral services held Wednesday in San Francisco were attended by labor and civic leaders and throngs of friends of the veteran trade unionist. Interment was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Colma.

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FEDERATION ASKED TO REMEMBER
NEEDY OF EUROPE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, this week requested all AFL

unionists to remember their impoverished brothers and sisters in Europe through contributions to CARE, the non-profit relief agency formed to aid the stricken of that continent.

Relief package order forms were enclosed with 5,000 copies of the State Federation Weekly News Letter for the benefit of unions or individuals who might wish to have the CARE organization direct a holiday package to needy friends or relatives in Europe.

The American Federation of Labor is affiliated with CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe, Inc.) through its League for Human Rights, of which AFL vice president Matthew Woll is chairman.

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GEORGE MEANY VISITS SAN FRANCISCO

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, addressed last Friday night's session of the San Francisco Labor Council. Brother Meany spent four days in San Francisco making preliminary arrangements for the 1951 AFL convention which will be held there September 17-27.

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STATE FARMERS PLOUGH TORIES UNDER AT GRANGE CONVENTION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Prospects for greater farmer-labor unity were strengthened by the 78th annual convention of the California State Grange held recently in San Bernardino.

The state farm body favored the following positions on state and national issues:

- (1) Repeal of the McCarran Act.
- (2) Adoption of the Brannan Plan.
- (3) Immediate enactment of an excess profits tax by Congress to be retroactive to October 1, 1950, for businesses showing increased war profits.
- (4) Curbs on dealings in futures on commodity markets to aid in the prevention of inflation.
- (5) Stringent federal laws regulating the entry and hiring of eligible Mexican labor.
- (6) Opposition to any action by the state Public Utilities Commission to assume any further jurisdiction over present and future rural electrical cooperatives in California.
- (7) Creation of a State Grange committee to study Columbia Valley Authority and urging federal creation of similar California Valleys Authority to operate federal conservation and power facilities for all California north of the Tehachapi mountains.
- (8) Denouncement of state Chamber of Commerce testimony before President's Water Resources Policy Board last June in Berkeley. State Chamber recommended state control of Central Valley project, restriction of power production to that required for project use, and revoking of 160-acre limit in reclamation law.

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