

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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HYMAN LANGER DIES SUDDENLY IN LOS ANGELES

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--California labor was shocked this week by the sudden death of Hyman Langer, 49, Pacific Coast Director of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. The veteran ILGWU leader died of a heart attack in his Los Angeles home last Sunday following a long series of operations.

Langer entered the garment trade as a cloak maker in Toronto at the age of 16. An active figure in the ILGWU, he became manager of the Toronto local of the cloakmakers in 1922, a post he held for more than 25 years. In 1949 Langer was appointed Regional Director of his international for the Ohio-Kentucky territory. President Dubinsky named him Pacific Coast Director in October, 1950, following the death of his predecessor, Louis Levy.

At the time of his death, Langer was a member of the Executive Board of the Los Angeles Central Labor Council, a member of the Board of Directors of the City of Hope, and chairman of the Anti-Discrimination Committee of the Jewish Labor Committee.

Brother Langer is survived by his widow, Leah, and Judith, a twelve-year old daughter.

C. J. Haggerty, executive officer of the California State Federation of Labor, expressed the sympathy of the state AFL movement in a wire to the bereaved family, which declared that "the labor movement and the nation have lost a great fighter for justice and humanity in the death of Hyman Langer."

The national ILGWU was represented at the funeral by Louis Stulberg, international vice-president and a member of the general executive board.

AFL MILLMEN HOLD
STATE CONFERENCE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Grave concern over the drop in construction throughout the state keynoted the conference of the California State Mill Committee held in Fresno last Saturday. The statewide committee is comprised of all AFL mill and cabinet workers' unions in California.

C. D. "Tex" Johnson, committee secretary-treasurer, revealed that most of the 34 delegates present reported a sudden slump in employment during the last two weeks of November. Much of the decline was attributed to the federal government's restrictions on use of steel and other materials needed in the construction of civilian structures.

Delegates reported that virtually all locals are currently seeking cost-of-living wage increases allowed by the Wage Stabilization Board. Progress was also reported in promoting the use of the Union label of the Carpenters' Brotherhood on all millwork.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Charles Burge, Local 721, Los Angeles; vice president, George Smoot, Local 262, San Jose; secretary-treasurer, C. D. "Tex" Johnson, Local 42, San Francisco.

Next meeting of the committee will be held in conjunction with the state convention of Carpenters in March, 1952.

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AFL WINS
LUMBER ELECTION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The AFL Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union scored an emphatic victory in El Dorado county last week with the announcement that it had won collective bargaining rights at the Michigan California Lumber Company in Placerville.

Results of the NLRB election found the AFL union polling 97 votes to 35 for the CIO woodworkers.

The AFL campaign was directed by Don Riggs, international representative of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers. Riggs was aided by the California State Federation of Labor through the office of Harry Finks, regional vice president of the state AFL.

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WELFARE COMMISSION ANNOUNCES
MINIMUM WAGE HEARINGS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.-- The Industrial Welfare Commission this week announced that public hearings will be held in January, 1952, relative to possible revision of state orders now regulating minimum wages, hours, and conditions of work for women and minors in California.

Hearings will be conducted January 18 and 19 in the State Bldg., Los Angeles, and January 25 and 26 in the State Bldg., San Francisco.

Wage board hearings for ten specific occupations have been held in recent months under the authority of state welfare body. Copies of the wage board findings may be obtained by writing the Industrial Welfare Commission general office, 965 Mission Street, San Francisco.

The California State Federation of Labor will present a brief for revision at the January hearings. Unions interested in making additional presentations or filing pertinent information should immediately contact C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the Federation, Room 810, 995 Market St., San Francisco 3.

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AFL INSURANCE AGENTS
ASK FOR HELP
IN PRUDENTIAL STRIKE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The nation-wide strike of the Insurance Agents' International Union against the Prudential Insurance Company picked up momentum this week when Harry E. O'Reilly, AFL director of organization, declared in Washington, D. C. that AFL organizers would aid the striking union in its "courageous fight for better wages and conditions of work."

Meanwhile Dick Rupprecht, head of the AFL insurance local in San Francisco, urged all trade unionists to support the strike by refusing to patronize strike-breaking agents of the gigantic insurance firm.

Some 15,000 Prudential agents in 32 states struck December 3rd following a break down in negotiations between the AFL Insurance Agents International union and company officials in Newark, New Jersey.

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STATE FEDERATION
WINS FIGHT AGAINST
FRESNO ORDINANCE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The long legal fight of "Haggerty vs. Fresno County" reached a successful climax last week when the Superior Court issued a permanent injunction to prevent the county from enforcing its anti-noise parade ordinance which had been challenged by the California State Federation of Labor, through C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the state AFL organization.

In a lengthy opinion, Judge Edward L. Kellas declared that (1) the ordinance "abridges the First Amendment (free speech) of the Constitution" and would therefore appear to be "unconstitutional"; (2) the plaintiff (Haggerty, for the California State Federation of Labor), is entitled to injunctive relief.

The legal tangle had its origin in the 1950 cotton strike of the National Farm Labor Union during which pickets of the NFLU were arrested for addressing field workers through loud speakers attached to picket caravans.

The NFLU pickets were jailed under terms of the ordinance which make it unlawful "for any person to wilfully make, emit, or transmit or cause to be made, emitted, or transmitted any loud and raucous noise upon or from any public highway or public thoroughfare or from any aircraft of any kind whatsoever."

In his opinion Judge Kellas quoted the language of Supreme Court Judge Douglas in a similar dispute in which the Justice declared that "loud speakers are today indispensable instruments of effective public speech. The sound truck has become an accepted method of political campaigning. It is the way people are reached."

It was the contention of the California State Federation of Labor in the Fresno controversy that the county ordinance was being used to crush free speech in a labor dispute.

The State Federation was represented in the legal fight by the firm of Todd and Todd since the inception of the dispute in October, 1950.

WAGE BOARD APPROVES
BOILERMAKER PAY BOOST

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The Regional Wage Stabilization Board announced this week that it had approved a six-cent hourly wage increase and a cost-of-living clause for 2,000 AFL boilermakers employed in central and coastal county plants.

Arthur M. Ross, Chairman, said that approval was based upon facts contained in a petition submitted by the California Metal Trades Association and the AFL International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers and its locals: 6 and 68, San Francisco; 39, Oakland; 94, Sacramento; and 749, Stockton.

The decision made the wage increase retroactive to October 8, 1951 and ordered the escalator clause operated in accordance with similar clauses in agreements between the Association and the AFL Molders, Machinists, Blacksmiths and Metal Polishers.

At the same time, Ross said that the Board had approved the proposal of the AFL Inland Boatmen's Union and the Shipowners' Merchant Towboat Company to reduce the work week of 44 employees from 6 consecutive days to 5.

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NEW INITIATIVE WOULD DENY
PUBLIC FUNDS TO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GROUPS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--An initiative currently being circulated throughout California for placement on the state ballot would prohibit appropriation or expenditure of public money to the California State Chamber of Commerce, any local chamber of commerce, County Supervisors Association, or any other private organization, which attempts to influence legislation.

The initiative was launched by George McClain, California pension figure, who charges that public grants to such bodies are being used to fight progressive legislation. Official title to the initiative has been granted by the state Attorney General's Office, and signatures are now being solicited by advocates of the measure.

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