

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING



SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

March 31, 1948

RESOLUTION AGAINST STATE BUYING FARM LABOR CAMPS DEFEATED IN STATE ASSEMBLY

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--A last-minute effort by Assemblyman George R. Butters to obtain passage of the Senate resolution opposing the State buying the 21 farm labor camps from the federal government was defeated when his effort to obtain a suspension of the rules to consider an identical resolution by the Assembly was voted down 35-34. To suspend the rules would have required the vote of two-thirds of those present. The resolution had previously been adopted by the Senate, but the Assembly Rules Committee refused to pass it out. The latter committee, however, okehed money so that the entire question will be studied by an interim committee.

The fight by the employers of farm labor to obtain the camps from the federal government reaches back several years, when the Farm Bureau Federation opposed the continued operation of the camps by the federal government and called for the liquidation of its holdings, while the Grange, the State Federation of Labor and other progressive forces lined up against the Farm Bureau Federation.

In 1946, the federal government contributed over \$800,000 to help California's farm housing program, as well as to provide medical care for farm labor. The various counties in the state are now being burdened with this expense, thanks to the Farm Bureau Federation's determined drive to get control of these camps.

There is fear in certain circles that the camps may be declared surplus property. If this should occur, the state would no longer be in a position to buy them and they would be thrown on the market for

purchase, which would make them easily available to the big farm operators.

The Federation wrote to the Secretary of Agriculture opposing such a move, in order to give the interim committee time to study the whole question and give the legislature an opportunity to act when it convenes at its next session.

Another bill of interest to labor, for which the Federation fought, was the continuation of California child care centers until June 30, 1949. The move to make the child care centers permanent was defeated.

A bill submitted by Senator W. P. Rich, which would have reduced wages for employees of the State Printing Plant on a per diem rate, was declared not an emergency measure and was not considered by the legislature.

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IMPORTANT COURT DECISION DELIVERED ENTITLING EMPLOYEES
TO WAGES FOR TIME LOST FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Of utmost importance to injured workers seeking compensation for their injuries is a decision rendered by the First District Court of Appeals on December 18, 1947. The case involved an employee who submitted to examination by another physician at the request of the insurance carrier, and whose wages were docked because he was forced to be absent from his work for the 1½ hours this examination required. In its decision, the Court held that while this question has not been passed upon by the courts, "it is obvious that the employee is entitled to time lost while complying with the request of the employer's insurance carrier in being examined by the carrier's physician."

The Court's opinion states further: "By Labor Code, section 4053, the employee is bound to submit to such examinations or his right to begin or maintain any proceeding for the collection of compensation is suspended. As this deduction was made after the hearing

it was not an issue before the commission. However, as there must be a further hearing of this matter, undoubtedly the commission will include in its new award an allowance for the amount of wages deducted."

The importance of this decision cannot be overestimated, since all workers subject to the same conditions in relation to compensation cases will hereafter be entitled to compensation for time spent away from the job when submitting to medical examination.

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FARM LABOR UNION WELCOMES INVESTIGATION
OF DI GIORGIO STRIKE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Following the demand by Representative Alfred J. Elliott of the 10th District of California for a congressional investigation by the Un-American Activities Committee of the Di Giorgio strike, the National Farm Labor Union AFL, announced in Washington that it would welcome an investigation of all of the factors involved in the 6-months old agricultural strike.

In connection with the strike, a very pointed observation was made in "America, A Catholic Review of the Week," March 20, 1948, page 675, as follows: "Di Giorgio, it is hoped, will see the light and accept a bona fide labor agreement before worse troubles mar the California landscape."

H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, in a letter to Fred A. Hartley, Chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Education, stated: "As the workers who have been on strike since October 1 are members of the National Farm Labor Union, AFL, and being agricultural workers are excluded by the Management Labor Relations Act of 1947 from the use of all mediation and conciliation services provided by the federal government, we will welcome a fair and impartial investigation by your Committee."

Further, Mitchell wrote: "We wish to point out that on February 18, 1948, the California Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities made an inquiry of the charges that the strike was a

subversive activity. Following the hearing, the chairman, State Senator Jack B. Tenney, made a public statement that 'There is no evidence to support such a charge.'"

And finally: "We believe, however, that an investigation of all the factors involved would be of great public benefit and might result in a settlement of the controversy which would be satisfactory to the employer and to the workers involved."

The strike, which is still very effective, has received financial support totaling over \$100,000 from AFL International unions, State Federations of Labor, Central Labor Unions and Local Unions throughout the nation. The California State Federation of Labor has spearheaded the drive in behalf of these striking workers.

Plans have been announced for the eleven far western State Federations of Labor to send a joint food caravan to the strikers within the next 30 days.

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RAILROADS ARE CIRCULATING INITIATIVE PETITION
TO REPEAL FULL CREW TRAIN LAW

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--An initiative petition titled "Railroad Brakemen" has been filed with the Secretary of State by the railroads, and petitions are now being circulated for voters' signatures to qualify it for the November ballot. If adopted, this measure would nullify the present safety law, since it seeks the outright repeal of the Full Crew Law.

The Federation is calling upon all of its members not to sign this petition and to warn voters against it.

Professional, paid circulators are now handling the petitions, and there is no question but that the railroads will spend unlimited sums of money to obtain a favorable vote on this measure, which they have failed many times to get the state legislature to pass.

Should this initiative be enacted into law, the present safety of passengers and crew members will be seriously jeopardized, and the good safety records of California's railroads will fall even lower than the bad records of those states which have no full crew laws, because of the extremely difficult operating conditions in California.

The railroads have until June 4 to secure the necessary 204,672 signatures. Members of the unions must be cautioned not to sign any of these petitions.

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SUPPORT CONGRESSIONAL BILLS CALLING FOR INCREASE
IN POSTAL SALARIES

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A number of bills providing an increase in postal salaries are now pending in Congress. With the continual rise in the cost of living, it has been more than difficult for postal employees and their families to meet increased expenses, and their only recourse is to petition the Congress of the United States to do something in their behalf by increasing their salaries.

The unions are requested to send letters urging increases for the postal employees to Senators Knowland and Downey and Congressmen Welch and Havenner. In addition, the unions should send to the congressmen in their respective districts similar letters.

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FEATURES OF NEW RENT BILL

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The rent bill which was passed by Congress sanctions rent increases up to 15 percent when landlords and tenants agree on a lease running through 1949. Tenants who signed up last year for such voluntary increases could not be charged another. Their present rent rates would be frozen through the life of the law--until March 31, 1949.

Hotel accommodations are decontrolled. Controls are lifted from housing accommodations covered by leases which were terminated between January 1, 1948, and the effective date of the new act.

Where a lease was signed under the present law and was terminated before January 1, 1947, by death of a tenant or for any other reason, the quarters remained under control of the 1947 act. The new bill continues control over quarters covered by the 1947 act lease which is terminated after April 1, 1948. In that event, the rent may be no more than 15 percent over what it would have been had no lease been signed under the 1947 act.

Tenants can be evicted on 60 days' notice in cases where the landlord wants the quarters for his personal use or plans substantial alterations or demolition of the accommodations, or decides to withdraw the quarters from the rental market. Such eviction notices will be required except for non-payment of rent or where the tenant has become a nuisance. Local laws would govern eviction in such instances.

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ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVE REGISTERED ??

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--To make sure that your registration has not lapsed and that you are qualified to vote at the primaries, you must reregister to vote, if:

1. You did not vote in the 1946 primaries or general election and have not registered since.
2. You have changed your street address.
3. You have changed your name, for example by marriage.

Every member of the unions and their friends should ascertain for sure whether they have adhered to all of these provisions so that they will be qualified to cast a ballot in the primaries as well as in the general elections.