

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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151



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

June 6, 1951

FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Two northern California students and one from Los Angeles were announced this week as winners of the state AFL's first annual scholarship contest sponsored for the high school seniors of the state.

Winners in the competition, which embraced every high school in California, were Robert Edwards of Hayward High School, Hayward; Carolyn Wood of Willow Glen High School, San Jose; and Francis Merrill of Woodrow Wilson High School, Los Angeles.

The three winners were chosen from top ranking contestants by the Scholarship Committee of Judges, comprised of three professional educators: Edgar L. Warren, Director, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California at Los Angeles; Vaughn D. Seidel, Superintendent of Public Schools of Alameda County; and Frederick A. Breier, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of San Francisco.

All three students will receive \$500 awards to be deposited by the California State Federation of Labor with the college of their choice.

Candidates were judged both on the basis of a statewide examination held May 4 and on their four-year academic record.

Contest announcements and application forms were mailed to the 704 public and private high schools of the state last February. One hundred and eighty-six students filed applications by the April 1 deadline, and 126 appeared for the actual test on May 4, which was monitored by local school officials.

Sealed examination questions were mailed to school officials by the State Federation and serial numbers were then given the

applicants. Thus, the examination books were not identified by name.

Top papers were selected by four professional educators who served as readers. Their selections were then passed on to the Committee of Judges.

Serving as readers were the following university professors: Van D. Kennedy and F. Theodore Malm of the University of California; Thomas Lantos of San Francisco State College, and Carl F. Uhr of the University of San Francisco.

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LEGISLATURE LOOKS TO ADJOURNMENT

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--With the Assembly Industrial Relations Committee preparing for what could be the final "hot cargo" test of the 1951 legislative session, the labor tempo eased slightly this week at Sacramento as the adjournment date of June 23 grew closer.

The Clarke "hot cargo" bill, AB 3435, was scheduled for hearing this Thursday night in the Assembly chamber at the State Capitol.

Originally directed to the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, the bill was withdrawn from that jurisdiction and placed with the Industrial Relations unit by a 44-22 vote of the lower house.

A showdown on the effort to deny unemployment and disability insurance benefits to virtually one-third of those now eligible for such aid was temporarily postponed when AB 2501 was placed on the Assembly inactive list by authors Richard J. Dolwig (R. South San Francisco) and Ernest R. Geddes (R. Pomona). The bill had previously passed the Assembly Finance and Insurance Committee.

Progress on another destructive unemployment insurance bill was revived when AB 2502 was set for hearing this Thursday before the Senate Labor Committee. Introduced by Assemblyman Dolwig, the bill passed the lower house but failed to secure passage from the Senate Labor Committee last week.

As adopted by the Assembly, the measure would erect new eligibility barriers for workers suffering more than one period of unemployment. As now amended, the restrictive clauses would apply only to unemployment insurance and would not affect disability insurance benefits. It would, in effect, nullify wages earned prior to the filing of a valid claim and not used in the computation of the award, thus hitting the worker in the computing of any other award.

The Senate Judiciary Committee this Monday sent AB 841 to the upper-house floor with a favorable vote. The measure protects employees of public owned transit systems from unfair damage suits and was introduced by the California State Federation of Labor. A Senate vote on the bill was expected by mid-week.

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SACRAMENTO COMMITTEES GRIND OUT LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The importance of committee action in the American legislative process is amply shown in a review of bills of interest to labor during the 1951 general session of the California legislature.

A history of recent committee action on pertinent measures follows:

A bill to extend unemployment insurance coverage to employees of non-profit institutions died May 28 before the Assembly Finance and Insurance Committee. The measure, *AB 376, was authored by Assemblyman Francis Dunn Jr. (D. Oakland).

Also killed at the same committee session was *AB 395, which would require every employer to contribute 3.7 percent of all wages paid to the unemployment insurance fund. California employers are now permitted "merit ratings" for constancy of employment. The bill was introduced by Assemblyman Robert L. Condon (D. Walnut Creek).

A proposal to allow state employees to authorize deductions from their wages to be paid bona fide labor organizations for life,

retirement, or disability insurance was beaten down in the Senate Committee on Finance on May 30 after being approved by the Assembly. Introduced by Assemblyman Everett G. Burkhalter (D. North Hollywood) and John B. Cooke (D. Ventura), the bill fell one vote short of committee passage. Voting for the measure, *AB 485, were Senators Arthur H. Breed Jr. (R. Alameda); James E. Cunningham (R. San Bernardino); H. R. Judah (R. Santa Cruz); James J. McBride (D. Ventura); and J. Howard Williams (R. Tulare).

Voting against were Senators Nelson S. Dilworth (R. Riverside), George J. Hatfield (R. Merced, Madera), and Ben Hulse (R. Imperial).

Approved last week by the Senate Committee on Labor in a voice vote was *AB 542, a measure redefining an apprentice as one requiring 2,000 hours of training. Introduced by Assemblyman Edward M. Gaffney (D. San Francisco), the bill was passed by the Senate on May 29 and returned to the Assembly for concurrence in minor amendments.

Also passed by the Senate Committee on Labor was *AB 545, another Gaffney measure, which makes it easier for an employee who refuses to work under unsafe conditions to obtain wages due him. Voting for the bill were Senators H. E. Dillinger (D. El Dorado, Amador, Alpine), Gerald J. O'Gara (D. San Francisco), Harold T. Johnson (D. Sierra, Nevada, Placer), and H. R. Judah.

Voting against were Senators Fred Weybret (R. Monterey, San Benito) and F. Presley Abshire (R. Sonoma).

Knocked down in the Assembly Committee on Finance and Insurance on May 28 was *AB 935, introduced by William H. Rosenthal (D. Los Angeles) and William A. Munnell (D. Los Angeles). The bill would have denied employers the right to obtain "merit ratings" under the unemployment insurance law unless they properly notified the state Department of Employment of job openings.

Tabled by the Senate Labor Committee May 31 in a voice vote was *AB 1116 which would have prohibited the charging of a worker for bedding at a labor camp.

Authored by Assemblyman Lester T. Davis (D. Portola), the measure had previously passed the lower house by a narrow margin.

A measure guaranteeing a 40-minute, duty-free lunch period for teachers in public schools passed the Senate Committee on Education May 31 in a 5 to 1 vote.

Favoring the bill, *AB 1151, were Senators Paul L. Byrne (R. Butte), Jess R. Dorsey (R. Kern), George Miller Jr. (D. Contra Costa), A. W. Way (R. Humboldt), and Hugh P. Donnelly (D. Stanislaus). Sole vote against the bill was cast by Senator Dilworth.

The Senate Committee on Social Welfare last week killed SB 837, introduced by Senator Frederick H. Kraft (R. San Diego) and opposed by the state AFL. The measure would have prohibited benefits for unemployment due to pregnancy and for four weeks after termination of pregnancy.

Voting against the bill were Senators Dillinger, Luther E. Gibson (D. Solano), Ed C. Johnson (R. Yuba, Sutter), Clarence C. Ward (R. Santa Barbara), and Clyde A. Watson (R. Orange). Lone Senator for the bill was F. Presley Abshire.

The same committee session failed to give approval to SB 838, also introduced by Senator Kraft and opposed by the state AFL. The measure would have amended the unemployment insurance law to require that as a condition of being available for work, an individual must "actively" seek work.

Voting for the Kraft bill were Senators Abshire, Gibson, Ward, and Watson. Voting against were Senators Dillinger and Ed C. Johnson. Five votes were needed to pass the measure.

(* - indicates Federation sponsored bills.)

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LAST CALL! ! ATTEND THE
AFL SUMMER LABOR INSTITUTE
Santa Cruz - June 10-16
