

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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September 19, 1957

### KNIGHT - BROWN RAP "RIGHT TO WORK" MEASURES AT OAKLAND CONVENTION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Governor Goodwin Knight and Attorney General Edmund G. Brown both came out strongly against "right to work" legislation in their key addresses to the California State Federation of Labor's 55th convention this week in Oakland.

The Knight-Brown defense of the union shop came in a hectic week which saw both Senator Thomas H. Kuchel and Vice President Richard Nixon slamming "right to work" proposals. Nixon's position was announced through the San Francisco Examiner political editor who said the vice president was opposed to the issue "going on the ballot" in California.

Knight's opening day address in Oakland Municipal Auditorium before 2,000 delegates set the heavy "anti-Knowland" temper of the convention.

Senator Knowland, now campaigning for governor on a "right to work" program was sharply rapped by C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the State Federation in a speech supporting resolutions and policy statements calling for adherence to the three-point defense program set up by the state AFL to turn back the growing open shop drive.

Although politics commanded top attention because of the Knight-Brown speeches, actual endorsements won't be approached until the spring of 1958 when the state movement holds its pre-primary endorsement convention.

Knight smashed into Knowland in a "gloves off" attack. Highlighting his charges against the multi-millionaire Oakland publisher were accusations -

(1) That Knowland had jeopardized the industrial peace of California by thrusting a "highly inflammatory anti-labor issue" into the race for governor.

(2) That Knowland, as a man "with a reputation for belligerence", could not be safely entrusted with "the governorship of California."

(3) That Knowland was attempting to make the GOP the "anti-labor party" of American politics.

Knight commended the State Federation for its "comparatively temperate and restrained" remarks issued in reply to Knowland's continuing blows at the union movement.

The Governor said he was opposed to "business-baiting" as well as "labor-baiting" and declared that California was enjoying an "economy of abundance" only because management and labor have worked together. Knowland, he charged, would destroy this harmony and thereby threaten the state's economy.

At mid-week it appeared the convention prepared to adopt policy statements and resolutions restating labor's traditional views on international affairs, full employment, taxation, Taft-Hartley, social security, housing, agricultural labor, civil rights, education and water and power.

Major attention centered on a statement censuring President Eisenhower for failure to act against Governor Faubus in the Little Rock crisis which saw the Arkansas governor using the state militia to keep Negroes out of public schools.

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STATEMENTS OF POLICY

Submitted by the Executive Council  
of the  
California State Federation of Labor  
1957 Convention, Oakland, September 16-20.

DIGEST

1. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- a. California labor vigorously supports the position of the AFL-CIO in repeatedly warning against any relaxation in the free world's defenses against Communist world conspiracy, and extends full cooperation to the national body in its consistent advocacy of a foreign policy for free peoples.
- b. The Federation concurs fully in the conviction expressed by the AFL-CIO that a long-term, continuing, effective foreign aid program must be a fundamental part of the nation's overall foreign policy.

2. FULL EMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMY

- a. Organized labor denounces and categorically rejects all propagandists' efforts to blame wage increases won by labor for the current inflation caused by the price administration policies of big business, and calls public attention to an official ten-year study of wages and prices by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics which explodes the propaganda of the "wage inflation" advocates.
- b. California labor underscores the recent AFL-CIO warning of dangerous and paradoxical developments in our economy, and endorses the national body's demand for a searching reappraisal of private and public policies that endanger the stability and growth of the nation's economy.
- c. The sharing of productivity advances in the nation's economy remains the key to lasting prosperity.

3. TAXATION

- a. The Federation, consistent with the needs of the economy, will continue to press for federal tax relief for low income groups, while urging recoupment of revenue losses as necessary by the elimination of the loopholes, erosions and leakages which have crept into our federal tax structure over the years and seriously weakened its progressive character.
- b. California labor is unalterably opposed to the imposition of additional taxes on consumption as a means of meeting state revenue needs, and demands that any additional state imposition be levied as part of a thorough revision of the California tax structure to eliminate the regressive dominance of the state sales tax and reestablish the principle of ability to pay.

4. TAFT-HARTLEY ACT AND LABOR LEGISLATION

- a. Ten years of experience have demonstrated the viciousness of the Taft-Hartley Act and the necessity of broadscale revision and improvement of the law in accordance with labor's recommendations for a just and workable labor-management relations law.
- b. The Federation cautions the California labor movement against the growing threat of anti-labor legislation, and urges unity of action behind the Federation's program to combat the present "backdoor" effort to impose "open shop" conditions in California through county by county enactment of so-called "right to work" legislation.
- c. Organized labor, in reaffirming its support of a \$1.25 per hour federal minimum wage, urges legislative priority be given to the extension of first class citizenship to some 9.5 million Americans denied the protection of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act who clearly are engaged in employment falling within the scope of interstate commerce.
- d. The Federation will continue to press for a state statutory minimum wage of \$1.25 per hour applicable to all occupations not covered by the federal law for men, women and minors alike.

5. SOCIAL SECURITY

- a. The Federation reaffirms its general social insurance and social welfare goals in state legislation as set forth in the statements of policy adopted by the 1956 convention, but will not elaborate on them until next year because 1958 is not a legislative year.
- b. California labor calls upon the 85th Congress to continue along the road of substantial improvements in the federal old age and survivors' insurance program partially paved by the 83rd and 84th Congresses.
- c. California labor, in urging liberalization of the federal old age and survivors' insurance program, reiterates its position that the Social Security Trust Fund must be maintained on a financially sound basis.
- d. Organized labor, in continuing to press for improved medical care programs through collective bargaining, has not lost sight of the paramount need for the enactment of a comprehensive pre-paid medical care program on the national or state level in order to provide qualitative medical care for all, regardless of income.

6. HOUSING

- a. America's housing crisis, aggravated by the tight money-high interest policies of the Eisenhower Administration, is incapable of solution so long as the President continues to subordinate the housing needs of the people to the profit motives of the banking interests who helped finance his election.
- b. The 2 million units a year level of housing construction needed to meet the nation's minimum requirements, and to prevent the housing crisis from growing worse, can only be achieved if home building activity is fundamentally redirected to make available

a far larger number of homes within the means of low and middle income families.

7. AGRICULTURAL LABOR

- a. The extension to agricultural workers of the basic organizing protections of federal law and the other benefits of social legislation of the New Deal era remain a prerequisite to any real improvement in the plight of the hired farm worker.
- b. Organized labor renews its pledge to oppose the importation of foreign agricultural workers under conditions which depress domestic farm labor standards, drive the domestic farm workers from the field, and make the agricultural economy more and more dependent on cheap foreign labor.

8. CIVIL RIGHTS

- a. California labor rededicates itself to the vital and historic task of extending equal rights and equal opportunity to every field of American life.
- b. California labor, while reaffirming its support for national FEPC legislation, renews its pledge to continue to work cooperatively with the California Committee for Fair Employment Practices until success is obtained in the enactment of such legislation on the state level.
- c. Organized labor calls for an expansion of efforts in the field of housing to end the discriminatory practices that stand in the way of slum clearance and urban redevelopment and that force the practice of a modified version of school segregation.

9. EDUCATION

- a. Organized labor calls upon Congress and the President to set aside political differences and to take immediate action, upon the reconvening of Congress in January, to assure passage of a substantial program of federal aid to education.
- b. California labor rededicates itself to the active support of the public school system of the state, and pledges full cooperation in all efforts to meet the legitimate and expanding needs of the system.
- c. Established labor education programs of the Federation should be continued and expanded to the extent practical and feasible.

10. WATER AND POWER

Organized labor, in continuing to press for full and integrated development of our limited water and power resources, warns against blind acceptance of the proposed state Feather River Project, which lacks proven economic and financial feasibility and has only the "engineered feasibility" of those who seek state construction and entrance into the field of water and power resources development for the primary purpose of avoiding the anti-monopoly protections of federal reclamation law.

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