WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO,
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AFL DUMPS BRIDGES-GOLDBLATT UNION IN SAN JOAQUIN ELECTIONS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--AFL forces in the San Joaquin Valley have dealt the Bridges-Goldblatt warehouse machine two severe setbacks in the ILWU attempt to expand jurisdiction following consistent fringe losses in both northern and southern California.

The International Chemical Workers Union, AFL, whipped the International Longshoremens' and Warehousemens' Union in two recent Fresno county elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

First victory was in McFarland, where the workers in the Camp and Felder Compress Company voted in favor of the AFL by a 39-33 count.

The AFL union won its second straight victory over the ILWU warehouse organizers by a 58-33 margin in an election at the California Compress Company plant in Fresno.

AFL spokesmen in the San Joaquin Valley have charged that ILWU warehouse agents are moving into Fresno and Kern counties following loss of fringe plants in Stockton, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Immediately after the ILWU election loss of the Stockton Montgomery-Ward plant to AFL Warehouse Local 12, Stockton organizers of the ILWU were reported in Bakersfield claiming new jurisdictions.

Positive evidence of the Bridges-Goldblatt plan to extend jurisdiction into distant fields came this month with the entry of the ILWU into the Phillips Foundry election in Bakersfield. The ILWU warehousemen opposed the Southern California Metal Trades Council, AFL, in the NLRB elections. Results of the iron foundry polling will be released next week.

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BILL HUTCHESON RETIRES AS HEAD OF CARPENTERS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--William L. "Big Bill" Hutcheson, 77, president of the AFL United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners since 1915, will retire from his presidential post on January 1.

In making his announcement last week, Hutcheson also revealed that his son, M. A. Hutcheson, now first vice-president, will fill the top job until the Carpenters' next convention in 1954.

The elder Hutcheson will become executive director of the union's Home for Aged Carpenters at Lakeland, Florida, and will continue as first vice-president of the national AFL, a position he has held since 1940.

Hutcheson will also assume the title of president-emeritus of the Carpenters and Joiners International, which now enjoys a membership of more than 800,000 in 2800 locals throughout the country.

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AFL INSURANCE AGENTS ISSUE NATIONAL STRIKE APPEAL

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--In a communication directed this week to all AFL central bodies and state federations, George L. Russ, president of the AFL Insurance Agents' International Union, asked for united support in the nationwide strike against the Prudential Insurance Company.

Russ declares that the union was forced to strike December 1, 1951, after failing to negotiate a satisfactory contract for the 15,417 agents it represents in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

Russ also charges that Prudential compelled the union to strike before it had the opportunity to build up its financial strength. The insurance agents' international was chartered by the American Federation of Labor in May, 1951.

The Russ letter requests AFL Prudential policy holders to write to company headquarters urging a favorable settlement of the dispute.

Russ reveals that strike fund donations may be sent to Max Shi[illegible] Secretary-Treasurer, IAIU-AFL, Room 427 Victor Bldg., 724-9th Stree[illegible] N.W., Washington 1, D.C.

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GREEN WARNS AFL OF NEW COMMIE FRONT MOVE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--AFL President William Green has issued a warning to all affiliated bodies to reject appeals for aid and cooperation submitted by the "Provisional Trade Union Committee for Repeal of the Smith Act."

Green warned that activities of the newly launched committee "are actually part of the policy proclaimed recently by the discredited and Communist-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions to infiltrate and bore from within free, bona-fide labor unions in order to sabotage our national defense program."

The AFL president concluded his expose of the new front organization by urging "all AFL affiliates to beware being duped by the Communists and to reject their spurious appeals."

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LOS ANGELES PRICES HIT ALL-TIME HIGH

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Average retail prices of goods and services purchased by moderate income families in the Los Angeles area rose 0.9 percent between mid-October and mid-November, Max D. Kossoris, Western Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, reported this week.

The increase brought the Consumers' Price Index for Los Angeles to a new high of 189.6 (1935 - 39 = 100), 7½ percent higher than a year ago and 12 percent above the June 1950 pre-Korea level.

The major factors in the advance were a 1½ percent rise in the average prices of miscellaneous goods and services and a 1.1 percent jump in food prices over the month. Rents, on which information is obtained only at quarterly intervals, were up 1 percent between mid-August and mid-November.

Partly offsetting these advances was a 0.9 percent drop in apparel prices, which moved downward for the second consecutive month. Prices of housefurnishings and the items in the fuel, electricity and ice group were unchanged between mid-October and mid-November.

Nationally, the U.S. Consumers' Price Index advanced 0.6 percent to 188.6 (1935 - 39 = 100), mainly as a result of higher prices for miscellaneous goods and services (up 1.1 percent) and food (up 1 percent).

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STATE FEDERATION RELEASES LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SURVEY

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--A roll-call tabulation of vital committee votes cast during the 1951 regular session of the state legislature was this week mailed to all affiliated central bodies and local political leagues by the California State Federation of Labor.

C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the state AFL organization, declared that since no official record of committee votes is published, such a tabulation is particularly important in an election year when local units of Labor's League for Political Education will be obliged to make endorsements for both Assembly and Senate seats.

The tabulation supplements the previously issued "Sacramento Story," the State Federation's survey of the 1951 regular session.

While "The Sacramento Story" lists key floor votes in both Assembly and Senate and traces the history of all measures pertinent to labor, the Committee tabulation features 48 selected roll calls on committee vote tests.

Lack of officially published records of such votes compelled the State Federation to compile the voting history through its own resources. Key votes were recorded at committee hearings by Federation representatives. However, since many test issues were determined by voice vote, a total story of committee action is not possible.

A limited number of the committee tabulation charts is now available at State Federation headquarters, Room 810, 995 Market Street, San Francisco 3, California.

Later this month, the State Federation will release a voting chart on the 23 Congressmen and two Senators who comprise the state delegation in Washington, D. C.

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MATTHEW URGES AFL TO FOLLOW SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Matthew Woll, chairman of the AFL Committee on Education and veteran vice-president of the parent organization, this week recommended that all AFL units should follow the development of public school training and education with close interest.

Woll declared that the 1951 convention of the American Federation of Labor had adopted the following three point educational program:

1. All affiliated city and state federated bodies should make a careful review of the needs and practices of their local and state school systems.
2. Organized Labor should actively seek representation on city and state boards of education, and on boards of directors of public libraries.
3. Committees from central labor bodies should call on superintendents of schools and make inquiry as to what is taught about Organized Labor and by whom, and should examine statements in text books about the labor movement, to ascertain that there is fair presentation of the labor movement in the public schools.

Woll stated that AFL labor organizations, through their education committees or representatives, should watch carefully for evidence of activity by anti-labor groups in attenpting to influence teaching programs and should refer information and evidence to the AFL Committee on Education for further investigation.

Woll also declared that labor organizations should continue their work in the promotion of educational courses for their members and scholarship programs for their children, and should extend their interests to the wider field of the needs and programs of the public school systems in their vicinity.

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