

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO
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 151

December 7, 1956

STATE INDUSTRIAL WELFARE COMMISSION VOTES THREE-TO-TWO AGAINST LABOR PROPOSAL TO PROTECT WOMEN AND MINORS IN AGRICULTURE AND DOMESTIC SERVICE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--In a showdown session, the state Industrial Welfare Commission last Friday in San Francisco voted three-to-two to dump the state AFL's long campaign to extend minimum wage, maximum hour, and job protection to women and minors in agricultural and domestic employment.

The motion to table the AFL proposal was made by commission member Mae Stoneman, secretary, Waitresses Union, Local 639, Los Angeles.

Voting with Mrs. Stoneman were IWC chairman Daniel E. Koshland and Miss Virginia Allee. Koshland is president of Levi-Strauss Company, San Francisco, and Miss Allee is personnel director of Bullock's Westwood Store, Los Angeles.

Voting for the AFL were John W. Quimby, secretary, San Diego Central Labor Council, and Mrs. Eleanor Hewlett, women's coordinator, Laney Trade School, Oakland.

Before calling for the vote, Koshland told the commission that Attorney General Edmund G. Brown had ruled November 12 that it had the authority to establish wage boards to regulate wages, hours, and conditions of employment for women and minors in the two disputed categories.

Koshland then read a letter submitted to the commission by G. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, citing the Brown opinion and asking for the

immediate creation of the necessary wage boards.

Koshland called for commission action on the question, and Mrs. Stoneman at once moved to table the AFL proposal.

She argued that sufficient funds were not available to permit enforcement in agricultural and domestic employment.

In opposing the Stoneman motion, Quimby held it was the primary duty of the commission to administer funds for the protection of women and minors.

Following the three-to-two vote, chairman Koshland claimed the commission was obliged to make studies of wages, hours, and conditions before establishing wage boards.

However, as noted in previous AFL arguments,

(1) the State Labor Code declares it is the "continuing duty" of the commission to "ascertain" such statistics for the discharge of its administrative functions, including the creation of wage boards;

(2) the commission made no independent studies prior to creating the 12 wage boards which just last month completed their hearings on wages, hours, and conditions in such areas as manufacturing, public housekeeping, and canning employment.

California's minimum wage law, unlike the federal law, does not protect men. The California minimum, now 75 cents an hour, applies to women and minors, but excludes those in agricultural and domestic work. Labor spokesmen have long charged that women and minors in such jobs are most in need of state protection.

Highlights in the 1956 chronology of the decades-long struggle of labor to protect working women and minors in agricultural and domestic jobs follow:

April 3 - The State Federation filed a nine-page brief with the Industrial Welfare Commission, contending that the IWC had legal authority to grant protection, and requesting

such action.

November 12 - Attorney General Edmund G. Brown ruled the IWC had the required authority.

November 30 - The IWC voted three-to-two to table the AFL request.

Last Friday's IWC session was held in the State Department of Industrial Relations Building, 965 Mission Street. The commission will hold its next meetings January 9-10 in the same building.

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AFL-CIO HOLDS REGIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The AFL-CIO Department of Education is this weekend sponsoring a three-day Pacific Coast education conference at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco.

Called by John E. Connors, national director of the department, the conference will include delegates from Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.

Intended primarily for those working in labor education, the conference will cover such subjects as Union-University Cooperation, Labor Education on the Pacific Coast, Building Understanding of Legislative Issues and Regional, State and City Education Programs.

The guest speaker program will include Congressman John E. Moss of Sacramento and Dr. Clark Kerr, chancellor, University of California.

Scheduled to open at 9:00 a.m. Friday, December 7, the conference will adjourn Sunday, December 9, at noon.

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EMPLOYMENT HITS NEW HIGH IN
CALIFORNIA; UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Employment this year in California was at the highest October level on record and unemployment declined to the lowest level since World War II, it was announced last week by the state Department of Industrial Relations and Employment.

Ernest B. Webb, director of the Department of Industrial Relations, stated that civilian employment in California reached 5,709,000 in October. This was down less than one percent from the all-time high established in September. Current employment was five percent, or 275,000, above October 1955.

All major industries except agriculture contributed to the rise above year-ago levels. It was pointed out that California accounted for better than one-fourth of the nation's employment gain of one million during the past twelve months.

H. W. Stewart, director of the Department of Employment, reported that unemployment declined by 9,000 from September to an October total of 102,000. The October count was 9,000 below a year ago and was the lowest since World War II.

The two officials held that the September-October drop in both employment and unemployment was seasonal and marked the withdrawal of some workers who were in the labor force during the harvest and food processing seasons.

California's labor force, including both the employed and unemployed wage earners able to work and available for work, was 5,811,000 in October, compared with 5,849,000 in September and 5,545,000 a year ago.

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COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION, AFL-CIO

815 16th Street, N. W., Washington, D.C.

November 27, 1956

To all State, County and City
Bodies affiliated with AFL-CIO

Dear Sir and Brother:

During the 1956 campaign some confusion and difficulty arose as the result of a few state and central bodies using the name of COPE where merger was not accomplished. In some states we had separate state AFL COPES and state CIO COPES; in some localities we had county AFL COPES and county CIO COPES. This practice also extended to some city levels.

Obviously this made for much confusion and a little friction. In order to avoid further difficulties this letter is being sent to advise all state, county and city bodies that the word COPE should not be used in any title, literature or activity except where official merger has taken place. In other words, the use of the COPE title by any AFL or CIO central body is hereby prohibited unless there has been a merger on the level that the central body is operating on.

To be sure that our records are correct, kindly send direct to COPE the names and addresses of your officers and advise us whether or not merger has been completed.

We ask your cooperation in carrying out the intent of this communication.

Faternally yours,

/s/ James L. McDevitt /s/ Jack Kroll
Co-Director Co-Director
