

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO  
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### AFL CONVENTION OPENS AS MEANY RIPS EISENHOWER

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Prospects of a militant opposition to increasing White House reaction dominated the policy tone of the 72nd convention of the American Federation of Labor which opened in St. Louis this week.

In his keynote address, AFL president George Meany told more than 700 delegates that under the Eisenhower Administration "human values have very definitely been submerged to the material welfare of the greedy few."

In an earlier speech to the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department, Meany bluntly charged that Eisenhower "is not strong enough to stand up for his point of view."

Delegates gathered in St. Louis' Jefferson Hotel for the convention which took added importance from the recent resignation of Martin P. Durkin as Secretary of Labor. Durkin resumed his job as head of the AFL Plumbers Union after revealing that Eisenhower had backed down on a pledge to recommend 19 amendments to the Taft-Hartley law to Congress.

The AFL began its 72nd convention at its peak strength in history. Attending delegates represented 8,654,921 members, a gain of more than half a million since the 1952 convention.

Actually, this new high, taken from the financial record for June 30, 1953, is already out-dated. President Meany is expected to reveal a substantial increase in the membership total as of August, due to upward revision of per capita tax payments of affiliated unions.

With the AFL-Eisenhower break commanding major news attention, the convention prepared to tackle the following critical issues:

- (1) A "no raiding" pact with the CIO.
- (2) Plans for resolving jurisdictional disputes among AFL affiliates.
- (3) Suspension of the International Longshoremen's Association.

Heading the list of convention guest speakers are Vice President Richard Nixon, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, and Secretary Oveta Culp Hobby of the new Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Other speakers listed for convention addresses are both Senators from Missouri - Stuart Symington and Thomas C. Hennings, Jr. -- and the independent Senator from Oregon, Wayne Morse.

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AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
RECOMMENDS STRONG PROGRAM TO CONVENTION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Calling for an aggressive program of prosperity and peace, the AFL Executive Council this Monday submitted its policy statements to the 72nd convention of the national labor body in St. Louis.

Outstanding recommendations were:

1. That every effort be made to elect a more liberal Congress in 1954 to save labor's gains from being wiped out. Failure of the 83d Congress to act on changes in the Taft-Hartley Act was condemned.
2. That the nation's defense program must be carried on at full blast until peace and the security of the free way of life have been assured.
3. That America pursue a firm foreign policy, seeking to cement allied unity but refusing to appease Soviet aggression.
4. That an economic depression can and must be avoided by careful planning and an economy of plenty based on progressively higher standards of living.
5. That a proposed no-raiding agreement with the CIO be approved as the first step toward organic labor unity. The council is also expected to submit a plan for dealing effectively with jurisdictional disputes within the AFL in a supplemental report.

6. That the International Longshoremen's Union be suspended from affiliation because of its failure to comply with the council's directive to wipe out racketeering and undemocratic practices.
7. That a new headquarters building for the federation be constructed at a cost of \$3.5 million on a site already purchased nearby the White House in the nation's capital.
8. That a memorial fund be established to perpetuate the memory of the late William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor for 28 years until his death last November.
9. That the size of the Executive Council be increased by two additional vice presidents.
10. That efforts be concentrated to secure favorable action by Congress on AFL programs for improved Social Security, for public housing, slum clearance and a huge new home construction program, for federal aid to education to end school shortages and provide higher standards for teachers, and for civil rights legislation.
11. That labor must be alert to the dangers of enactment of a national sales tax and a trend toward giving away the people's interest in hydroelectric and atomic power development to private interests.
12. That increased emphasis be placed on organizing the unorganized and bringing to them the benefits of union membership. The council reported that AFL unions paid out more than \$100 million in cash benefits to members in the last year.

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STATE AFL PRESENTS  
FIVE-POINT HOUSING PROGRAM TO ST. LOUIS CONVENTION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--A resolution which would place the American Federation of Labor on record as urging Congress to enact a five-point housing program that will meet requirements of families with the greatest need for housing, particularly the low and middle income families whose housing needs have been largely ignored by speculative builders and Congress, was introduced this week at the AFL convention in St. Louis by delegates C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor.

The resolution, which charges the Republican controlled Congress and Administration with having increased the difficulties of low and middle income families to obtain decent housing, was adopted at the 1953 convention of the state AFL workers in August.

Specific action urged by the resolution includes:

1. Resumption of the low-rent public housing program as originally authorized by Congress in the Housing Act of 1949. This program calls for the construction of 135,000 units annually. Succumbing to the pressures of the real estate lobby, Congress this year voted to liquidate the program.

2. Reduction of financing costs of housing by making federally insured loans under the FHA and VA programs available at reasonable rates, and if necessary, by authorizing direct federal loans to home buyers. The resolution points out that the administration's high interest rate policy, which has forced up GI and FHA rates, is giving the banks and lending institutions a huge bonus on largely risk-free investments at the expense of prospective home purchasers.

3. Enactment of a cooperative housing program of low-cost long-term loans to non-profit groups for construction of housing for middle-income families.

4. Protection of the investment of homebuyers under federally assisted housing programs by requiring a builder's warranty against structural defects arising during the first two years after purchase of the house, and by permitting home purchasers to delay regular payments for a limited period when forced to do so by illness, unemployment or other unpreventable causes.

5. Requiring payment of the prevailing wage to all workers employed in construction under federally assisted housing programs.

Other resolutions presented by Haggerty called upon the AFL to: (1) Reaffirm its opposition to the Central Arizona Project which would deprive Southern California of established Colorado River water rights; (2) Support dual coverage of public employees by social security and private pension plans; (3) Urge affiliates to increase display and advertisement of the AFL symbol; (4) Support revision of Congressional rules to prohibit committees from conducting hearings in localities during an election campaign for the purpose of influencing the outcome of the election.

NEW AFL MAGAZINE MAKES DEBUT -  
FEATURES J. EDGAR HOOVER ON ROLE OF AFL

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--A new, smartly assembled labor magazine made its appearance this week at the AFL national convention in St. Louis.

Published by the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL, the 64 page pocket magazine was announced as a preview copy of GUIDE, the AFL's newest venture in union label journalism.

The first official edition of the publication is scheduled for January, 1954, according to Raymond F. Lehoney, secretary treasurer of the AFL label department.

Strong praise for organized labor's resolute fight against Communism featured a headliner article by J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Hoover declares that the AFL has recognized that there can be no compromise with Communism. The FBI chief states that "In more than half a century of the existence of the American Federation of Labor, the tribute can be paid to its leadership that they recognize the dangers in the never-ending assault by the Communists to seize control. They recognize that Communism is nothing less than a Red Fascist conspiracy to conquer and rule the world by any means."

Hoover believes that the strongest counterforce against the attempts by the Communists to seize control of labor -- is labor itself.

He warns that "Constant vigilance by rank and file union members and by labor leaders against Red infiltration is the price that must be paid on the homefront for the preservation of our democratic mode of living."

The reward of such vigilant anti-communism, Hoover says, is "freedom for the individual, his family, his fellow citizens and posterity."

Publication offices of the new AFL magazine have been established at the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL, 100 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington 1, D. C.

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