

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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BROAD AFL PROGRAM INTRODUCED AT SACRAMENTO AS STATE FEDERATION SEEKS BREAD AND BUTTER GOALS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Pushing a broad program of economic and social progress, the state AFL movement has introduced more than 150 measures for passage by the 1953 legislature in Sacramento, it was announced this week by C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer and legislative representative of the California State Federation of Labor.

Headlining AFL plans were bills to establish a state minimum wage of \$1.25 per hour, create a state FEPC, repeal the California jurisdictional strike act, and increase coverage and benefits in both disability and unemployment insurance, and workmens' compensation.

Specific points in the AFL program follow:

1. Minimum Wage. The present state law does not cover men, but sets a 75 cent per hour floor for women. Men and women engaged in interstate commerce are under the federal law which calls for 75 cents per hour. The state AFL proposal for \$1.25 protects both men and women.

2. FEPC. The AFL bill calls for a state Fair Employment Practices Commission with enforcement powers. It forbids discrimination in hiring because of race, color, or creed.

3. Jurisdictional Strike Act. The AFL measure repeals the action of the 1947 legislature which passed an ambiguous jurisdiction law over AFL protests. The present law has permitted use of company unions to deny legitimate organizing campaigns.

4. Unemployment Insurance. The AFL bills increase maximum weekly benefits from \$25 to \$40 and extend coverage to agricultural and non-profit workers. They also grant \$5 a week for a dependent wife and \$2 per child up to two children per family.

A total of 25 AFL measures have been presented for improvement of the unemployment insurance law.

5. Disability Insurance. Increase in weekly benefits to \$40 from \$30 and enactment of a 42-day pregnancy benefit period feature 18 AFL bills in the disability program. A boost in hospital benefits from \$8 to \$10 per day and a cut in the pre-payment waiting period to three days from seven are among the AFL goals.

6. Workmen's Compensation. AFL measures set a new maximum for temporary weekly benefits at \$40, an increase of \$5 from the present law. The minimum is lifted from \$9.75 to \$18. Fifty-two AFL bills have been introduced for basic betterment of the workmen's compensation structure first enacted for injured workers in 1911.

7. Miscellaneous. Another 52 bills call for changes in laws governing agricultural labor, barbers and cosmetologists, civil rights, education, employment agencies, industrial safety, public housing, public works, state, county, and municipal employees, and truck driving operations.

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GOVERNOR WARREN SPEAKS AT
SACRAMENTO LABOR COUNCIL INSTALLATION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Governor Earl Warren was honored guest and speaker of the evening at the installation of officers of the AFL Sacramento Labor Council held last Tuesday night in the capital city.

In his address to the Council, Warren declared the industrial growth of California during the past decade has been due in no small part to the cooperation displayed between labor and management in this state.

The Governor also said it has been his "pleasure and duty" to include in all of his messages to the state legislature, the admonition that, "punitive and retaliatory" legislation would only lead to industrial strife. He added that he trusts the 1953 legislative session will approach labor-management matters with a similar fair-minded caution.

Other speakers at the installation were Assemblyman Thomas A. Maloney (R, San Francisco), speaker pro-tem of the Assembly, Bartley W. Cavanaugh, city manager of Sacramento, Lloyd Mashburn, newly named Under-Secretary of Labor, C. J. Haggerty, state AFL secretary-Treasurer, and Thomas L. Pitts, President of the California State Federation of Labor.

Installed as new officers of the Sacramento Council were Harry Finks as secretary-business agent, and Al Marty, president.

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PRINTING TRADES HOLD
SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Sixty delegates from the AFL Allied Printing Trades Councils of Southern California met at the Chase Hotel, Santa Monica, last Sunday to elect officers and conduct a quarterly business meeting.

John P. Yost and John E. Myers were re-elected president and secretary respectively.

Delegates represented the Typographical, Pressmen's, Sterotypers' Bookbinders, Paper Handlers', Mailers', and Photo Engravers' unions.

In its business session, the conference urged repeal of the 1947 state jurisdictional strike law, and heard Joe M. Brown, International Typographical Union representative, review current organizational work.

The conference was also addressed by John Patrick Cassidy, Los Angeles public relations man, who discussed local union opportunities for educating the public on labor functions and goals.

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL WORKERS
PLAN WAR ON ANTI-LABOR LEGISLATION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Election of officers for 1953 and a decision to work vigorously against anti-labor legislation, featured the quarterly meeting of the Joint Executive Conference of Northern California Electrical Workers of the I.B.E.W., held last Saturday at the Mark Hopkins Hotel, San Francisco.

The conference elected Werner Diedrichsen, San Mateo, president; Thomas Ryan, Richmond, vice-president; and Charles Crawford, Sacramento, secretary.

In major actions the conference voted to:

1. Request the AFL California State Association of Electrical Workers to call a meeting of northern and southern branches to coordinate opposition against anti-labor legislation in Sacramento, and appoint a temporary full-time representative to cooperate with the California State Federation of Labor at the capitol.
2. Protest the loss of General William Weigel, a C2 cargo vessel scheduled for troop ship reconversion, to an east coast repair yard. The I.B.E.W. had previously objected when the Military Sea Transportation Service had allowed east coast yards to bid on the reconversion job.
3. Endorse participation in the first North American Conference on Apprenticeship to be held in San Diego, August 2-9, 1953.
4. Approve the recommendation of Otto Reiman, assistant to district international vice-president Oscar Harbak, that all California I.B.E.W. locals set the establishment of a health - welfare plan as a primary aim in negotiations for 1953.
5. Commend retiring president George Quinn by a rising vote of thanks.

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WARREN, BRYANT QUESTION EMPLOYER
"MERIT-RATING" IN UNEMPLOYMENT LAW

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Both Governor Earl Warren and State Employment Director James G. Bryant last week questioned provisions of the California unemployment insurance law which reduce employer contributions to the jobless pay fund during periods of peak employment.

Warren's warning was included in his formal message to the legislature, while Bryant's statement pointed up a release on tax exemptions issued by the State Department of Employment.

Bryant declared that approximately 30,000 of the 251,000 California employers who are subject to the taxing provisions of the state Unemployment Insurance Act will pay no unemployment insurance taxes during 1953 and an additional 25,000 will pay less than the 1952 minimum tax rate of one percent of pay rolls.

The present act provides that reduced tax rates shall apply when the unemployment fund equals or exceeds $7\frac{1}{2}$ percent of taxable wages. The lower tax schedule became effective January 1.

Bryant pointed out that the lower tax rate means employers will be paying the least into the unemployment fund at a time when forecasts are for a continuation of the economy at record-breaking levels.

"Our estimates," Bryant said, "show that revenue to the unemployment fund during 1953 will be about \$55,000,000 less under the lower tax schedule than it was in 1952 under the higher rate schedule.

"As a matter of fact, not even the average 1952 tax of 2.08 percent of taxable wages would meet actuarial forecasts of cost of the program over the next 10 years. The anticipated cost in taxes is 2.4 percent of taxable wages. And the prospective average 1953 tax rate under the lower revenue schedule will amount to only 1.4 percent of taxable wages."

Summing up his concern, Bryant stated, "Raising questions about the fund's future solvency at the moment when many employers are enjoying a substantial tax reduction will not meet with favor in all quarters. Notwithstanding this, representative spokesmen of management themselves are expressing doubt as to the wisdom of the present policy under current booming economic conditions. They recall that when we used the lower tax rate schedule in 1948 and 1949, outgo from the unemployment fund exceeded income to the fund by \$133,900,000. While it is not predicted that outgo will exceed income this year, we shall be short-sighted if we base our planning on this limited factor.

"Failure to build up the fund during favorable periods such as the present could force all employers to pay the maximum tax of 2.7 percent of payrolls at a future period when unemployment is at a higher point."