

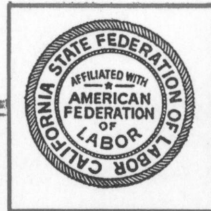
# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

810 DAVID HEWES BUILDING  
995 MARKET STREET

151



SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

November 7, 1951

### AFL ENGINEERS WIN MARITIME SHOWDOWN

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--AFL maritime workers won a major victory over the worried Bridges machine on the San Francisco waterfront last week, when the ILWU high command ordered its men to work four ships of the Isthmian Line despite previous pledges it would not recognize the Isthmian-AFL contract for marine engineers.

Showdown on the tense waterfront struggle came when the Isthmian Line called for longshoremen last Thursday following a court ruling which declared an invisible CIO engineers' picket line to be invalid.

The dispute had its origins last June when the CIO engineers' union advised the AFL Seafarers' International Union it intended to strike the Isthmian Line ships independently, despite the fact that the SIU held contracts covering sailors, firemen, and cooks, and actually claimed a majority of the engineers.

Charging that the strike was directed at AFL bargaining rights, the SIU revealed that only 22 percent of the engineers answered the strike call, which was reportedly effected without any vote action.

The Isthmian Line then signed a contract with the AFL Brotherhood of Marine Engineers as representing the overwhelming majority of engineers. An agreement was negotiated which is now before the Wage Stabilization Board for approval.

The CIO engineers strike was not recognized as valid by east coast and gulf longshoremen or seamen, and the full 40 ships of the Isthmian line sailed without disturbance, their AFL crews being bona fide trade unionists.

When five Isthmian ships recently hit the west coast, the resulting engineers' picket line was declared to be jurisdictional in character and not a picket line established to achieve better wages and working conditions.

With the removal of the CIO engineers' picket line, the ILWU pretended to see an "invisible" line which it refused to cross, declaring the ILWU would not work the Isthmian ships with AFL men holding the engineer jobs.

A new factor then entered the controversy, when the AFL International Longshoremen's Association chartered a San Francisco local whose members were willing and ready to work the AFL vessels. The ILA signed a contract with Isthmian to work the ships if necessary.

When the courts last week declared the CIO invisible line to be illegal, the ILWU rushed to comply with the technical Isthmian call for longshoremen. The CIO engineers almost simultaneously announced its invisible line had completely vanished. The ships resumed operation with AFL engineers still on the job.

Harry Lundeborg, president of the Seafarers International Union and chief of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, attributed the victory to AFL unity on land and sea.

Lundeborg charged that the strife-torn and faction-ridden San Francisco local of Bridges longshoremen, would have bolted the ILWU in the face of AFL longshoremen working the Isthmian ships.

The Bridges longshore union is now an independent organization, having been expelled by the CIO in 1950 on charges of being under the control and domination of the Communist Party.

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GOVERNOR WARREN NAMES  
LLOYD MASHBURN  
LABOR COMMISSIONER

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Lloyd Mashburn, veteran executive officer of the AFL Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council, was last week appointed State Labor Commissioner by Governor Earl Warren.

Mashburn succeeds the late John F. Dalton, former president of the California State Federation of Labor, who died earlier this year.

The official title of the new Mashburn post is Chief of the Division of Labor Law Enforcement, Department of Industrial Relations.

At the present time, Mashburn is secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council, secretary of the Southern California District Council of Lathers, secretary of the nine Southern California building and construction trades councils, president of the Los Angeles Labor Temple Association, a member of the State Compensation Insurance Fund directorate, and a member of the State Hospital Advisory Board.

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STATE FEDERATION  
ISSUES REVIEW OF  
FARM PARITY

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--A review of farm parity prices and their relationship to the American worker featured the November issue of "Your Economics and Mine," the sixth in a series of articles dealing with vital economic issues of the day as surveyed by the California State Federation of Labor, and released this week.

Declaring the parity question had become one of national importance, not only for the American farmer, but also for workers, businessmen, consumers, and the total U.S. public, the review explains the historical background of parity policy and its 1951 implications.

In a brief description of the often clouded parity issue, the articles defines parity as "a device whereby the purchasing power of the farmer is maintained in accord with its status during a base period, usually an average of the period 1909-1914."

"Uncle Sam," the article continues, "presumes the farmer's position at that time was normal and satisfactory and parity prices are designed to maintain that level."

Also explained is the calculation of parity which is undertaken by averaging the present prices of the typical commodities that a farmer

buys and comparing them with 1909-1914 prices.

Thus, the parity price of a bushel of wheat in November of 1951 is a price fixed to give the farmer the same purchasing power he enjoyed during the base period of 40 years ago.

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VETERAN STATE LEADER OF  
IATSE DIES IN SAN FRANCISCO

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--F. B. "Ben" Williams, president of the AFL California State Theatrical Federation for 27 years until his retirement in 1948, died last week in San Francisco after an illness of several months.

Brother Williams was a 51-year member of the International Alliance of Theatrical, Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators.

The deceased was the long time president of the Theatrical Federation of San Francisco, having joined Stagehand's Local 16 in that city in 1900.

He was buried in Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, San Mateo County, where his funeral was attended by a large number of friends from the ranks of labor.

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STATE FEDERATION  
PRESS INSTITUTE  
SET FOR NOVEMBER 24-25

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Urging all AFL councils in California to lend support to the labor press, C. J. Haggerty, executive officer of the California State Federation of Labor, last week recommended active participation in the second annual AFL labor press institute scheduled for Santa Barbara, November 24-25.

The 1951 institute sessions will be held in the Hotel Carrillo in downtown Santa Barbara and also in the downtown headquarters of the University of California Extension division.

Workshop discussions will treat of both bread and butter issues and format challenges to the labor press.

The institute will be jointly sponsored by the State Federation of Labor and the University of California.

Room reservations may now be made directly with the Hotel Carrillo, or with Annette Sherwood, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, Los Angeles, 24.

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AFL CANNERY WORKERS  
PLAN MOTION PICTURE

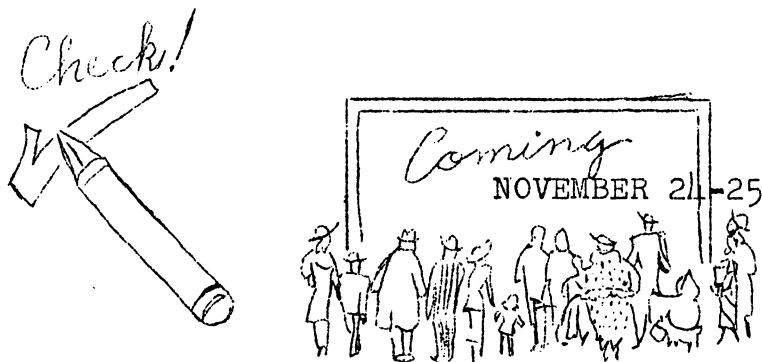
(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--A motion picture depicting the role of the AFL canning and dried fruit workers on the Pacific Coast is being planned by the AFL unions in the industry, it was announced this week.

Members of the AFL motion picture committee are Hal Angus of the California State Cannery Council and George Nelson, secretary-treasurer of the Dried Fruit State Council.

Other committee members are Ed Benjamin of the Oregon Cannery Council and Oscar Williams of the Washington Council.

Present plans call for showing of the picture in 1952 at the Teamsters' International convention in Los Angeles.

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2nd ANNUAL AFL LABOR PRESS INSTITUTE

Santa Barbara, California



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