

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO
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May 5, 1954

STATE AFL SETS WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION CONFERENCE FOR JUNE 5-6

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--Official notices and programs were sent this week to all AFL affiliates announcing a Workmen's Compensation Conference to be held June 5-6 in Los Angeles under the auspices of the California State Federation of Labor.

The conference will be the second in a series of weekend programs sponsored by the state AFL movement. The first quarterly conference was held February 13-14 in San Francisco on the workmen's compensation law.

Subject of the Los Angeles conference will be the permanent disability rating schedule of the workmen's compensation procedure in California.

C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the State Federation of Labor, pointed out in the announcement letter that the Los Angeles session will be followed by an identical conference in San Francisco on October 9-10. The conferences are being held on a regional basis for the travelling convenience of delegates.

The Los Angeles conference will not cover any of the material reviewed at the previous San Francisco meeting, but will deal exclusively with the permanent disability rating schedule.

All sessions in Los Angeles will be held in the Teamsters Building, 846 South Union Avenue.

The conference will open Saturday morning, June 5, at 9:00 o'clock. It will adjourn at 1:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

Sessions will be open to AFL officials and interested unionists. There will be a \$3.00 registration fee, payable at the opening sess-

ion. This will be the only conference charge.

The conference faculty will be comprised of members of the State Federation legal staff and representatives from the state Industrial Accident Commission.

Established by action of the 1953 convention, the quarterly conference series got off to a successful start in San Francisco when 400 attended the February program.

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AMERICAN-MEXICAN UNIONS TO MEET MAY 11-13

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--U. S. and Mexican labor representatives will meet in Laredo, Texas, May 11-13, to consider joint action on Mexican worker importation into the United States.

A similar conference was held last December in Mexico City. The Laredo meeting has been called by the Joint Trade Union Committee on Migratory Labor for Mexico and the United States.

The recent 20th National Conference on Labor Legislation held in Washington, D. C. gave support to the U. S. labor position in the Mexican dispute by recommending that (1) Employers be prevented from hiring imported labor unless they have previously offered the jobs to American citizens; (2) The U. S. Border Patrol be strengthened; (3) Penalties be applied to employers who knowingly hire and employ illegal entrants.

The foreign labor situation was further aggravated this January when southern California growers sought to import thousands of farm hands from the British West Indies to harvest crops in Ventura County and adjacent areas. The attempt failed when the California State Federation of Labor protested to Governor Goodwin J. Knight.

Thomas L. Pitts represented the California State Federation of Labor at the Washington conference which was comprised of federal and state labor department officials and officials of organized labor.

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BROWNELL OPENS UP -
ON POVERTY-RIDDEN FARMERS

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--U.S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. won a victory over labor last week when six strawberry farmers in Louisiana and a union organizer were convicted under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act in the U. S. District Court, New Orleans.

The convicted men are leaders of a 3,000-member AFL organization, the Louisiana Fruit and Vegetable Producers Co-operative Marketing Union, Local 312. The local is affiliated with the National Agricultural Workers Union, AFL.

According to H. L. Mitchell, NAWU president, the strawberry farmers (who cultivated less than three acres each in strawberries and earned less than \$400 annually in 1951) united against chain store and commission agent buyers to "secure the market price for the products of their labor."

Prison sentences of six to nine months, plus fines of \$500 to \$1,000 each, were assessed against the convicted men. The Union was fined \$4,000. The U. S. District Judge in New Orleans suspended the prison terms and placed each man on one year's probation upon payment of the fines.

Among the sentenced men was Henry E. "Hank" Hasiwar, vice president of the National Agricultural Workers Union and former California representative.

In response to Brownell's action, Mitchell charged that "... the U. S. Department of Justice enforces the law one way against the rich and another way against the poor. Anti-trust actions against major oil and aluminum corporations are settled amicably by Mr. Brownell, who turns right around and persecutes the poor and needy who try to get a better deal for their families.

"Brownell is now threatening to investigate General Motors and Ford Motor Company for controlling 82 percent of the automobile production in the U. S. One can imagine how far such an investigation will go with the former president of General Motors sitting in President Eisenhower's Cabinet."

ICFTU ISSUES
MAY DAY MANIFESTO

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions last Saturday issued a May Day Manifesto to the workers of all nations.

Representing 54,000,000 free trade unionists throughout the world, the ICFTU has led a constant battle against dictatorships of right and left. Strongly supported by the American Federation of Labor, the world trade union body has spotlighted anti-labor practices in Russia, Spain, and Red China, as well as in other dictatorships.

The world-wide labor observance of May Day was inaugurated by the American Federation of Labor in the 19th century. The AFL named May 1 as an agitational date for the 8-hour day, but kept the first Monday in September as its own official "Labor Day." However, the May Day observance spread to other countries and survives today in most nations of the anti-Communist world.

Despite Communist Party exploitation of May 1, it remains the holiday of free labor with the anti-Communist unions of Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

The ICFTU manifesto follows:

To the Workers of the World!

To those 54 million of them who are organized in free trade unions affiliated to the ICFTU;

To those in the countries of totalitarian dictatorship who have been deprived of their elementary human rights, and who are unable to associate with us;

To those in dependent countries who are striving for national freedom by democratic means;

To workers by hand and by brain, to women workers, to young workers everywhere the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions sends its warmest greetings on this day of international working class solidarity.

On May Day 1954, the ICFTU solemnly renews its pledge before the workers of the world to carry on the fight with unflagging energy and determination;

FOR BREAD, for ever-rising standards of living everywhere, for special aid to the economically underdeveloped countries, against the growing menace of unemployment and for a fairer distribution of the

world's actual and potential wealth between classes and between nations;

FOR PEACE, with freedom and justice and without capitulation before aggressive dictators or the abandonment of enslaved peoples;

FOR FREEDOM, for those who have come under the heel of the new Red Imperialism; for an end to all dictatorships, whatever their political complexion; for the development of democratic self-government for all peoples; for the full and free exercise of trade union rights including the right of the workers to a voice in the planning and execution of economic policy--that is, for economic as well as political democracy.

For all these things, so close to the hearts of the working people of every land, the ICFTU and its affiliated organizations in 74 different countries, have fought and will continue to fight.

Long live the free and democratic trade unions of all lands!

Forward with the ICFTU!

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MEANY SEES 'DISRUPTION' AS RUSSIA JOINS ILO

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--"Only opposition and disruption can be expected from Soviet Russia as it becomes a member of the International Labor Organization," George Meany, AFL president, declared last week as Russian Foreign Minister Molotov's formal letter of application was received and acknowledged.

Meany said that it was the ILO probe of slave labor conditions behind the Iron Curtain, initiated by the AFL Free Trade Union Committee, that had decided the Russians on getting into the ILO.

The Molotov letter of application included only two sentences. In each, the Soviet foreign minister said that the USSR "has decided to accept the obligations of the Constitution of the ILO." In reply, David A. Morse, director-general of the ILO, was equally brief. He repeated the phrase in which the Russians promised to abide by the ILO constitution. Previously the Russians wanted to enter on their own terms.

In his blast at Russia's entrance, Meany said that the aggressive policies and totalitarian practices of Soviet Russia do not square with the aims and policies of the ILO.

Meany also reminded that "the ILO is dedicated to peace through the attainment of economic and social justice for the peoples of all nations." He added that Russia was "eating crow" in order to join the ILO only because it was anxious to block investigations of slave labor conditions.

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