

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM  
CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

November 23, 1949

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PLANS POLITICAL CONVENTION FOR SPRING OF 1950

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Political organization for the campaigns of 1950 came closer to all AFL unions this week with the announcement that the State Federation Executive Council had voted to call a state convention of the California LLPE immediately after March 29, closing date of the primary filing period.

The action featured the quarterly Executive Council session held in San Francisco on November 19 and 20.

It was also agreed that voting quotas at the convention would be determined on the basis of per capita tax payments to the California Labor League for Political Education.

This per capita tax representation is in accord with the system now employed at conventions of the State Federation of Labor.

Each local, council, and labor league affiliated with the LLPE will be entitled to one delegate at the March session.

The week of October 9, 1950, was selected for the Federation's annual convention to be held in Santa Barbara. Choice of the October date was necessitated by hotel and restaurant accommodation factors in the southern California city.

In answer to the smear statements directed at Federation Vice

President Harry Lundeberg, in the current Bridges trial, the Executive Council gave a unanimous vote of confidence to the Sailors'

Union of the Pacific chief who has broken the one-time menacing

strength of Communist influence in maritime unionism. The Executive

It was also agreed that voting quotas at the convention would be determined on the basis of per capita tax payments to the California Labor League for Political Education.

Council not only defended Lundeberg against the Bridges legal charges, but also praised him for his winning campaign against Communist efforts to control the American waterfronts.

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CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE PROBES  
DI GIORGIO STRIKE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--An offer by the National Farm Labor Union, AFL, to submit its membership lists for check against employment records of the Di Giorgio Fruit Corporation to determine whether or not it represented the majority of employees on the huge ranch when the strike started, was flatly rejected last week by the Corporation.

The union offer was made at the close of a two-day session held in Bakersfield by a House Labor and Education sub-committee headed by Representative C. M. Bailey of West Virginia.

Congressman Bailey stated he had made an effort to secure a settlement of the strike of Di Giorgio employees which has been under way since October, 1947.

Bailey declared that the management refused his offer to arbitrate and that the only remedy was legislation to bring workers on large farms under the labor relations and minimum wage laws. He indicated the committee would sponsor such legislation during the second session of the 81st Congress.

Representing the union at the Bakersfield hearings were H. L. Mitchell, national president; Hank Hasiwar, western representative; Ernest Galarza, research director, and C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor.

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DISABILITY RATING CONFERENCE CALLED  
FOR EARLY DECEMBER

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, this week announced that a conference will be held in San Francisco on December 2 to discuss the AFL position on the proposed revision of the permanent disability rating schedule of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The conference has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in the San Francisco Labor Temple, 2940 Sixteenth Street. Labor representatives will work with Federation officials in preparing a series of proposals and corrections to the proposed schedule.

Invitations to the conference were extended on November 2 to all affiliated locals and councils of the Federation.

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HOUSING TORIES OPEN DRIVE ON  
OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Real estate hysteria reached a new peak in Oakland last week when the so-called Committee for Home Protection launched a recall drive against the city councilmen because they sought to bring low-cost housing to the community.

The Oakland City Council, like some 30 other local governing bodies in California, recently voted to effect a federal loan to cover proposed construction of 3,000 low-rent public housing units.

Such loans are allowed under the new Federal Housing Act passed by the 81st Congress as a vital part of the Truman Fair Deal program.

The Oakland real estate powers are directing their attack on councilmen Scott Weakley, Raymond E. Pease, and Joseph Edward Smith, three of the five councilmen who voted for the loan application.

Councilmen Douglas Sweeney and Frank Youell, who also voted for the measure, are not eligible for recall because they have not

served six months in their present term of office. Oakland has nine councilmen.

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WALL STREET JOURNAL SMILED  
ON SHELLEY OPPONENT

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Study of the Wall Street Journal supplies an amusing aftermath to the successful campaign of John F. Shelley for election to the vacancy in the Fifth Congressional District of San Francisco.

Shelley swept to victory by a good 30,000 vote margin over his nearest foe, Republican Lloyd Cosgrove.

In its pre-election story of the national political scene, the Journal declared that Republican Party officials were proud of the refusal of candidate Lloyd Cosgrove "to follow the steps of Mr. Welch (his predecessor) who backed most Democratic measures in Congress and, in turn, had Democratic as well as Republican sponsorship in California elections."

Although an open apologist for the Taft-Hartley Act, Cosgrove had publicly vowed he would carry on the Welch tradition if elected.

The Wall Street Journal heard differently.

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"FREE" PRESS ROLLS OVER FOR GROCERY CHAIN

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Newspaper coverage of the A & P anti-trust suit is a grim example of the press bias in favor of big business, the national headquarters for Labor's League for Political Education announced this week in Washington.

Speaking through the League Reporter, official organ of the AFL political agency, the League pointed out that the present Department of Justice suit to break up the gigantic and monopolistic Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company is one of the most important consumer news stories of the year.

When the suit was filed, most papers played it down. The usually fair New York Times buried it in its financial section on Page 43.

But when A & P began buying full-page ads in papers throughout the nation to explain its case, news stories finally appeared. They mirrored the A & P ads.

The one-sided press coverage was even too galling for reactionary David Lawrence. He turned over one of his daily columns to a Justice Department statement presenting the government position. The New York Sun, which has printed Lawrence's writings without interruption for 20 years, failed to run the column.

No New York paper carried a declaration by Attorney General J. Howard McGrath holding that certain assertions in the A & P ads were false.

The Government is suing A & P because of its monopolistic and allegedly illegal purchasing practices. The "free" press is providing traditional coverage.

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#### EASTERN UNEMPLOYMENT SHOWS OCTOBER DECREASE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Labor market conditions improved in most of the Nation's areas of heavy unemployment between early September and October, resulting in a net reduction of two in the number of labor market areas classified as "E," that is, areas of very substantial labor surpluses, the Labor Department's Bureau of Employment Security announced this week in Washington.

The "E" areas receive preferential treatment in the awarding of Government procurement contracts and in other Federal programs.

Bureau Director Robert C. Goodwin reported that as a result of an October survey of labor market conditions, 5 areas included in the September list of 35 "E" areas were removed from that category. Three additional areas where the survey showed unemployment was a serious problem were added to the list.

Removed from the "E" classifications were Jackson, Michigan; Burlington, Vermont; and Manchester, New Hampshire.