

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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AFL SUMMER SCHOOL OPENS IN SANTA CRUZ

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Militant addresses by Harry Lundeberg, chief of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, and Stanislaw Mikolaczyk, former prime minister of Poland, featured the opening sessions of the fourth annual AFL Summer Labor Institute held this week in the Hotel Casa Del Rey in Santa Cruz.

More than 120 AFL unionists from all parts of the state attended the Institute which is sponsored jointly by the California State Federation of Labor and the University of California.

Lundeberg's Monday morning speech reviewed the long history of maritime unionism from the days of the 19th century when sailors were shanghaied and kidnaped off west-coast waterfronts for service at sea.

Mikolaczyk, who addressed the Monday luncheon session, was sentenced to death by Russian military forces in Poland in 1947. He escaped to England in safety and then came to the United States.

A veteran fighter against the Nazi occupation forces during World War II, Mikolaczyk, as leader of the Polish Peasant Party, became head of the Provisional Polish Government in 1945.

Mikolaczyk revealed that free labor was the first democratic force to be liquidated under the Communist rule of Poland, with the right to strike banished and inhuman speedups imposed on the Polish workers. He also charged that the slave labor camps of Poland were a disgrace to civilization, with workers being scientifically starved to death when falling below production quotas set by the camp authorities.

Trade unionist faculty members at the week long Institute included Boris Shishkin, chief economist of the American Federation of Labor, William Gomberg, director of the industrial engineering department of the ILGWU, and Gordon Cole, editor of the IAM Machinist.

Classes were offered the AFL students in collective bargaining, health and welfare plans, basic economics, labor press techniques, apprenticeship problems, present mobilization controls, and workmen's compensation.

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LABOR GUARDS AGAINST CLOSING-HOUR RAIDS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--With labor guarding against last-hour raids by anti-labor lobbies in Sacramento, the 1951 general session of the state legislature this week entered its final, dramatic phase.

In the tense "anything-goes" atmosphere that traditionally marks the political wind-up in the capital city, C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the state AFL, alerted councils and unions throughout California to keep a close eye on the activities of their respective legislators.

Two key unemployment insurance bills were scheduled for floor tests early this week. The Dolwig "lag quarter" measure was due for a Senate vote after receiving approval of the upper house Labor Committee.

Introduced by Assemblyman Richard J. Dolwig (R. South San Francisco), the measure would 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 a labor award.

The attempt to disqualify thousands of workers now eligible for unemployment and disability insurance was also due for a show-down test in early week, as Assemblyman Dolwig and Ernest R. Geddes (R. Pomona) removed AB 2501 from the lower house inactive list.

As originally prepared, the bill would demand that an eligible client must earn \$150 in each of three calendar quarters of his base qualifying period. Spokesmen for the state AFL declared this would eliminate one-third of the workers now eligible. In its present amended form, AB 2501 requires that the eligible client must earn \$225 in each of two calendar quarters in his base period. C. J. Haggerty charged the amended bill would still disqualify one-quarter of those now eligible for benefits.

Also listed for an early Senate floor test was SB 1702, which would prohibit labor unions from engaging in peaceful organizational picketing. Authored by Senator F. Presley Abshire (R. Sonoma), the bill would render illegal not only peaceful picketing, and free speech, but would also outlaw union security provisions of collective bargaining agreements.

Meanwhile labor was taking some solace from the defeat of the Clarke "hot cargo" bill, AB 3435, which was last Thursday night routed before the Assembly Committee on Industrial Relations.

Introduced by Assemblyman George A. Clarke (R. Planada) the bill would have denied labor the right to strike, picket, write free contracts, and publish unfair listings.

Voting against the Clarke measure and for labor were Assemblymen William Clifton Berry (D. San Francisco), Robert L. Condon (D. Walnut Creek), Edward E. Elliott (D. Los Angeles), Wallace D. Henderson (D. Fresno), Edward M. Gaffney (D. San Francisco), and Howard Q. Parker (D. Stockton).

Voting against labor were John L. E. Collier (R. Los Angeles), Robert C. Kirkwood (R. Saratoga), and Harold K. Levering (R. Los Angeles). Committee member Jonathan J. Hollibaugh (R. Huntington Park) was absent.

Due for a hearing before the Senate Labor Committee this week was AB 974, which would provide for a 50% increase in workmen's

compensation payments when a minor is injured. Introduced by Thomas A. Maloney (R. San Francisco), the bill requires that the penalty benefit be paid by the employer rather than the insurance carrier.

Tabled by the same Senate Labor Committee last week in a unanimous voice vote was SB 701, which would have revised present liability for silicosis and in effect prevent recovery benefits unless the employee could conclusively show that all of the liability had been sustained with one employer. The measure was introduced by Senator Edwin J. Regan (D. Trinity, Shasta) and was opposed by the state AFL.

The long struggle to secure an improved disability insurance law in the 1951 general session reached a happy conclusion last week when Governor Earl Warren signed *AB 3376, which boosts maximum weekly benefits from \$25 to \$30.

Authored by Assemblymen Ernest R. Geddes (R. Pomona), Thomas A. Maloney (R. San Francisco), and Francis Dunn Jr. (D. Oakland), the bill also provides for the following improvement features:

(1) A worker on strike may collect benefits if his disability is from causes other than strike activities.

(2) A worker may collect benefits if his employer is not paying him more than 70% of his regular wage during his disability.

The Assembly this Tuesday was reconsidering the fate of the controversial anti-discrimination bill which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, creed, or color in the hiring of apprentices on public work projects.

Introduced by Assemblymen Edward M. Gaffney (D. San Francisco) and William Byron Rumford (D. Berkeley), the measure, *AB 546, was amended and approved in the Senate and returned to the Assembly this Monday for concurrence in the amendments.

Following heated and lengthy discussion, the amendments were accepted by the Assembly and the bill passed, only to be further delayed through the request for reconsideration made by Assemblyman Levering. (*- indicates Federation sponsored bills)

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TOBIN ORDERS MEXICAN
STRIKE-BREAKERS ACROSS BORDER

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Maurice Tobin, U. S. Secretary of Labor, last Friday ordered removal of Mexican contract workers from Imperial Valley farms wherever they are being used to break the strike called by the AFL National Farm Labor Union.

Tobin's action followed AFL demands for enforcement of the international agreement between the U. S. and Mexico relative to conditions of labor for the contract workers. The agreement specifically stipulates that the Mexicans may not be used as American strikebreakers.

Meanwhile, union officials declared the strike for recognition is about 85% effective among domestic workers. Until Tobin's order from Washington, the growers had been using the Mexicans to smash the American strike.

The union also accused the growers of using "wetbacks" or Mexicans illegally in the country, as scab labor during the dispute. The strike was called May 24 and in the following two weeks, the U. S. Immigration officials returned 20,000 illegals to Mexico.

Herman R. Landon, district director of immigration, announced last Friday that an airlift would be started to return the illegal workers. He said four planes, each carrying 60 wetbacks, will operate daily between El Centro and Guadalajara, Mexico, 1,000 miles distant.

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