

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

995 MARKET ST.—ROOM 810

151 Christmas



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### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

by  
C. J. Haggerty, Secretary-Treasurer  
California State Federation of Labor

Christmas in 1950 comes to the American people at a time when the need for national unity commands the attention of all who would have our country survive as a citadel of freedom and opportunity.

In this present crisis the American Federation of Labor is prepared to continue its historic role of service to the nation.

Ours has always been and ours shall always be an American movement. Traitors and renegades have spoken for many causes in our national history, but we may thank God that no traitor or renegade has ever spoken in the name of the American Federation of Labor.

During the two world wars of this century, our organization has been second to none in producing the mightiest industrial efforts that man has ever known.

We are willing and eager to serve again, but we are also determined that profiteers and grabbers shall not exploit the nation's peril.

We are equally determined that labor shall have a voice in the shaping of the defense effort, for our organization is qualified by devotion and experience to aid in the home-front campaign.

It is tragic that the shadows of war should darken the Christmas season of 1950. However, the conflict is not of our

choosing. We who disarmed must prepare once more to meet the onslaughts of aggression and tyranny.

The peaceful hopes of mankind have long since been trampled by the armies and ambitions of international Communism.

In America those hopes yet live in the hearts of a people who have found in this nation a life of liberty unknown anywhere else in the world.

The American Federation of Labor in California will defend that way of life whatever the cost or sacrifice.

Our expanding and progressive unions have erected a magnificent movement here in the second largest state in the union.

We are proud of that progress, and we are proud also that the American public regards us in this hour of challenge as loyal citizens and loyal workers.

Together with all men of good will, we look to the future and pray that 1951 shall find us sharing the joys of abundant peace when the Christmas bells again ring out across the land.

And finally, together with those of good will, we shall persist in our attempts to establish a domestic society which will give to the working people of America that economic and social status to which they are entitled by their very nature. We shall persist, then, in our everlasting campaign to mold a finer and nobler nation.

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#### DEATH TAKES THREE AFL LEADERS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The American Federation of Labor lost three veteran leaders last week as death came to Joseph N. Weber, Herbert Rivers, and Henry C. Iler.

Weber, who died at 84 years in his home in Beverly Hills, California, was the founder of the AFL American Federation of Musicians. He was president of the Musicians union for 40 years, retiring in 1940.

He was a vice-president of the American Federation of Labor at the time of his death. A native of Hungary, Weber came to the United States in 1879 at the age of 13 years.

Rivers, long-time secretary of the AFL's Building and Construction Trades Department, died in Washington, D.C. He was 62.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Rivers was second vice-president of the Hod Carriers and Common Laborers Union and first became secretary-treasurer of the Building Trades Department in 1934.

Iler died in the Marine Hospital, Baltimore, following an illness of several weeks. Only 45, Iler had been elected president of the American Federation of Government Employees at its August convention in Omaha. Iler was a native of Kentucky, and had been active in AFGE affairs for more than 20 years.

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#### AFL PLEDGES AID TO KOREAN WAR VETS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, this week announced that discussions have been inaugurated between the state AFL and the Veterans' Employment Service of the U. S. Employment agency to the end of protecting employment rights of Korean war veterans.

Haggerty met with Urban F. Stewart, Veterans Employment representative for California, and Ray Lassater, chairman of the state American Legion Employment Commission.

Stewart declared that most of the Korean war wounded have been flown back to California for hospitalization and that upon release many will remain in this state.

While the American military on Korea are not yet entitled to "veteran rights," both the American Legion and the U. S. Veterans Employment Service are convinced the necessary legislation will soon be forthcoming.

Haggerty stated that the American Federation of Labor would continue its policy of giving all possible cooperation to the returning veteran and that the excellent relationship which prevailed between the AFL, the government, and private agencies concerned following World War II would be extended to cover the veterans of Korea.

The state AFL secretary declared that labor was fully conscious of the need for cooperation in order to place the Korean veterans, and was certain the job would be done well and efficiently.

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WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE  
ON YOUTH NOTES ECONOMIC NEEDS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Adoption of numerous planks in the AFL social action program featured the Midcentury White House Conference held this month in Washington, D. C. upon the call of President Harry Truman.

Six thousand delegates from every state in the union met in the nation's capital to establish goals and standards for the development of American youth.

John F. Henning, research director of the California State Federation of Labor, represented the state AFL at the conclave.

Adopted resolutions of major concern to labor recommended the following:

(1) Immediate construction of 810,000 low-rent public housing units; development of a cooperative housing program geared to the needs of middle income families; support of slum-clearance; and use of the "need principle" in determining where defense housing should be built.

(2) Support of President Truman's civil rights program, "because it represents our faith in democracy"; removal of all racial restrictions in the nation's capital.

(3) Efforts to raise the wage earning abilities of low income groups.

(4) Schools, labor, industry, and community agencies should improve and expand their personnel, evaluation, placement, and vocational guidance for the occupational benefit of the young.

(5) Children of migrant and seasonal workers should be given all the protections and services available to other children, with special regard to transportation, health, housing, educational services, and protection by adequate labor laws.

(6) As an aid to the economic stability of children and their mothers, old age and survivors insurance should be further extended to cover workers not presently included and to make benefits more adequate; and similar improvements should be made in state unemployment insurance laws.

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FEDERATION TO OPEN OFFICE  
IN SACRAMENTO

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, this week announced that the Federation will soon open its legislative headquarters in Sacramento.

The 1951 general session of the state legislature will be called to order Monday, January 8, and the Federation will that day open its headquarters in the Senator Hotel, directly across from the capitol.

The Federation plans to introduce some 120 bills. Eighty-one measures will seek increased benefits and extended coverage for unemployment insurance, disability insurance, and workmen's compensation. Eighteen bills will seek general changes in the labor code.

Top AFL measures will be efforts to obtain a \$40 maximum weekly benefit for unemployment and disability insurance and workmen's compensation; extension of present social security legislation to agricultural workers; creation of a Fair Employment Practices Commission; and a \$1.25 minimum wage.

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