

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

810 DAVID HEWES BUILDING  
995 MARKET STREET

151



SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA

CFD 1035

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### LABOR DAY MESSAGE - 1953

By C. J. Haggerty, Secretary-Treasurer  
California State Federation of Labor

Labor Day in 1953 offers the same prospects of struggle and progress that have confronted the American trade union movement since its national development in the 19th century.

We face attacks of increasing intensity. This is especially true of the legislative theatre where our enemies seek to achieve through political pressure that which they can not accomplish on the economic front.

While there is nothing new in such tactics, there has been a greater use of the weapons of political assault in 1953 than at any time since the adoption of the Taft-Hartley law.

All of this points to one sobering conclusion. Too many Americans are refusing to accept organized labor as a required and integral part of our democratic society.

Such a reluctance is especially noted among those who influence much of our economic and social existence.

Actually, the history of this generation of Americans would show that in nations where labor is denied the right of participation, the inevitable result is a shamefully low standard of living and ultimate domination of workers and management by the absolute state.

Thus, cooperation between labor and management - and other free forces in society - is not a luxury, but a necessity. We will either work together on the basis of equality or perish at the hands of a political tyranny.

Further, it must be realized that labor union members comprise an imposing segment of American life. Here in California, the AFL membership alone totals more than 1,225,000 men and women.

It is true that we have particular interests, but it is equally true that we serve the common welfare.

We assert that what is good for labor is good for the nation. This is not a narrow, provincial position. It is an essential one. We must remember that if the wage earners of America are unable to buy back the products of their labor, then surely national markets will decline and the awful shadow of unemployed millions will haunt our land.

From its inception, the AFL has espoused the American way of democracy. In a free society, there will be differences, and certainly, men will everlastingly debate the question of a fair share of the profit in the sphere of industrial relations. But the significant thing is we believe there must be free men on both sides of the bargaining table.

We continue to hold faith in the mutual responsibility of labor and management. We continue to insist that free labor and free management express the power and hope of the private enterprise system which has helped make America a leader among the nations.

In another important sense, the organized labor movement has become the social conscience of America. We cherish the fundamentals, but we also struggle for the needy, the aged, the sick, and the dispossessed.

Thus, while we give a proper priority to wages, hours, and conditions of work, we have become the legislative and political voice of millions who look to us as old campaigners in the fight for a better social order.

Labor Day in 1953 finds us, then, approaching ever-broader horizons of action. We must succeed for the advance of America. Let every unionist understand our duty and our destiny. We must write the future

of a free and prosperous nation.

We undertake such obligations with hearts quickened by the truce in Korea, but the very uncertainty of that truce demands vigilance and vigor as the price of a free society.

These tasks need not be forbidding if we march in the spirit of our founders. We should be sustained by the motives of Gompers and the men who built our movement. However, they gave us no guaranty of survival. We must triumph by our own intelligence, our own integrity, our own will.

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"SACRAMENTO STORY"  
MAILED TO STATE AFL AFFILIATES

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Copies of "The Sacramento Story," official review of the 1953 general session of the California Legislature, were mailed this week to all affiliated unions and councils from the headquarters of the California State Federation of Labor in San Francisco.

The political review had been previously issued early this month to all delegates attending the 1953 convention of the state AFL organization.

The survey includes under topical headings the fate of measures affecting the welfare of the wage earner public.

Labor's friends and foes are indicated in roll call test votes for both the Assembly and Senate.

The State Federation will publish at a later date a supplementary list of committee votes informally recorded by AFL representatives during the 1953 session.

Committee votes are not officially published in the California legislative process.

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UNION LABEL WEEK  
TO BE OBSERVED ACROSS NATION

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The AFL Union Label and Service Trades Department this week called labor's attention to the nationwide celebration of Union Label Week, September 7 through 13, and the forthcoming convention of the department to be held this month in St. Louis.

Secretary-Treasurer Raymond F. Leheney declared this year's Union Label Week celebration promises to be the biggest in the department's history. The celebration will feature a nationwide Community Service and Life Saving Program sponsored by the department.

This program consists of the giving away to local hospitals Union Label portable iron lungs by local AFL affiliated unions, central labor bodies, and state federations.

As in the past, special Union Label Week proclamations are being issued by governors and mayors of many important cities and states. AFL groups throughout the nation are setting up special celebrations at state fairs, carnivals, picnics, parades, store window displays, and a host of other promotional events.

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AMERICAN LABOR SENDS  
\$110,000 TO EAST GERMANS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The AFL, CIO and United Mine Workers will contribute \$110,000 to the workers behind the Iron Curtain in East Germany, the North American office of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions announced this week in New York.

The money, to be distributed through the ICFTU in cooperation with the West German Federation of Labor, will be used to help supply the workers who resisted Communist tyranny with food, shelter, clothing and medical supplies.

The AFL and CIO, each of whom gave \$50,000, will seek further contributions from affiliated unions.

Trade unions in 74 other countries also are planning to send help to their fellow-workers in East Germany through the ICFTU.

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STATE AFL POINTS TO HEALTH  
HAZARDS OF LOW INCOME GROUPS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Despite the advances of modern science, America has not yet devised a system to bring the full benefits of medical progress to all its citizens, it was charged this week in the 16th issue of "Your Economics and Mine," a monthly review of the California State Federation of Labor.

The article recalls the statement of Oscar Ewing, former Federal Security Administrator, who last year declared that "325,000 people a year die whom we have the knowledge and skill to save."

Other key points cited were:

(1) By 1960 the U. S. will face a critical shortage of 30,000 doctors.

(2) Most American hospital facilities are located in large urban centers; 40 percent of all counties do not have a single hospital.

(3) The people of the U. S. owe their doctors, dentists, and hospitals an estimated one billion dollars.

(4) Persons in the lower income brackets are harder hit by failing health than those in higher income divisions. This is especially true of those suffering from tuberculosis, diabetes, blindness, and deafness.

(5) During World War II more than 700,000 men of draft age had to be rejected because of remedial or preventable illness.

(6) The AFL has hammered on three principal health objectives: (1) maintenance of good health; (2) elimination of the financial barrier to high quality service; (3) an efficient, economical system of prepaid medical care.

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