

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

A.F.L.

810 DAVID HEWES BUILDING
995 MARKET STREET

151



SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA

CF01095

October 27, 1954

KNIGHT HEADS AFL "VICTORY"
TICKET; YORTY APPEARS WINNER

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Powerful support for the state AFL ticket headed by Governor Goodwin Knight appeared certain this week to sweep Samuel W. Yorty into the U. S. Senate in the general election of November 2.

Northern California AFL Knight backers filled the Gold Room of the Fairmont Hotel Monday night in a fund-raising dinner for the Governor as the drive for labor candidates neared its campaign climax.

Polls taken in northern state motion picture houses showed Knight running almost two-to-one ahead of candidate Richard Graves.

The same samplings gave Yorty a narrow margin over incumbent Thomas Kuchel.

Publicly pledged to the Eisenhower Administration, Kuchel appeared tied to the declining GOP position in national politics.

AFL prospects were also up in 28 Congressional district fights where odds indicated defeat of at least three hostile incumbents.

However, Eisenhower forces were claiming victory in their all-out war to oust incumbent Robert L. Condon, AFL-endorsed Congressman now representing Contra Costa and Solano counties. Condon and his GOP opponent were running a tight, bitter race to the wire, with the outcome still in doubt.

Seven State Senate and 52 State Assembly candidates were carrying AFL hopes in the state legislative arena. Results of the state races will have a heavy influence on labor law-making at the 1955 general session in Sacramento.

SAN BERNARDINO COURT OUTLAWS COMPANY UNION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Organized labor won a decisive victory over Southern California's labor disrupting factions last week, when Superior Judge Carl B. Hilliard at San Bernardino, ruled against further discouragement of legitimate union activity in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

The case involved alleged violation of the state Jurisdictional Strike Act. The plaintiffs were the Roberts and Bauman construction companies, doing business as Bauman-Roberts, a co-partnership.

Named as defendants were the San Bernardino-Riverside Building Trades Council, the San Bernardino-Riverside Carpenters Council, the San Bernardino Painters Council and San Bernardino Carpenters and Laborers locals.

Evidence submitted by the plaintiff before Judge Carl B. Hilliard showed that the unions began picketing while the plaintiffs were building 39 tract houses with non-union workers.

Setting forth that they had made a contract with the Employees Collective Bargaining Association, the plaintiffs brought suit under the Jurisdictional Strike Act.

The construction contractors had obtained a temporary restraining order against picketing, which the court vacated. AFL unions were represented by attorneys Arthur Garrett and David Sokol.

During cross examination of the company union organizers, William Copelan, secretary of the company union, admitted it had been incorporated by two employers, Betty and Bert Millage of San Bernardino, and himself. He further admitted that they had drafted articles and by-laws providing for no strikes or picketing by their members and they had held no meeting of employees whom they had organized in concerns in four Southern California counties.

In vacating the injunction, Judge Hilliard held that the members of the company union could not be said to be free and uncoerced.

STATEMENT REGARDING PROPOSITION NO. 3

ISSUED BY THE

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

Proposition No. 3 on the November ballot, the so-called liquor reform measure, is based on a network of inadequately considered and unworkable ideas, and would create an administrative instrument which would be neither independent of political interests nor democratic in structure.

The present State Board of Equalization, charged with the responsibility for liquor law enforcement is directly responsible to the people, its four members being elected every four years on a regional basis. Proposition No. 3 would not only remove liquor administration from the direct control of the voters by the transference of Board of Equalization liquor functions to a newly created state department under a liquor czar appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate, but would also tend to confuse and render ineffective avenues of administrative responsibility inasmuch as the director could be removed by the legislature as well as by the Governor.

This same concept of administrative responsibility would apply to the proposed Appeals Board consisting of three members to be appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate and removable by the legislature or the Governor as in the case of the director.

Such a division of responsibility is unprecedented in the history of administrative practices in the state of California and could not possibly withstand rigorous analysis under administrative theory and proven procedures. The net result of Proposition No. 3, rather than

providing for an independent and more effective government agency to administer our liquor laws, would be to inject liquor as a key issue in every gubernatorial election, and at the same time make liquor control the political football of the legislature. This can hardly be called "liquor reform."

Organized labor, like other civic-minded groups in the state, is anxious that our liquor laws be administered fairly and in accordance with the spirit of the law, free from the taint of corruption. If administrative reforms are necessary, they should conform to sound administrative practices. The proposed constitutional amendment, conceived in an atmosphere of tension, does not conform to such practices, and could only lead to further confusion.

Proposition No. 3, therefore, should be rejected at the polls in November so that a fresh and reasoned approach to the whole problem may be taken at the 1955 general session of the legislature.

* * *

NIXON CROSSES ANOTHER PICKET LINE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Vice President Richard Nixon crossed another picket line in Texas last week when he addressed a \$100 a plate GOP fund raising dinner at the Rice Hotel in Houston.

Local 707 of the AFL's International Union of Operating Engineers picketed the hotel last July after a breakdown of negotiations with the hotel management. The hotel hired new employes and announced that Local 707's members had "quit."

The union discontinued picketing while efforts were made to reinstate the employes, but voted recently to post a picket in protest against the lockout by the hotel.

* * *

AFL EXPERT RAPS EISENHOWER POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The United States must return to an inter-American policy based "on the defense of true Democratic Pan-Americanism," Serafino Romauldi, the AFL's representative for Latin-America, declared in New Orleans last week.

In a speech before the convention of the AFL's United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers International Union, Romauldi said that such a policy, dedicated to the resistance of both communist infiltration efforts and to the elimination of tyrannical military dictatorships, offers the best hope of winning the battle for men's minds in this important area.

The AFL spokesman warned that a large segment of democratic public opinion in Latin-America is bewildered at the ability of our government to ignore "the total suppression of civil liberties and human rights in so many Latin-American countries, while attempting at the same time to arouse world sympathy for our crusade against the tyrannical communist regimes."

He said it does not help us in any way to allow military dictators "to become the standard bearers of anti-communism, especially when we know that they are primarily interested in suppressing in their own countries all democratic and freedom-loving opposition."

Romauldi urged the adoption of a policy which would look into the future and place less reliance on immediate military assistance to Pan-American nations. Economic aid, he said, must be given with proper assurances that it will "be used for the economic well-being of the people - particularly of the underprivileged workers and peasants - and not only for the privileged few."

Summing up his views, Romauldi said:

"The American labor movement has time and again urged our policymakers to pay greater attention to the moral and libertarian aspects of our inter-American relations. The military side is important, of course, but it can never be effective unless it has the enthusiastic backing of the people."