

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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December 21, 1956

STATE AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL VOWS FIGHT ON PALM SPRINGS "SCAB" LAW

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--All-out opposition to the Palm Springs "right to work" ordinance was pledged by the California State Federation of Labor Executive Council at its quarterly meeting in Hollywood last week.

The state AFL executive body also urged its affiliates to provide "every possible" service for finding jobs for Hungarian political exiles now in California.

On the state AFL-CIO merger front, the council predicted that further committee meetings will result in a "complete and equitable" understanding between the two groups. The council rejected the idea that any stalemate existed and declared no benefit was to be gained by issuing "unilateral statements of position." The council reaffirmed its confidence in the "stability and maturity" of the AFL merger committee.

Following detailed reports on the Palm Springs crisis by members of the labor-formed Riverside County Ordinance Committee, the council voted unanimously to

- (1) Condemn the "right to work" law as an "unwarranted interference" by local government in labor-management relations;
- (2) Commit the total resources of the State Federation and its affiliates to the abolition of the ordinance;
- (3) Sponsor a fund-raising campaign to finance labor's legal challenge to the measure.

In its action on the Hungarian situation, the council adopted a four-point program, topped by the request to affiliates to assist

displaced Hungarians in finding California employment. The council also asked AFL unions and councils to make Hungarian relief contributions to the AFL-CIO International Free Labor Fund, headed by George Meany at AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, D. C.

The council also adopted a six-point program on the Middle East, highlighted by recommendations urging America to use its influence to (1) make certain of Israel's right of existence, and (2) continue U. N. occupation of areas evacuated by Britain, France and Israel until order has been established in Egypt.

The statement warned that a "mere return" to the situation which prevailed prior to the outbreaks of October would only restore the conditions which provoked open warfare.

In other actions, the council voted for appointment of a committee to probe reported abuses of advertising ethics by the labor press, and reviewed major bills prepared by the State Federation for introduction at the 1957 state legislative session.

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STATE FEDERATION PRESS RELEASE ON MERGER

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--With respect to the merger discussions of the state AFL and CIO committees, the executive council reaffirmed its confidence in the stability and maturity of its committee. In view of the fact that the council was certain further committee meetings will result in a complete and equitable understanding between the respective groups, it did not believe that any stalemate existed and no benefit was to be derived by issuing unilateral statements of position. The council was confident its committee was fully informed and efficiently functioning, and believed the merger matter was properly in its care. The committee expressed to the executive council a desire to meet as soon as possible with the state CIO committee counterpart.

Hollywood - December 14, 1956

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STATEMENT ON HUNGARY

Issued by Executive Council, California
State Federation of Labor, December 14, 1956

The California State Federation of Labor extends the hand of fraternity and hope to the heroic unionists of Hungary, who have unmasked Soviet imperialism and proven to mankind that labor is the unfailing servant of liberty.

Together with the students, women, soldiers, and plain people of the nation, the workers of Hungary fight on for bread and freedom in the face of terror and murder.

Aware of our fraternal obligations to the Hungarian trade unionists and to the cause of human liberty, we therefore commend the following program of action:

(1) We ask all AFL affiliates in California to provide every possible service in finding jobs for Hungarian political refugees now entering the state.

(2) We ask all AFL affiliates to make whatever financial contributions they can to the AFL-CIO International Free Labor Fund, c/o George Meany, AFL-CIO Building, Washington, D. C. The Fund is labor's organization for Hungarian relief.

(3) We call on the United Nations: (a) to demand the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary; (b) to send a police force to Hungary as it did to Egypt; (c) to set up the machinery for free elections in Hungary; (d) to demand that Russia release the kidnaped Imry Nagy and other members of his government now in Soviet hands; (e) to demand that Russia release all political prisoners and halt present deportations of Hungarians to Soviet prison camps.

(4) We ask the U. S. government to liberalize its immigration procedures to the point of admitting greater numbers of Hungarian freedom fighters.

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STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Issued by Executive Council, California
State Federation of Labor, December 14, 1956

The California State Federation of Labor calls for continuing United Nations action to secure peace and justice in the Middle East.

However, a mere return to the situation which prevailed prior to the outbreaks of late October would only restore the conditions which provoked open warfare and menaced the peace of the world.

We therefore urge the United States to use its influence to obtain:

(1) Acceptance of Israel's right to existence as an independent state.

(2) Continued occupation by U.N. forces of areas evacuated by Britain, France, and Israel until the following conditions have been met: (a) the Egypt-Israel war is formally ended; (b) a peace treaty has been negotiated between Egypt and Israel; (c) continuous operation of the Suez Canal has been assured through an Egyptian and an international authority.

(3) Immediate dispatch of a U.N. Peace Observation Commission to Syria to probe charges that Soviet arms shipments to that country comprise a threat to peace.

(4) An economic and social program, directed by the U.N., to improve living standards, increase farm and industrial production, promote trade unions, and generally develop the economies of the Middle East.

(5) Action by the U.N. to probe and take whatever remedial action may be necessary to halt persecution and deportation of Egyptian Jews.

(6) Abandonment of Middle-East colonialism by Britain, France and other western powers.

CALIFORNIA UNIONS GAIN 71,000 MEMBERS IN 1956

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--California labor unions added 71,000 new members during the past year, bringing total union membership in the state to 1,689,500 in 1956, Ernest B. Webb, California Director of Industrial Relations, announced this week.

Union membership increased by 31,800 in the Los Angeles-Long Beach Metropolitan Area; by 12,100 in the San Francisco-Oakland Metropolitan Area; and by 5,700 in San Diego County.

The 4-percent rise in union membership between July 1955 and July 1956 accompanied a 6-percent increase in nonagricultural employment in the state during the same period.

The annual union membership survey, conducted by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research of the California Department of Industrial Relations, indicated that this year 50 percent of all nonagricultural employees in the San Francisco-Oakland Metropolitan Area are members of labor unions.

In the Los Angeles-Long Beach Metropolitan Area the proportion is 36 percent. In the state as a whole, union members represent approximately 40 percent of all nonagricultural wage and salary earners.

Unions which were affiliated with the AFL before the national merger have 1,382,800 members in California and former CIO affiliates have 196,000. Unaffiliated labor organizations have 110,700 members in California.

Los Angeles-Long Beach Metropolitan Area

Union membership increased 4 percent in this area (Los Angeles and Orange Counties), from 722,500 in July 1955 to 754,300 in July 1956. Nonagricultural employment in the area rose by 6 percent.

San Francisco-Oakland Metropolitan Area

Membership of union locals in this area (six counties), rose by 3 percent--from 455,400 in July 1955 to 467,500 in July 1956--matching a 3-percent rise in nonagricultural employment.

San Diego County

An 8-percent membership increase was reported in this county. From 71,400 in July 1955, union membership rose to 77,100 in July 1956. Nonagricultural employment increased in San Diego County by 12 percent.