

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA



March 7, 1958

STATE FEDERATION CALLS FOR SPECIAL SESSION OF LEGISLATURE TO STEM RECESSION CRISIS; GOVERNOR URGED TO TAKE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The California AFL movement this week asked Governor Goodwin J. Knight to call a special session of the legislature and to initiate state governmental programs to stem the current economic recession.

C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, submitted the state AFL program in a letter to the Governor as the legislature opened its month-long annual budget meeting in Sacramento.

Knight this Monday called a special session to run concurrently with the budget session, but the 28 items included in his summons did not include any of the AFL proposals.

However, state law permits the Governor to add to the list of special call items or to issue a call for a separate session to deal exclusively with the recession crisis.

The AFL program, as sent to the Governor, urged

- (1) Liberalization of the state unemployment insurance program;
- (2) Activation of the State Relief Act of 1945 which provides for state financial assistance to counties in the administration of general relief aid during periods of economic emergency;
- (3) Use of tideland oil reserve funds to get into construction already planned public works projects at state and local levels and to step up ~~such programs already started;~~

(4) A state minimum wage law of \$1.25 per hour for all workers;

(5) Creation of a Governor's Citizen's Committee on Housing to develop a new source of long-term, low-interest loans for middle-income housing construction;

(6) Formation of a state planning agency to assure the balanced growth of the state.

In the sphere of unemployment insurance, the state AFL asked the legislature to

(1) Extend coverage of the law to all wage and salary workers;

(2) Increase the maximum weekly benefit amount within a revised schedule, as repeatedly recommended by the Eisenhower Administration, so that the vast majority of claimants will be compensated for at least 50 percent of their wage loss (a maximum benefit equal to about two-thirds of average wages in covered employment would be necessary to accomplish this minimum goal);

(3) Extend from 26 to 39 weeks the maximum duration of benefits for all those able and available for work;

(4) Provide an additional extension in the duration of benefits for so-called older workers above the age 45 who are frequently labor market victims of age discrimination.

In pointing up the economic crisis, Haggerty noted that the January unemployment figure for California was 374,000, or 65 percent higher than one year ago.

Haggerty also said that (1) only 58 percent of the state's unemployed were now receiving jobless pay benefits and that such benefits averaged only 35 percent of the average weekly wage in covered employment; (2) jobless workers were exhausting their unemployment benefits at the average rate of 1,900 per week.

STATE CARPENTERS ELECT BARTALINI

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Reorganization of the constitutional structure of the California State Council of Carpenters and election of new officers highlighted the four-day 30th annual convention of the Carpenters held last week in Monterey.

Chester R. Bartalini, San Francisco, secretary of the Bay Counties District Council of Carpenters, was elected president in the three-way race, succeeding Joseph F. Cambiano, San Mateo. E. A. (Al) Brown, Santa Rosa, business representative of the North Coast Counties District Council, ran third.

Cambiano had been president of the council since its formation in 1928.

Gordon McCullough, Los Angeles District Council, was elected vice president, succeeding Harry J. Harkleroad, Orange County District Council. Harkleroad was the successful candidate for secretary-treasurer.

Ernest T. Aronson, Local 483, San Francisco incumbent secretary-treasurer, declined to run for reelection.

Reorganization proposals will be submitted to a statewide referendum. The major proposals touched on functions of the executive board and the position of secretary-treasurer.

The convention also voted strong support for the anti-"right to work" effort of the state labor movement following an address by C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor. The exact nature of the council contribution will be determined by referendum vote.

UNIVERSAL ELECTRIC Contractors

5220 El Cajon Boulevard,
San Diego 15, California

February 24, 1958

M. J. Collins, Business Manager
Local 569, I.B.E.W.
1943 W. Washington Blvd.
San Diego 1, California

Dear Sir:

A petition titled "Employer-Employee Relations.
Initiative Constitutional Amendment" was presented
to me for signature. Having taken the time to read
the Amendment, I am not in favor of it nor do I feel
that such an amendment would be of any benefit to
the people of California. It definitely would be of
non-benefit to me as an employer within the electri-
cal industry.

In my estimation such a law would greatly af-
fect the income and the stability of employment of
the people who work in California. This in turn
would create confusion and the overall economy of
all citizens would be affected. Also, it is my
opinion that such a bill would be considered a det-
riment to all. Therefore, I wish to pledge myself
and to urge you to do all within your power to pre-
vent the Employer-Employee Relations Amendment from
obtaining a favorable vote.

Very truly yours,

UNIVERSAL ELECTRIC

/s/ Paul S. Ruckle
Co-Partner

PSR:pm
