

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM
CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

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U. S. SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO INTERFERE WITH CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT'S RULING "HOT CARGO" AND SECONDARY BOYCOTT LAWS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The United States Supreme Court has refused to interfere with the ruling by the California Supreme Court of a year ago that the state's "hot cargo" and "secondary boycott" law was unconstitutional. The Court stated that it does not have jurisdiction to review the California decision.

The appeal from the State Court's ruling was made by Farmer Brothers, a coffee importing and distributing firm in Los Angeles.

This marked another victory in the 12-year fight waged by the California State Federation of Labor against labor injunctions. Readers of the News Letter are no doubt familiar with the victory of the Federation in the Blaney case, in which the infamous "Hot Cargo" Act was set aside and annulled by the California Supreme Court by a vote of 6 to 1. The Blaney decision held that a picket was not in contempt of court for violating an injunction against picketing the product of a struck employer.

Following the Blaney decision there were a number of cases involving pickets who had been adjudged in contempt for product picketing, sometimes called "secondary boycott," and in all of these cases the picket was released from custody and the contempt commitment annulled under the authority of the Blaney case.

The firm of Farmer Brothers, which had brought a number of injunction suits against various labor unions and individuals, was the loser in one of these cases in which a picket named Lillefloren had

been cleared of contempt charges. Attorneys for Farmer Brothers went to the Supreme Court of the United States with a petition to rehear the Lillefloren case and to annul the Blaney decision. For some reason, the Supreme Court of the United States granted what is called a preliminary writ of certiorari and set the matter down for hearing. The mere granting of the temporary writ caused disturbance and uneasiness to the Federation as well as to the union movement in general, and elaborate briefs were filed in behalf of the State Federation of Labor and other parties. When the matter came on for hearing on January 10, 1949, however, the Supreme Court of the United States threw the case out, thus refusing to interfere in any way with the Blaney decision.

So the late "Hot Cargo" Act remains in its grave, and even its memory will soon be a thing of the past.

Clarence E. Todd handled the Blaney case for the Federation and wrote the brief for the Federation in the Lillefloren case. Attorney Sokol of Los Angeles was associated in the case and submitted arguments before the Court. Mr. Thatcher, attorney for the American Federation of Labor in Washington, D. C., also participated in the submission of the case to the U. S. Supreme Court.

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CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF TEACHERS' ORGANIZATIONAL CAMPAIGN
ENDORSED BY FEDERATION

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--After listening to a detailed report of an extensive organizational campaign to be conducted by the California State Federation of Teachers, the Executive Council of the California State Federation of Labor enthusiastically endorsed the contemplated drive to organize the unorganized teachers in California, and calls upon all organizations to give unstinting support, financially and otherwise, to this important campaign.

After a severe internal struggle, the present leadership of the California State Federation of Teachers was successful in eliminating the communistic disruptive elements within its organization, and, as a result of this housecleaning, is now in an excellent position to bring organization to the teachers who are sorely in need of it.

The Federation has itself pledged financial and organizational support to this campaign, but cannot stress too strongly the need of similar support of this worthy effort coming from all other organizations in the various localities.

Miss Victoria McAlmon, who has had considerable experience in organizing teachers, has been designated as the organizer and will proceed to implement the program that has been formulated. The Teachers will work in cooperation with the California State Federation of Labor in developing the campaign.

In an open letter to all California teachers, the California State Federation of Teachers explains why they should affiliate with organized labor, pointing out that it was labor who gave the public schools of this country their real impetus, that it was labor which was responsible for the expansion of public education in this country, that it was labor who has fought persistently and perseveringly for greater financial support of the public schools, that organized labor has been education's most constant protector and champion, and that labor was the first to sponsor and secure federal aid to education.

The open letter also makes clear that every local of the American Federation of Teachers is autonomous; that labor does not and will not dictate to the teachers' organization any more than any other International Union within the American Federation of Labor suffers from any authoritarian rule; that the organization is run democratically, with complete freedom, but will have the support of the trade union movement.

The greatest handicap the teachers have faced heretofore has been the disruption within its ranks which has now been removed. With new leadership in the California State Federation of Teachers, devoted to the principle of sound trade unionism and citizenship, it is anticipated that great progress will be made in the campaign to organize the unorganized teachers in California.

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FEDERATION SUBMITS LABOR BILLS TO STATE LEGISLATURE

SAN FRANCISCO(CFLNL).--Carrying out the mandates of several annual conventions, and continuing the implementation of the Federation program on legislation affecting the interests of the workers, the California State Federation of Labor has submitted a great number of bills to the current session of the state legislature.

A large number of workmen's compensation bills have been submitted, as well as nearly an equal number of bills on unemployment and disability insurance. Among the basic subjects covered by other bills are: a 48-hour week for firemen, municipal collective bargaining, changes in various codes, repeal of the financial responsibility act, repeal of the sales tax act, teachers' retirement, meat inspection, the employment of minors, the illegal entrance of foreign labor.

A health bill providing for prepaid medical service is also being thrown into the hopper by the Federation.

The workmen's compensation bills would increase the maximum as well as the minimum benefit payments, would eliminate credit in death awards; would, in fact, improve the workmen's compensation law in most essential respects.

Similarly, the numerous bills introduced on unemployment and disability insurance would eliminate agricultural exemptions, waiting period, and down grading, would increase the maximum payments, redefine a number of ambiguous provisions providing for benefit payments

in cases of pregnancy under the disability bill, as well as a series of other reforms.

All of the measures that have been submitted will be included in the analysis of the various bills pending before the state legislature of interest to labor, which the Federation always prepares for its membership. It is expected that over five thousand bills will be thrown into the legislative mill. These will be gone through very carefully, and those measures affecting labor will be properly classified and analyzed for the benefit of the affiliated organizations. The session will recess for the month of February and reconvene in March. Before it reconvenes, the Federation hopes to have its legislative analysis in the hands of the affiliated organizations.

Not much action will occur during the month of January, since that period is taken up with the submission of bills. The mill begins to grind in March, and reports on the progress of various measures in behalf of and against labor will be reported on specifically in the News Letter.

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FEDERATION OPPOSES PARTICIPATION IN ANY CAMPAIGN
TO REPEAL PROPOSITION NO. 4

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Requests to have the Federation participate in a campaign to repeal Proposition No. 4, the Old Age and Blind Aid measure, have been rejected by the Executive Council on the ground that, in principle, it would be a defiance of the people's choice, and that it would generally weaken the efficacy and integrity of the initiative machinery.

Proposition No. 4 was voted upon by a majority of the citizens of California. The Federation has at all times held to the theory that the people voting on an initiative petition were the supreme authority. To support such a repeal campaign would be setting a dangerous precedent and would be contrary to the position the Federation has taken traditionally.

The Board was unanimous in its decision to refrain from taking any part in such a move to repeal the measure.

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