

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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STATE AFL RELEASES PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF 1957 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Twenty-two major proposals favorable to the working people of California were passed during the recently concluded 1957 general session of the state legislature, it was revealed this week in a preliminary analysis issued by the California State Federation of Labor.

Spectacular gains in worker compensation benefits and other employee social insurance programs were matched by liberalization of old age assistance and adoption of a benefit program for the permanently and totally disabled.

On the defensive side, the AFL turned back 13 measures of a restrictive nature, including a full scale assault on collective bargaining and the women's eight-hour law.

C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the state AFL movement this week sent the following summary of legislative action to all affiliates:

Labor-Supported Measures Enacted

(1) Increased workmen's compensation benefits: from \$40 to \$50 a week for temporary disabilities; from \$35 to \$40 a week for permanent disabilities; from \$12,500 to \$15,000 in death benefits for a totally dependent surviving widow with a dependent child; from \$10,000 to \$12,000 in death benefits for all other cases of total dependency; and from \$10,000 to \$12,000 in the maximum death benefit for partial dependencies.

(2) Higher unemployment disability insurance benefits for illnesses and injuries arising outside of employment; boost in weekly benefit payments from \$40 to \$50 and daily hospital benefit from \$10 for a maximum of 12 days to \$12 for a maximum of 20 days; repeal of so-called 75 percent rule which disqualifies many seasonal workers; restriction of disability insurance liens against workmen's compensation benefits to benefits for temporary work injuries. The added benefits are to be partially financed by an increase in annual taxable wages from \$3,000 to \$3,600 for purposes of worker

contributions.

- (3) Increase unemployment insurance benefits from \$33 to \$40 a week without any increased eligibility requirements.
- (4) Boost in state old age security benefits from \$89 to \$105 a month in hardship cases for about 115,000 of the state's 265,000 recipients.
- (5) Extension of eligibility for old age security benefits to aliens who have been American residents for 25 years and who meet other specified requirements.
- (6) Enactment of long sought public assistance program of \$105 per month for the permanently and totally disabled in accordance with Title VI of the federal social security act.
- (7) Establishment of medical aid program for recipients of old age security benefits and others on the public assistance rolls.
- (8) Increased aid for the blind from \$99 to \$110 a month and a boost in aid to needy children by \$30 for one-child families, plus increased state contributions for children in foster homes.
- (9) Enactment of workable law providing for registration and regulation of employee health and welfare programs, financed by a \$326,000 appropriation from the Insurance Fund.
- (10) Permit contributions by state, as well as all of its political subdivisions, into private health and welfare funds, the same as private employers.
- (11) Passage of record public works program of almost \$500 million, including \$248 million for highways; protection and extension of prevailing rate provisions of Labor Code regarding public works, including prevailing rates for San Francisco Harbor workers, and adoption of Assembly resolutions calling on State Personnel Board to reverse decisions against prevailing rates for state laborers, workmen and mechanics.
- (12) Strengthening of powers of local redevelopment agencies for slum clearance.
- (13) Elimination in contractors' licensing law of the so-called "paper-licensing" provision whereby the license is issued in the name of an individual who is not responsible for the conduct of the real operations.
- (14) Enactment of an augmented state mental hygiene program, including state assistance for establishment and extension of community mental health services and enlarged medical and technical staffs and other state hospital improvements.
- (15) Strengthening of state equal pay law for women.
- (16) Improvement of Labor Code provisions regarding the licensing and regulation of farm labor contractors.
- (17) Continuation of state-supported child care centers on a permanent basis with liberalized eligibility provisions.
- (18) Increase of \$37 million in state apportionments for local school support, primarily in equalization aid, coupled with a boost in minimum teacher's salary from \$3,400 to \$4,200 a year; appropriation of \$20 million from tideland oil revenues for schoolhouse construction.

(19) Prohibit employees from being charged for medical examinations that are required as a condition of continued employment under federal state or local laws.

(20) Establish deposit requirements in logging operations to insure payment of wages.

(21) Facilitate extension of federal old age and survivors insurance to public employees by permitting the division of a referendum vote, in anticipation of authorizing federal legislation, according to those who want and those who do not want coverage; improvements in various existing public employees retirement systems, including transferability between systems.

(22) Removal of sales tax on candies, thereby reducing revenues from the unfair sales tax by some \$5 million.

Labor-Opposed Measures Defeated

(1) All major employer or insurance-lobby sponsored measures to emasculate worker social insurance programs, including measures to: destroy the purpose of workmen's compensation by establishing precise and narrow definitions of terms and otherwise creating a legislative jungle for the application of courtroom procedures to deny benefits to injured workmen; render ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits most workers in seasonal crafts, trades and industries by imposition of harsh "two-quarter earnings" and "weeks of work" eligibility tests; and destroy state unemployment disability insurance program by conversion to a "premium for risk" law.

(2) Preclusion of introduction of any so-called "right to work" measures, and defeat of all other anti-labor measures.

(3) Striking at the body and operation of labor unions, including a Senate bill to make it unlawful for any employer to enter into any agreement which would "deny to a majority of employees" the right to choose their bargaining agent at the time an agreement is being signed or executed. Without creating any positive administrative machinery for conducting representation elections, the purpose of the measure was to create a legal "no man's land" to disrupt and destroy collective bargaining under the guise of majority representation.

(3) Proposals to virtually destroy the eight-hour law for women by exempting from its provisions all "professional, technical, and clerical" classifications, broadly defined, without the imposition of adequate safeguards against overtime abuses.

(4) Proposals of the California Teachers Association "company union" to tie increased state school aid to revenue bills requiring over-burdened workers to pay a major portion of the cost of such aid by the enactment of additional consumer taxes; defeat of CTA bills to impose a three-cent per pack tax on cigarettes and increase the beer excise from two cents to ten cents per gallon.

(5) Defeat of resolution petitioning Congress to draft and to submit to state legislatures a "millionaires amendment" to the U.S. Constitution to limit Congressional taxing powers and to fix a maximum rate of tax upon income, inheritances and gifts.

(6) Measures to give corporations a major tax cut by allowing so-called rapid write-off for depreciation of property used in trade or business, or property held for production of income, thereby conforming the state bank and corporation and income tax laws to the

Eisenhower "give-away" revision bill of 1954.

(7) Attempts to impose additional restrictions on community redevelopment programs by requiring two-thirds majority vote before commencement of programs and by imposing unreasonable ownership participation requirements.

(8) Numerous bills permitting public works construction by force account without assurance of prevailing wage rates.

(9) Give-away measures relating to water and power resources; including a private utility-inspired measure to destroy public power yardsticks for rate determination by requiring all public power generated at future state-constructed dams to be sold to private utilities.

(10) Measures to permit virtually unlimited use of prison labor.

(11) Several over-zealous proposals of law enforcement agencies relating to searches and seizures, arrest warrants, etc., destructive of cherished and essential civil rights.

(12) Measures destructive of mechanic's liens.

(13) Proposals for revision of state election laws seriously impairing or precluding the operation of trade union political action bodies.

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GEORGE GIBBS DIES AT 52

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Funeral services were held in Oakland last Wednesday for George W. Gibbs, international representative of the Laborers and Hod Carriers Union, who died of a heart attack while on union business in Monterey. He was 52.

Brother Gibbs died in the arms of George Jenkins, secretary of Monterey Laborers Local 690. Efforts of the Monterey Fire Department to revive him failed.

Brother Gibbs had been associated with the labor movement for approximately thirty years. He was a native of San Francisco. He is survived by his widow and daughter, a grandchild, three sisters and a brother.

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U. S. SENATE NAMES THREE SLAVERY
MEN AMONG FIVE GREATEST FIGURES OF PAST

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The U. S. Senate has named an ardent champion of human slavery as one of its five outstanding members "of the past," and ordered his portrait to fill an empty niche in the reception room just off the Senate Chamber in the National Capitol.

Also named for honor by the Senate were two compromisers who stood for both "freedom and slavery," and an anti-labor power who consistently fought the union movement of the mid-twentieth century.

The five "outstanding" senators chosen for Washington honors are Henry Clay of Kentucky, Daniel Webster of Massachusetts, John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, Robert M. LaFollette, Sr. of Wisconsin and Robert A. Taft of Ohio.

Calhoun, who served in the Senate for 14 years, was an advocate of slavery and persistently defended that position in Congress.

Clay called for "freedom and slavery protected by the Constitution." Because he pointed to "compromise" as the "only alternative to war and calamity," he is remembered as "The Great Pacificator" and "The Great Compromiser."

Webster is famed for his determination to preserve the structural integrity of the Union at any price. In the Senate debates of 1850, Webster backed Clay's compromise calling for both free and slave states.

Of the five senators named, only the senior LaFollette of Wisconsin has any identity with liberal causes. Senator Taft was author of the federal labor law bearing his name and which has been cited as a classic example of anti-worker legislation.

HOLLYWOOD FILM COUNCIL BACKS
PALM SPRINGS ORGANIZING DRIVE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Labor efforts to organize the hotel, restaurant and night club industry in Palm Springs were given unanimous support last week by the Hollywood AFL Film Council, made up of unions and guilds comprising more than 24,000 employees in the motion picture industry.

The Hollywood Council "affirmed" its support of the Palm Springs organizing campaign, and urged that all member unions and guilds concur in the resolution and instruct their members to support the campaign by observing the Palm Springs picket lines and giving whatever other help may be necessary. The resolution noted that Culinary Local 535 had already signed more than 35 union shop agreements in Palm Springs.

The California State Federation of Labor and the Riverside County Ordinance Committee are currently conducting a legal and educational campaign to nullify the local "right to work" ordinance which the Palm Springs Employers Association early this year pushed through the local city council in an apparent answer to a culinary organizing drive. A superior court order now prevents the city government from enforcing the "right to work" ordinance.

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UCLA RUNS CONFERENCE FOR
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Wage and fringe benefit problems of public employees will be reviewed at a two day seminar June 22-23 at Lake Arrowhead, Riverside County, under the auspices of the UCLA Institute of Industrial Relations.

Subjects up for discussion will include rights and privileges of public employees to bargain collectively over wages, hours and working conditions; health and welfare plan goals for 1957-58; criteria for determining wages of public employees and public employee salary goals for 1957-58.

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