

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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LEGISLATURE PASSES AFL UNEMPLOYMENT AND DISABILITY INSURANCE MEASURES; UNEMPLOYMENT MAXIMUM NOW \$40 A WEEK, DISABILITY \$50

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--State unemployment insurance benefits were jumped to \$40 a week and unemployment disability insurance payments to \$50 as the California legislature this Monday adopted AFL measures liberalizing both compensation programs.

The State Senate passed the AFL unemployment bill by a 35-1 count, with only Senator Jess Dorsey (R. Kern) opposing. The Senate gave the disability bill a unanimous 37-0 approval.

Meanwhile, AFL workmen's compensation proposals were locked up in a conference committee created to reconcile Assembly-Senate differences; main point of dispute was reported to be the AFL provision calling for \$50 weekly benefits in temporary disability cases.

Both the unemployment and disability insurance bills now go to Governor Knight for signature.

The unemployment insurance bill raises the maximum weekly benefit from \$33 to \$40 for jobless workers certified as such by the State Department of Employment.

The disability insurance law provides compensation benefits for workers unemployed because of non-industrial illness or injury.

AFL improvements in the disability law will

- (1) increase the maximum weekly benefit amount from \$40

to \$50;

(2) boost daily hospital benefits from \$10 for 12 days to \$12 for 20 days;

(3) repeal the so-called 75 percent rule, which has virtually rendered ineligible seasonal workers receiving 75 percent or more of their annual wages in one calendar quarter.

The conference dispute over workmen's compensation benefits involves a six-member committee comprised of three Assemblymen and three Senators.

Assembly members charge they have been anxious to meet since the committee was instituted on May 31, but have met with refusal by the upper house members.

Assemblymen on the conference committee are Augustus F. Hawkins (D. Los Angeles), Harold K. Levering (R. Los Angeles), and Richard H. McCollister (R. Marin). Senate members are John McCarthy (R. Marin), George Miller, Jr. (D. Contra Costa) and John A. Murdy, Jr. (R. Orange).

In other major actions marking the closing swing of the 1957 general session, the legislature:

(1) killed cigarette and beer sales taxes proposed by the California Teachers' Association, the teacher "company union," to finance education expansion;

(2) killed an AFL income tax revision bill to pay for public school expansion;

(3) passed an "equal pay" bill assuring women workers pay equal to that given men for similar work.

The cigarette and beer tax measures were both killed by an 11-5 vote last week in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee.

A later attempt by Assemblyman Ernest R. Geddes (R. Pomona) to pull the cigarette tax measure out of committee for a floor

vote lost by a 43-29 count.

The cigarette measure, AB 3046 (E. R. Geddes) would have imposed a three cents per pack tax on cigarettes; the beer measure, also authored by Geddes, would have increased the present beer tax from two to 10 cents per gallon.

Both bills were strongly opposed by the AFL which branded the measures an attempt to fasten the cost of school taxation entirely on low income groups.

Voting against the consumer tax proposals in the Revenue and Taxation Committee were: Bonelli, Britschgi, Chapel, Dahl, Francis, S.R. Geddes, Hawkins, Marsh, Pattee, Thomas, and Wilson.

Voting for the taxes and against labor were: Bradley, Crawford, House, Klockslem and Lanterman.

The AFL taxation answer to the school expansion problem was embodied in AB 4159 (Carlos Bee, D. Hayward), which lost by a 15-1 margin in the Revenue and Taxation Committee. The Bee bill would have upped state income tax payments for all earning above \$7,500 a year. The measure was based on labor's income tax philosophy which calls for taxation founded on the principle of ability to pay.

The AFL tried to remove AB 4159 from committee, but lost 39-30 in an Assembly floor test.

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MITCHELL OFFERS TO
ARBITRATE KOHLER STRIKE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Secretary of Labor James Mitchell last week offered to arbitrate the three-year strike of the United Automobile Workers against the Kohler Plumbing Corporation.

Mitchell told newsmen he would be happy to arbitrate the

issues if he received a joint invitation from the United Automobile Workers and the corporation.

Mitchell made the offer in a news conference when asked about comments made by UAW President Walter Reuther to the effect that the union is willing to submit strike issues to an impartial arbitrator, but that the company has consistently refused arbitration.

At the very time Secretary Mitchell was making his arbitration offer, Lyman C. Conger, chief negotiator of the Kohler Company, was denouncing Federal Judge Robert E. Tehan's proposal to settle the strike back in 1954. Conger's attack on Judge Tehan was made at sessions of the National Labor Relations Board held in Chicago to consider 12 "unfair" labor charges filed by the corporation.

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SAN BENITO COUNTY ADOPTS "RIGHT TO WORK"
ORDINANCE; EMPLOYERS, BIG FARMERS KNIFE LABOR

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The San Benito County Board of Supervisors this week adopted a "right to work" ordinance outlawing the union shop.

Labor spokesmen charged the San Benito ordinance is identical to the one passed earlier this year in Tehama County.

Four of the five-member board voted for the ordinance; a fifth member abstained from voting.

Otto Sargent, executive officer of the Santa Clara Building and Construction Trades Council, spoke against the measure. Passage was urged by representatives of the local Chamber of Commerce, the California Farm Bureau Federation, and a local employers' association.

C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, announced from Sacramento that the state AFL would immediately enter the legal fight against the ordinance.

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STATEWIDE MEETING CALLED
ON PALM SPRINGS "WRECK" LAW

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--A statewide meeting of union representatives has been called for Palm Springs Friday, June 14, to discuss the action of the city of Palm Springs in appealing the validity of its "right to work" law to the State Supreme Court. The ordinance was declared unconstitutional, but the Palm Springs City Council voted to appeal the decision.

An afternoon meeting will be held at 2 p.m., at the Del Taquitz Hotel, with a dinner-meeting that day at 7 p.m. Reservations for the meeting should be sent to Burnell W. Phillips, secretary-treasurer of the Riverside Central Labor Council, 1074 La Cadena Drive, Riverside. Cost of the dinner is \$2.50.

Thomas L. Pitts, president of the California State Federation of Labor, will represent the state AFL organization at the session.

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INVITATIONS OUT FOR STATE
AFL HEALTH-WELFARE CONFERENCE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Invitations to a week-long health and welfare plan conference to be held July 21-26 were issued to all affiliates last week from state AFL headquarters.

C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, said the conference would be jointly sponsored by the Federation and the University of California.

Haggerty said rates at the Hotel Carrillo headquarters would be \$6.00 per person for single room occupancy; \$8.50-\$9.00 per person, two to a room.

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