

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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STATE FEDERATION ANNOUNCES 4TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Announcements of the fourth annual state AFL scholarship contest were mailed last week to all high school principals in California and Hawaii.

Three scholarship awards of \$500 each are being offered by the California State Federation of Labor to students competing in the annual AFL contest.

Senior high school students from public, private, or parochial schools planning to attend a college or university anywhere in the U. S. or Hawaii are eligible for the competition.

The awards may be used to assist the winning students in any field of knowledge. Awards will be made on the basis of the candidate's score in a special examination and on the general four-year high school record.

Application forms for contest participation have been mailed all school principals together with the printed announcements. Applications must be filed with the State Federation headquarters not later than April 1, 1954.

A two-hour examination will be held on Friday, May 21, in each high school where applicants have filed.

Purpose of the examination is to evaluate the student's knowledge and understanding of labor and industrial problems and the ability to present information.

The student is expected to show both factual knowledge and comprehension of vital social and economic conditions affecting

labor relations.

In a letter sent this week to all AFL central labor councils, C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the State Federation, urged that council officials make certain the contest is given adequate publicity at the local level. He also recommended that contact be made with local school authorities to guarantee proper posting of the announcement bulletin.

The contest is being directed by the Education Committee of the State Federation. The committee is comprised of Max J. Osslo, chairman, San Diego; Robert S. Ash, Oakland; John T. Gardner, Los Angeles; Albin J. Gruhn, Eureka; Paul L. Reeves, Fresno; and Thomas A. Small, San Mateo.

Examination papers will be judged by a committee of professional educators: Frederick A. Breier, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of San Francisco; Vaughn D. Seidel, Alameda County Superintendent of Schools, and Edgar L. Warren, Director, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California at Los Angeles.

Identity of the student participants will not be known to the judges. High school records are reviewed only if two or more students are given identical grades in the two-hour examination.

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STATE AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETS IN LONG BEACH

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Unemployment and organizational issues will get top consideration at the quarterly executive council session of the California State Federation of Labor to be held February 27-28 in Long Beach, it was announced this week by C. J. Haggerty, executive officer of the state AFL movement.

President Thomas L. Pitts will call the council session to order at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 27, in the Wilton Hotel.

The executive council of the California Labor League for Political Education will also meet over the February 27-28 weekend. The

California LLPE is the official political vehicle of the State Federation.

Main item on the political league agenda will be staging of the pre-primary convention of the CLLPE set for April 12 in San Francisco.

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PITTS ATTENDS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON LABOR LEGISLATION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--State AFL President Thomas L. Pitts flew to Washington, D. C. this week for participation in the National Conference on Labor Legislation sponsored by the U. S. Department of Labor.

The conference, called by Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell, is being held February 24-26 in the national capital.

Pitts and Paul Scharrenberg, California Director of Industrial Relations, were designated by Governor Goodwin J. Knight as official representatives of the state to the national conference.

The conference is called each year for governors' representatives from the various states, Alaska, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

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STATE FEDERATION REVIVES
UNEMPLOYMENT CLEARANCE ISSUE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Questionnaires were mailed last week from state AFL headquarters to all affiliates requesting information on union job referral or placement facilities.

Purpose of the questionnaire is to get needed data for use by the California State Federation of Labor in possible future discussions with the state Department of Employment relative to a restoration of the old "Blue Card" method of unemployment certification.

The "Blue Card" system was inaugurated in 1948 to permit unemployed workers to be verified by their unions as seeking employment.

A new and "tighter" system of clearance was inaugurated by the Department of Employment on September 1, 1953. The department was then under the direction of James B. Bryant, who has since been replaced. Only unions signing a "cooperative agreement," or contract, are now allowed to certify unemployed members for clearance in presentation of claims for unemployment insurance.

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REPORT ON CALIFORNIA
LABOR PUBLISHED BY STATE AGENCY

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Surveys of union membership, health and welfare plans, and pension programs in California union agreements were issued last week by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the state Department of Industrial Relations.

The three reviews feature "Union Labor in California - 1953," a 31-page report published by the state agency.

In a statement accompanying the report, Paul Scharrenberg, state director of Industrial Relations, declared that the survey showed the "negotiated health and welfare plan" to be the most significant development in California collective bargaining in recent years. Scharrenberg said the report revealed that about three out of five union workers in the state now have some union contract insurance against the cost of illness.

More than 3,000 local unions cooperated in the preparation of report material, according to M. I. Gershenson, chief of the Statistics and Research Division.

Report copies may be obtained by writing the Division of Labor Statistics and Research, State Department of Industrial Relations, 965 Mission Street, San Francisco, California.

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BENSON BANS SALES OF
NAVEL JUICE ORANGES IN U. S.

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--President Eisenhower's Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson, has decreed that American housewives shall be allowed to buy only large size oranges at propped up prices, it has been revealed by the Los Angeles Daily News.

The restriction stems from a Benson order banning the sale of navel juice oranges with a diameter of $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches or less on the American market.

Running from last December 13 to August 1, 1954, the embargo will pretty well wrap up the Southland's entire navel orange season.

During this time, smaller oranges may be sold only for conversion into by-products such as commercial orange juice, or for export to foreign countries other than Canada.

To the housewife, this means not only a limit on the size of oranges which she may buy, but also a higher price for the oranges which she purchases.

In issuing the ban, Benson followed the advice of the Navel Orange Administrative Committee, an industry-wide organization re-instituted with his approval last year with the avowed purpose of maintaining a stable market.

Faced with a crop of predominantly small size oranges, the growers prevailed upon Benson to ban the sale of small size oranges and, in addition, to allow each grower to market only a pro-rated share of his crop.

The primary result of this twin-pronged effort to control marketing, the Los Angeles Daily News reports, has been a general price rise on oranges, even though the general index on all produce is down by approximately 8 percent.

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