

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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STATE AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BACKS VICE PRESIDENT OSSLO 100 PERCENT

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The executive council of the California State Federation of Labor last week unanimously condemned the sentencing of Max J. Osslo, Federation vice president in the San Diego district, as a "direct attack on organized labor."

In an official statement issued to the press, the state AFL executive council reiterated its "complete confidence in the innocence" of Brother Osslo and pledged "100 percent support" in the appeal of this case.

The full text of the statement follows:

"The sentencing of Vice President Max J. Osslo in San Diego this Monday has drawn the undivided attention of the executive council of the California State Federation of Labor, of which Brother Osslo is a member.

"In addition to six months in jail and a fine of \$1500, Brother Osslo was given ten years' probation, during which ten years he is prohibited in any way from being associated as an official with any labor organization or assisting in any negotiations of any kind.

"Vice President Osslo's life to date has been dedicated not only to the betterment of the working conditions of the workingman but also has been devoted to the social responsibility of civic betterment as evidenced by his election to and acceptance of responsible offices not only in the labor

union movement at local, state and national levels, but similarly in civic organizations and state bodies.

"In spite of his accomplishments and life work it appears self-evident to the executive council that the punishment imposed in this case was not designed to punish any individual based upon the seriousness of the offense and the necessity for rehabilitation, but instead was aimed specifically at removing from active leadership a competent, responsible and effective union leader in the hopes that by thus depriving labor of such leadership the movement generally will be weakened.

"The executive council considers this type of sentencing a direct attack upon labor because if it can be permitted to prevail in this case it is but a small step to adapt this procedure to any labor leader in the state of California.

"Labor leaders will have applied to them as a class a cruel and unreasonable penalty applied to no one else regardless of the desires of their members, even to the extent of being prohibited from assisting without pay in negotiating any improvements for them.

"In pledging our full support to Vice President Osslo, we therefore take this occasion to alert the trade union movement to the real significance of the sentence imposed upon Brother Osslo.

"To demonstrate the statewide importance of this proceeding, the executive council has instructed its general counsel to act as one of the attorneys of record in handling the appeal.

"The council furthermore unanimously reiterated its complete confidence in the innocence of Max Osslo and 100 percent support of him in the pending appeal."

GOVERNOR KNIGHT PRAISES ORGANIZED LABOR

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--California's Governor Goodwin J. Knight, in a Labor Day speech, characterized the 15,000,000 member AFL-CIO as the finest group of workmen in the world.

The Governor's high praise was delivered at a state fair luncheon honoring the labor leaders of the west, which marked a high point in the celebration of Labor Day at the State Fair.

All totalled, a throng of over 100,000 streamed into the State Fairgrounds for the annual Labor Day observance.

Speaking of organized workers, Governor Knight said, "Their patriotism and devotion to the ideals of Americanism have aided immeasurably in conceiving and maintaining the United States as a bulwark against the insidious pressures of alien political philosophies and economic ideologies."

The Governor also urged all Californians to join with union members in flying the flag each Labor Day as a salute to "the free working men and women of America."

The reference to the flag related to an earlier suggestion by AFL-CIO President George Meany that all union members display the flag from their homes and offices on Labor Day.

The Governor said he would request the 1957 session of the California legislature to adopt a resolution to promote the idea, and added that "these efforts are merited by the trade union movement because there is an unbreakable link between the flag and labor."

He said the link was "the divine spark of true Americanism that is symbolized by the one and maintained in full flame by the other, emphasizing the hopes, the ideals, the struggles and the accomplishments of all Americans and all working people."

Among the labor officials honored at the luncheon was C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, as well as a number of other labor leaders from both northern and southern California.

HAGGERTY WARNS OF COMMERCIAL PRESS
DUPLICITY IN PRESENT POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--A concerted campaign on the part of some commercial press editorialists to cast doubt on the integrity of labor leaders for the purpose of getting workers to vote for anti-labor candidates, was charged by C.J.Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor.

The state AFL leader issued his warning in a Labor Day address from Sacramento, which was carried over the local TV channel and several radio stations. Speaking to the public at large, as well as workers, Haggerty made specific reference to the large number of editorials in the commercial dailies that castigated the AFL-CIO executive council for recommending in the presidential race.

He likened the efforts of the commercial press editorialists to those of the reactionary elements in the Republican Party who would deny organized labor a voice in politics.

The AFL-CIO executive council, meeting in Forest Park, Pennsylvania, last week voted to recommend the endorsement of the Stevenson-Kefauver ticket. The recommendation made on the basis of the candidates and their respective platforms after four hours of discussion, will be submitted to a meeting of the AFL-CIO general board in Chicago, August 12. The general board is a constitutional body consisting of about 175 members, including executive council members, and presidents or responsible officers of affiliated unions and trade and industrial departments.

Haggerty noted that these same editorialists who are now busy denouncing trade union leaders for the recommended endorsement of Stevenson and Kefauver are the same editorialists who in the past have singled out non-labor organizations and labor leaders for their "wisdom" in endorsing candidates supported by the commercial press.

In warning workers and the public at large of this duplicity, Haggerty reasserted the right and duty of organized labor to make political recommendations on a non-partisan basis, as practiced since the days of Samuel Gompers.

PROCLAMATION

The men and women of the American labor movement have long prided themselves, and justly so, on their contribution to the life of our nation.

This year we have the opportunity, provided for by the Constitution of the United States and our form of self-government, to render further service.

We are called upon, together with other citizens of our democracy, to pass judgment on election day on the actions and policies of those who have guided the political affairs of our nation for the past two years.

This right of expressing ourselves as free people is fundamental to the strength of our country. It is a mark which sets us apart from those in the slave nations of the world who are denied a voice in their own destiny.

We, the executive officers of the AFL-CIO, therefore call upon each member of our affiliated organizations to make certain that he or she is a registered voter eligible to participate in the elections this fall. We call upon each member, further, to impress upon those adults within the family circle who may be unregistered to meet the responsibility they bear to exercise their judgment on election day.

We further call upon each affiliated organization to launch immediately a campaign at all levels that will insure the registration to vote of a maximum number of union members and their families. We urge that such campaigns be pressed with all the vigor and resources at their command to the end that every member shall become and remain a registered voter.

We hereby proclaim this registration campaign the primary task of our organization for the months of August, September and October.

We issue this proclamation in fulfillment of our responsibility as citizens of the United States, passionately devoted to the principles and practices of self-government.

/s/ GEORGE MEANY
 President, AFL-CIO

/s/ Wm. F. Schnitzler
 Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO

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