

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

October 10, 1951

### LOS ANGELES COUNCIL OBSERVES 50 YEARS OF STRUGGLE AND PROGRESS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The death of the last frontier of the open shop was properly cheered last Monday night in Los Angeles when some 2500 friends of organized labor jammed the vast Palladium ballroom for the Golden Anniversary banquet of the Los Angeles Central Labor Council.

AFL President William Green was the principal speaker. Green recalled that Samuel Gompers, his predecessor, had officiated almost a half century before in the laying of the cornerstone of the first central labor council building in Los Angeles.

Addresses were also delivered by C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, and Los Angeles Postmaster Michael Fanning.

AFL stars George Jessel and George Riley handled the master of ceremonies job, while members of the Screen Actors Guild furnished the entertainment.

The anniversary show was directed by W. J. Bassett, secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles council. George T. Leonard of the Los Angeles Teamsters was chairman of the entertainment committee.

Honored guests at the speakers' table included Thomas L. Pitts, president of the State Federation of Labor, Daniel J. Tobin, international president of the Teamsters; Dave Beck, executive vice-president of the Teamsters; Ronald Reagan, president of the AFL Screen Actors Guild; Mayor Fletcher Bowron of Los Angeles, and Pat Somerset, assistant executive secretary of the Screen Actors Guild and vice-president of the State Federation of Labor.

The Golden Anniversary magazine which was presented to all in attendance, traced the history of the AFL in Los Angeles from the black years of the early 20th century, through the open shop tyranny of feudal industrialists, down to the present when the central council represents thousands of united unionists in the old citadel of the labor-hating Los Angeles Times.

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STATE FEDERATION ANNOUNCES  
SECOND ANNUAL LABOR PRESS INSTITUTE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--C.J. Haggerty, executive head of the State AFL, this week announced that the California State Federation of Labor's second annual labor press institute will be held Friday and Saturday, November 24-25, in Santa Barbara.

The institute will be sponsored in conjunction with the University of California at Los Angeles and will officially open with registration at 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning, in the Carrillo Hotel.

Editors of AFL papers and those responsible for their management or financial structure are invited to attend the two-day session.

Workshops are planned for the following labor press subjects: Explaining Economics, Financing a Labor Journal, The Labor Press as a Public Relations Instrument, Layout and Design, and Getting Your Paper Read.

An evaluation of AFL California papers will be made by Dean Brandt of the UCLA School of Journalism. The full program will be announced in the near future.

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AFL COUNCIL AIDS  
CEREBRAL PALSY CHILDREN

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The San Luis Obispo Central Labor Council this month opened a campaign to aid the children confined to the Chris Jespersen Cerebral Palsy School in that community.

W. A. Benton, secretary-treasurer of the San Luis Obispo Barbers, Local 767, reports that the children are in desperate need of supplies.

At the present time, he reveals, they are using supports made out of old boxes in learning to walk.

AFL carpenters, painters, plumbers, and other building craftsmen are donating time and effort to obtain the needed equipment.

The Central Council will hold a benefit card party for the school Saturday night, October 20, in the AFL Carpenters Hall, 811 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

Inquiries regarding the campaign should be directed to Dale Earing, secretary, San Luis Obispo Central Labor Council, 1530 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo.

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NLRB RULES UNION ENTITLED TO SPEAK  
TO EMPLOYEES ON COMPANY TIME

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The National Labor Relations Board last week announced in Washington, D.C., that an employer who delivers an anti-union speech to his assembled employees on company time and premises violates the law if he declines, under certain circumstances, to grant a request for a similar opportunity for a rebuttal speech by union representatives.

The Board summarized the ruling as follows:

"An employer who chooses to use his premises to assemble his employees and speak against a union may not deny that union's reasonable request for the same opportunity to present its case, where the circumstances are such that only by granting such a request will the employees have a reasonable opportunity to hear both sides."

The ruling was made in a case brought against Bonwit Teller, Inc., a New York City department store, by the Retail Clerks International Association, AFL.

A 4-member majority of the Board ruled that the company had unlawfully interfered with its employees' right to self-organization, by refusing to grant the union an opportunity it requested to speak to the employees. The Board ordered the company to cease and desist from such illegal activity in the future.

The Board unanimously found that the company also violated the law in the following instances:

(1) When the company president, in an anti-union speech to employees just before a Board representation election, announced that wage increases for them were pending; and

(2) When a supervisor told employees that, if the company had to bargain with a union, it would change its wage, promotion, and layoff policies so that they could no longer expect year-round employment.

The Board held that the president's speech contained a "promise of benefit" to employees for voting against the union, which is forbidden by law. It found the supervisor's speech contained a "threat of reprisal" for voting for the union, which also is forbidden.

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GREEN ENDORSES  
COMMUNITY CHEST DRIVE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The National Newsletter, official organ of the Labor Participation Department of the Community Chests and Councils of America, this week carried William Green's endorsement of the 1951 United Defense Fund and Community Chest drives, scheduled to open this month throughout California.

The AFL president declared that the United Defense Fund will be incorporated in most communities as part of the local Community Chest appeal.

USO activities are financed by the United Defense Fund. The USO provides clubs and lounges in transportation centers for troops in transit, and camp shows for hospitals and overseas.

The American Relief in Korea, as a voluntary agency, will also receive funds through the United Defense Fund campaign to assist the Korean people who have borne the horrors of war in their native country.

Voluntary health and welfare agencies are supported in part by Community Chest funds in every state. The national AFL has long urged active participation in Community Chest boards and agencies by local representatives of the labor movement.

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WATSONVILLE COUNCIL TO HONOR  
VETERAN AFL LEADER

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--James T. Mann, active building trades leader of Santa Cruz county, who is retiring after 37 years as representative of AFL Carpenters Union Local 771 in Watsonville, will be honored at a testimonial dinner at Loma Linda, near Watsonville, Friday night, November 2.

Plans for the testimonial dinner were announced last week by the Watsonville Central Labor Council.

Mann, who recently observed his 69th birthday, was a boyhood school chum of President Harry Truman. The President's wife, then Bess Wallace, Charles Ross, the president's personal secretary, and Mann, were all born and reared in Truman's home town, Independence, Missouri.

At the age of 17, Brother Mann joined Carpenters Local 4 in Kansas City. He moved to Watsonville in 1911 and was elected secretary of Local 771 in 1914.

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STATE ACCIDENT COMMISSION  
OFFERS INFORMATION SERIES

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The California Industrial Accident Commission has released its fifth set of questions and answers in its series on functions of Workmen's Compensation Law.

Unions interested in obtaining copies should write Frank A. Lawrence, Industrial Accident Commissioner, Industrial Relations Bldg., 965 Mission Street, San Francisco 3.

Set No. 5 deals with such pertinent issues as the employees right to change physicians, the fixing of legal fees and disbursements, and the status of railroad employees engaged in interstate commerce.

Set No. 6, soon to be released, will cover amendments in the law voted during the 1951 general session of the California state legislature.

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