

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO
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STATE AFL HITS COMPANY UNION IN TEACHERS' FIELD; NEW CONSUMER TAXES ASSAILED

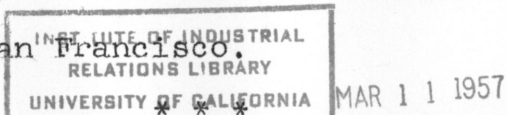
(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Labor's stepped-up campaign against new state consumer taxes and this Saturday's state AFL legislative conference highlighted union developments in the opening week of the 1957 general session of the California legislature.

C. J. Haggerty, executive officer of the California State Federation of Labor, issued a communication to all affiliates in the state urging that they take immediate action against the cigarette and beer tax bills proposed by Assemblyman Ernest R. Geddes (R. Pomona) and sponsored by the California Teachers Association.

The CTA has long been blasted as a company union by the AFL-CIO California Federation of Teachers. The teachers' union charges the CTA "does not speak for the classroom teacher, the parent or the child," but is dominated by highly paid education administrators.

In the letter to affiliates, Haggerty said AB 3046 would put a new 3-cent state consumer tax on every package of cigarettes and AB 3047 would jump the present beer tax 400 percent. Haggerty said the consumer tax drive in Sacramento represented an attempt by big money powers to shift the state tax burden to the low income groups. Haggerty also said the CTA is "lending itself" to interests seeking to avoid paying their rightful share of required school funds.

The day-long state AFL legislative conference will open at 10:00 a.m. Saturday in the Musician's Building, 230 Jones Street, in downtown San Francisco.



WEST COAST TEAMSTERS HIT
"EMPLOYER USE" OF SENATE COMMITTEE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--One hundred and seventy-eight delegates, representing teamster locals in every part of the 11 western states, last Saturday blasted employer attempts to exploit present Congressional probings of teamster-management activities in the Pacific Northwest.

Joseph J. Diviny, vice president of the Teamsters International, presided.

By resolution the teamsters condemned:

(1) Employer use of a U. S. Senate committee to "publicize sensational stories" in newspapers and "blacken the name of organized labor."

(2) Moves by "isolated employers" to take advantage of the Senate hearings to "threaten" and "browbeat" teamster locals into accepting inferior conditions of work.

The conference was enlivened by discovery of a planted motion picture camera in the teamsters' hotel meeting room.

This week northern California headquarters of the teamsters released a documented police record of James B. Elkins, accuser of the union's officials in the Portland-Seattle area.

The "rap sheet" listed 13 arrests, 12 on felony charges and one on a misdemeanor covering Elkins' activities over a period of 18 years. Source of the police record was listed as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In his address to the San Francisco conference delegates, Diviny said the union could cite "instance after instance" since the investigation started of anti-labor employers "using this probe" to funnel totally unfounded letters and statements to Washington on situations which were clearly collective bargaining in nature.

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MITCHELL PROPOSES WEAK MINIMUM WAGE COVERAGE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The national AFL-CIO was sharply critical this week of Secretary of Labor Mitchell's proposal for "limited" minimum wage extension.

Following two years of delay, the Eisenhower Administration proposals for "broadening" coverage recommend extension to about 2.5 millions of the estimated 21 million workers not now covered by law.

Further, the Mitchell proposals don't require employers to pay overtime for over 40 hours a week, even to the 2.5 millions. The law now calls for a minimum of \$1.00 per hour and overtime for everything over 40 hours.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council last month had asked that the law be extended to 9.6 millions of workers.

Mitchell's proposals were also featured by a narrowing of the interstate commerce provision which defines coverage of employees under the national wage-hour law. Senator John F. Kennedy (D. Mass.), chairman of a senate subcommittee probing the matter, last week told Mitchell that the Taft-Hartley definition of interstate commerce is much broader than the Mitchell definition.

Kennedy pointed out that the National Labor Relations Board uses a "cut off" by formally declining to handle cases involving firms with fewer than 50 employees or doing \$500,000 worth of business but that under Mitchell's proposed "cut off", the interstate definition would cover only firms with more than 100 employees or doing more than \$1 million in purchases.

Mitchell conceded that his definition of federal jurisdiction would keep some "six or seven million" workers from protection of the minimum wage law.

AFL-CIO OFFICE ISSUES
PAMPHLET ON "ETHICS CODE"

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--An AFL-CIO CODES OF ETHICAL PRACTICES pamphlet was issued this week from national headquarters.

The 31-page pamphlet contains all sections of the AFL-CIO Constitution relating to corrupt or communist efforts to infiltrate the labor movement; pertinent resolutions and policy statements adopted by the AFL-CIO convention in 1955 and by subsequent meetings of the national executive council, and four codes of ethical practices prepared by the AFL-CIO Ethical Practices Committee and adopted by the executive council.

Copies may be obtained by writing President George Meany, AFL-CIO Building, 815 16th Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

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WEISBERGER AND BENNETT
SUCCEED LUNDEBERG AND MALONE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Veteran waterfront officials Morris Weisberger and Sam Bennett moved into top posts in the maritime field this month.

Weisberger was chosen to succeed the late Harry Lundeberg as secretary-treasurer of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific. Fifteen hundred sailors attending a headquarters meeting in San Francisco voted unanimously for Weisberger. A member of the SUP since the mid 1920's, he has been SUP port agent in New York since 1939.

Bennett was chosen successor to Vince Malone who retired last month as president of the Marine Firemen's Union. Malone had headed the firemen for the past 19 years. Bennett had been Malone's long-time lieutenant and is active in the affairs of the San Francisco Labor Council.

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AFL-CIO STATEMENT ON
MIDDLE EAST OUT IN PAMPHLET FORM

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The AFL-CIO executive council's statement FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, has been reprinted by the Jewish Labor Committee and is available to labor groups by writing Labor Reports, Atran Center, 25 East 78th Street, New York 21.

The statement proposes a six-point long-term program to eliminate the causes of war and poverty in the Middle East, one of which calls for freedom of navigation through the Suez Canal and in the Gulf of Aqaba for all nations. The AFL-CIO urges full faith in the United Nations and charges Russia with "aggravating the Middle East crisis and exploiting the poverty of the Arab peoples."

Unions interested in large quantities of this leaflet can get prices by writing to Labor Reports. Small amounts are available free.

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AFL-CIO RELEASES PAMPHLET ON CIVIL DEFENSE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The national AFL-CIO has released its first publication on Civil Defense. Published by its Community Service Activities unit, the pamphlet outlines what it terms a policy for survival in civil defense or natural disaster.

The policy recommends steps to "help insure" the worker's life, family, job and community.

Additional purpose of the pamphlet is to provide for extensive labor union participation in Civil Defense planning and programming. Pamphlet orders should be placed with the AFL-CIO Community Service Activities, 9 East 40th Street, New York 16. Price is one cent per pamphlet.

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