

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO,
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FEDERATION CONVENTION DEMANDS JUSTICE

IN MOBILIZATION PROGRAM

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--San Diego's mammoth Golden Anniversary Convention of the California State Federation of Labor got down to solid business early this week with consideration of the 10,000 word policy statement submitted the convention by the Executive Council of the state organization.

Debate on the policy statements and 167 resolutions offered by member unions began after opening day ceremonies on Monday in Conference Hall, Balboa Park, found Assistant Secretary of Labor Ralph Wright predicting that President Harry Truman would carry on the Fair Deal fight for a better economic and social order.

Other opening day speakers were Daniel V. Flanagan, Assistant Deputy Administrator of the Defense Production Administration, Arnold S. Zander, International President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, William E. McFettridge, International President of the Building Service Employees Union, Mohammed Zein El Din, President General Motor Carrier Drivers of Egypt, California Assemblyman Wallace Henderson, and J. D. McDonald, President of the Oregon State Federation of Labor.

The Executive Council policy statements began with a promise that labor shall continue its full support of the national mobilization program, while insisting on equality of sacrifice and full partnership in program administration.

The statements declared the 1951 Defense Production Act "inadequate and inequitable," and warned that strong price and rent controls were needed in an era of soaring prices and frozen wages.

Other mobilization policies called for continuance of a tri-partite wage stabilization board; settlement of non-wage disputes by the WSB; universal permission of wage increases equal to cost of living rises; steeper income taxes on high income groups; defeat of the proposed national sales tax, and voluntary manpower controls.

The comprehensive policy statement covered ten major subjects ranging from "Apprenticeship" to "Water and Power," and placed the state AFL leadership firmly on record favoring continued political action, repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law; support of the U. S. position in Korea, more liberal social security laws, and integrated development of the Central Valley Project.

Both the policy statement and resolutions had to face discussion, and approval or rejection by the 2,000 Federation delegates.

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FLANAGAN NAMED
TO FEDERAL POST

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Daniel V. Flanagan, AFL West Coast Director of organization, was last week named Deputy Administrator of the Defense Production Administration.

Flanagan is now on leave from his Union post as AFL Representative in the 11 Western States and has taken up residence in Washington, D. C.

John Sweeney has been appointed by President Green to serve as AFL Regional Director in Flanagan's absence.

A charter member of AFL Warehousemen's Local 860 in San Francisco, Flanagan will advise and assist on all phases of the vital agency's defense production program, according to DPA Administrator Manley Fleischmann.

In World War II Flanagan served as chairman of AFL members on the Far Western Division of the War Labor Board. He was also AFL representative in the 11 Western States on the U. S. Treasury Department's war bond campaign.

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WAGE STABILIZATION BOARD
OPENS REGIONAL OFFICE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The Wage Stabilization Board opened a Regional Office in the Flood Building, 870 Market Street, San Francisco last Wednesday and granted authority to the director to administer national wage policies in California, Arizona and Nevada.

Dr. Arthur M. Ross, Regional Director, said the staff work will begin immediately on the back-log of approximately 100 petitions that have been waiting action by the National Wage Stabilization Board.

The greatest effect of the establishment of the office for the three state regions will be to cut down the time-lag between the date employers and unions file petitions for wage adjustment and the date final decisions are handed down.

Formerly, wage adjustments were forwarded to the Wage Stabilization Board, in Washington, where they were added to the ever increasing national case load.

The field offices of the Wage and Hour Division, of the U. S. Department of Labor, will continue to be the point of contact with the public, as they have been in the past, Ross said. Major difference will be that petitions for wage adjustment in California, Arizona and Nevada will be transmitted to Regional Offices rather than to the National Board, in Washington.

The Regional Office will also house the Regional Wage Stabilization Board, the membership of which will be announced shortly. Ross has been named Chairman of the Board but selection of industry, labor and additional public members has not been completed.

The Regional Office has three major objectives which are in accord with national policies developed by Wage Stabilization Board, which is a representative body appointed by the President from industry, labor and the public, Ross said.

The Regional objectives are: (1) to make sensible application of wage stabilization policies in the light of special problems of particular communities and industries in the three states; (2) to reach speedy decision on petitions so that the period of uncertainty can be kept at a minimum; (3) to secure general compliance with the wage stabilization program so that employers, unions and workers will know what the Government expects of them, what their rights are, and how they should go about securing such rights.

The Regional Office has sufficient authority to achieve these objectives, Ross said. It has been authorized to make final disposition of several important types of cases, including tandem relationships, new plant applications, base pay period abnormalities, productivity increases and agricultural area rates.

The National Board will continue to decide other types of cases but the Regional Office has been given authority to make recommendations, Ross said. Cases which will be handled in Washington include those of employees hired directly by the Federal Government, companies operating in more than one Wage Stabilization Board region, the construction industry or other industries which are being given individual consideration by the National Board, and any of the disputes functions of the National Board.

The Regional Office has also been given authority to supervise rulings of which the Wage and Hour Division Offices in the three states makes on regulations governing wage stabilization program. It may approve or disapprove depending upon findings. However, employers and unions have the right of appeal to the National Board.

The Regional Office will conduct an enforcement program designed to secure compliance with the stabilization program, Ross said. Investigations will be conducted by the Wage and Hour Division. Enforcement attorneys will be employed by the Regional Office. Enforcement action will be carried on by a semi-independent judicial body called Enforcement Commission which has the power to disallow payments for income tax purposes, if any part of the wage payment is declared illegal.

Ross emphasized that all original contacts with Regional Office on applications for wage adjustments, rulings on regulations governing the wage program and reports on agreements must be made through offices of the Wage and Hour Division in California, Arizona and Nevada. The Division has seven offices in the region; San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix, Reno, Fresno and Sacramento.

All of the offices are staffed with personnel who are familiar with the wage stabilization program, Ross said. They also have official application blanks including Form 100, which is the new form for filing of petitions for wage adjustment.