

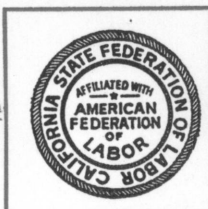
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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151



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

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TRI-STATE AFL MEET TO REVIEW "WETBACK" INVASION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.-- AFL officials from California, Arizona, and Texas will meet in Phoenix, January 12 and 13, to plan action against Mexican "wetback" invasions which now peril organized labor standards in the three border states.

C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer, and President Thomas L. Pitts will represent the California State Federation of Labor at the two-day conference called by the AFL Joint Committee on Migratory Labor Standards.

The Mexican "wetback", or illegal entrant, has been the cause of increasing concern during the past two years along the Mexican border territory.

Termed "wetbacks" because of their practice of crossing the Rio Grande under cover of darkness, the Mexican entrants represent ripe material for unscrupulous employers interested in a cheap labor market in California farm lands.

The United States Immigration Service officially deported 565,000 wetbacks in 1950.

In a study made in March, 1951, the New York Times declared that more than a million wetbacks a year enter the United States from Mexico.

President Truman's Commission on Migratory Labor charged

last year that the wetback menace is actually an "invasion" and has moved inland from the border states and now threatens all industries, rather than merely agriculture.

The Truman Commission report also revealed that many corporation farms were furnishing wetbacks with narcotics, liquor, and prostitutes.

AFL leaders have constantly warned that both narcotic rings and Communist agents have found wetbacks willing tools because of their sense of desperation and dependence.

During the first session of the 82nd Congress the California State Federation of Labor urged Congress to strengthen the immigration border patrol, which now employs less than 900 officers to guard the 1,600 miles of boundary between the United States and Mexico.

The state AFL has also recommended that it be made a felony for employers to hire and harbor wetbacks.

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PUBLIC LOBBY CONTROL PETITION ON STREETS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.-- Recognizing a principle long advocated by organized labor in California, petitioners last week hit the streets of all major cities seeking necessary signatures to qualify an initiative measure barring public support of private organizations engaged in lobbying activities.

The proposed initiative would amend the state constitution "to 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 campaign is being conducted by the California Institute of Social Welfare, headed by George McLain.

Literature released this week by advocates of the amendment

claims that \$2,000,000 of public money is given away annually by county boards of supervisors, and another \$1,000,000 by California city councils, to chambers of commerce and other privately controlled organizations engaged in lobbying activities.

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HEALTH-WELFARE CONTRACTS WIN

APPROVAL IN NEW WSB RULING

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.-- Unions may now negotiate health and welfare clauses in collective bargaining contracts without having the cost charged up as a wage increase.

Economic Stabilization Director Putnam last week approved a new ruling by the Wage Stabilization Board permitting many types of health and welfare benefits.

Industry members of the WSB sharply dissented from the decision. Labor members protested the limitations but went along with the public members because the new policy is "preferable to the existing complete freeze."

The ruling provides that any health and welfare benefit, regardless of its extent, is automatically approvable if the employees contribute at least 40 percent of the gross cost.

Non-contributory plans are also automatically approved within set standards. If they exceed the WSB standards, they must be submitted to a special health-welfare panel of the board for an official okay.

The permissible standards for non-contributory health and welfare agreements include:

1. Free life insurance up to \$1,500 or 85 percent of the employer's average annual payroll, whichever is more.
2. Disability payments for time lost due to sickness or accident, limited to 26 weeks' wages when payments average more than 60 percent of an employers average weekly payroll.
3. Hospitalization expenses, short of a private room;

special nursing care, up to 30 days; medical care in hospital; surgical expenses, except for "unusual types," such as dental or plastic surgery; maternity care.

The foregoing benefits would cover only employees. They cannot be extended to cover families of employees under permissible non-contributory standards, but such coverage is approved in plans where employees contribute at least 40 percent of the total cost.

The Wage Stabilization Board still has under consideration proposed plans dealing with collective bargaining for pensions and retirement systems. It is also considering AFL proposals for permitting wage increases, beyond the limitations of the present formula, which are earned by increased productivity.

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STATE GRANGE SPANKS BAREFOOT

BOYS OF CALIFORNIA STREET

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The California Grange News, official voice of the noted state farmer organization, has issued a public spanking to the Associated Farmers, the labor-hating farm organization headquartered at 25 California Street, San Francisco, just a stone's throw from the city's financial center.

In official editorial language, the Grange News repudiated the California Street "farmers" and defended its right to agree with the California State Federation of Labor on matters of good government and public interest.

The blistering editorial follows in full:

CONSIDER THE SOURCE

"Remember--all dues and contributions (to the Associated Farmers of California, Inc.) are deductible from federal income tax."

So reads a persuasive little appeal in the October-November issue of The Associated Farmer. And on the same page, this "farmer" publication prints material of dubious

origin questioning the patriotism and integrity of the Grange.

The California Grange News declines to stoop to the low level of mud-slinging which has been adopted by the Associated Farmer.

The general public--and particularly farming people--know very well that the Grange in California and throughout the nation stands for the highest principles of American democracy and squarely against violent revolution in any form.

Any insinuations of sinister links between the Communist Party and the Grange are ridiculous and reflect back unfavorably on any group which would hint at such contemptibly false charges.

The suggestion of an "alliance" between the California State Grange and the American Federation of Labor is equally ridiculous. As a farmers' fraternal organization, the Grange does not enter into alliances of any nature.

When the State Grange and the California Federation of Labor agree on matters of good government and public policy, both organizations are proud to stand together and present their views publicly. But all State Grange policies are developed by Grange members independently of any other organization.

For more than 80 years, the Grange has stood for the best in American government. The Grange will continue its support of the democratic way of life in the same manner and based on the same unshakable ideals.

The California Grange News suggests to The Associated Farmer that it devote more space to advising members as to how they may escape their high income taxes and less space to defaming organizations interested in unselfish causes.

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