

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

## FROM

### CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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151



SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

December 27, 1950

#### WAGES CUT 5 CENTS BY HIRING MEXICAN NATIONALS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The wages of domestic farm workers employed by one firm in the San Jose area were cut from 80 cents to 75 cents an hour as Mexican nationals were brought in during the first two weeks of December, according to Ernesto Galarza, research director of the National Farm Labor Union.

Galarza has written to Governor Warren asking a full and public investigation of the whole situation.

About 150 Mexican nationals arrived in the Santa Clara Valley; they had been hired at 75 cents an hour. Contrary to the arrangements made last fall, the Employment Service failed to check with the National Farm Labor Union office in the area as to the availability of labor prior to arranging for the importation of Mexican nationals.

Prior to the arrival of these Mexicans the current wage for domestic workers, most of whom are of Mexican origin, had been 80 cents cutting broccoli. Farmers hired the nationals at 75 cents and then announced that all wages would be "stabilized" at the same figure, or 5 cents less than domestic workers were currently receiving.

Similar developments occurred recently at Soledad, Galarza reported, in connection with carrot-tying. Small growers, who usually get the leavings of the labor market, were paying 32 cents a crate, which is considered good pay, in order to attract workers. The local growers' association, which is composed of big operators, called the small growers up on the carpet and said wages should again be

"stabilized" at 27 cents a crate. Simultaneously, a batch of Mexican nationals arrived who had been hired to do carrot-tying at 27 cents a crate.

Galarza feels that the big farm operators are out to cut wages as low as possible, so that no domestic labor will appear and so that they will then be free to hire nationals. The Mexican radio announced recently, he reports, that 60,000 nationals have been approved for export to Texas and California for the early months of 1951.

Last September, the National Farm Labor Advisory Committee to the U. S. Employment Service suggested that 300,000 nationals be imported during 1951 for employment throughout the country.

Galarza feels that farmers are aiming at the following wage scales for the coming year:

- 50 - 60 cents an hour in the Imperial Valley;
- 65 - 70 cents in the southern San Joaquin Valley;
- 70 - 80 cents in northern California.

The international agreement between the United States and Mexico states that nationals are to be paid the prevailing wage. Obviously, the contrary is becoming true. Domestic workers are to be paid the wage prevailing for nationals. And nationals have no union and are subject to deportation if they strike.

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AFL REMEMBERS CHILDREN,  
HELPS SANTA

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--From Oregon to the Mexican border, California AFL unions last week sponsored Christmas parties for young people, particularly for the underprivileged.

In San Diego, the Central Labor Council joined with the Salvation Army for the annual House of Happiness party attended by nearly 2,000 children at the Russ auditorium. Special invitations were sent to the children of unemployed workers.

The Los Angeles Central Labor Council held a party around the Christmas tree in the Labor Temple on December 21, for children and their AFL parents.

In San Francisco the Union Labor Section played host to 175 orphans from the Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish orphanages of the city. Every child received a brightly wrapped Christmas gift at the affair in the Labor Temple, just four days before the Big Day.

Across the Bay in Oakland, the Automotive Machinists Lodge No. 1546 tossed a mammoth Christmas jamboree in the Oakland civic auditorium. Almost 7,000 attended the program, featured by two hours of entertainment, gifts from Santa, and dancing until 1:00 a.m.

Up north in Eureka, the Women's Auxiliary of the Teamsters held their traditional children's party on December 15.

November floods failed to dampen the holiday spirit in Bakersfield. Hodcarriers No. 220 joined with Painters No. 314 for Christmas baskets for needy families.

There were many more AFL parties throughout the state, all proving that labor kept its date with Santa and the kids of California.

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#### SAN FRANCISCO COUNCIL SHOWS TOLERANCE FILM

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--"Men on the Job," a slide film telling the story of racial and religious tolerance in employment in San Francisco was shown publicly for the first time last week to the San Francisco Labor Council.

Produced by the San Francisco Council as a contribution to tolerance, the film is now available for showing free of charge.

George W. Johns, Council secretary, declared that the film marked the first effort by any central labor body to depict the actual story of tolerance as it exists in its own jurisdiction.

Unions seeking the film should write the San Francisco Labor Council, attention George W. Johns, secretary, 2940 16th St., S.F. 3.

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AFL CANNERY WORKERS  
OPEN NEGOTIATIONS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Negotiations for a new agreement between the State Council of Cannery Workers, AFL, and the California Processors and Growers opened December 20 in San Francisco.

Last year 17 locals and some 60,000 workers were covered by the cannery agreement.

Each local affiliated with the council annually makes its own survey of job conditions for presentation at a council session. A comprehensive program is then adopted and given to the negotiating committee for bargaining purposes.

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STATE AGENCY PUBLISHES  
WAGE GAIN SURVEY

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Wage increases negotiated throughout California from January through November 15, 1950, are available in a new report just published by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the state Department of Industrial Relations.

The survey covers 238 agreements involving 695,000 workers in AFL, CIO, and independent unions. Agreements covering less than 200 workers are not included.

Survey copies may be obtained by writing M. I. Gershenson, Chief, Division of Labor Statistics and Research, 965 Mission Street, San Francisco 3.

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NEW LABOR PROGRAM ON  
NATIONAL RADIO HOOK-UP

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The role of labor unions in keeping America strong and free is being praised in a new radio program, "The People Act," carried by the National Broadcasting Company network on Saturdays, 4:00 to 4:40 p.m., Pacific Standard Time.

The program on February 3 will relate the part played by the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union in building up the New York City dress industry.

Sponsored jointly by NBC's "Living 1950" and the Twentieth Century Fund, the program is broadcast nationally out of New York City. It is officially listed in newspaper radio columns as "Living 1950."

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AMA FIGHT AGAINST MEDICAL SCHOOL AID  
SEEN CRIPPLING U.S. HEALTH DEFENSES

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The American Medical Association's new multimillion dollar drive against federal aid to medical schools to train more doctors, announced December 7, was last week called "a prelude to a future medical Pearl Harbor and a crippling blow to U.S. health needs on the home front and military needs abroad."

The charge was made by the Committee for the Nation's Health, a national organization of prominent physicians and public figures who support the President's National Health Insurance program, including a federal aid to medical education bill. William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor is an honorary vice-president of the committee.

The Committee declared that the AMA's offer of \$500,000 to medical schools is a "pitiful 1% of what the medical schools themselves have declared is essential to expand their freshman classes 22 percent."

Branding the AMA offer "a ridiculous substitute" for the \$250,000 in a bi-partisan measure which passed the Senate unanimously in September, 1949, and a "conscience sop for the AMA's obstructionist tactics," the Committee claimed the AMA figure was a "publicity gesture" intended to drown out the almost unanimous demand for immediate House passage of the medical education bill voiced by medical educators, medical school deans, university presidents, and those in need of medical care.

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\* THE CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR \*  
\* WISHES ALL OF ITS MEMBERS \*  
\* A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR! \*  
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