

California Labor League for Political Education

Proceedings of Convention
San Francisco, December 8, 1958

C. J. Haggerty, Secretary-Treasurer
810 David Hewes Building
995 Market Street, San Francisco

PROCEEDINGS

of the

Final Convention

California Labor League for Political Education

December 8, 1958

The final convention of the California Labor League for Political Education was called to order at 8:15 p.m. in the Civic Auditorium, San Francisco, California, on Monday, December 8, 1958, by Thomas L. Pitts, President.

Report of Committee on Credentials

Chairman James Blackburn of the Committee on Credentials reported for the committee. On motions by the chairman, the delegates whose names were printed in the preliminary roll contained in the program, and those in the list of additions and corrections read by the chairman were seated.

(Under the terms of the agreement to merge of the California Labor League for Political Education and the California CIO Council on Political Education, adopted by this final CLLPE convention, all delegates to the separate conventions of the two organizations were accredited to the first convention of the merged organization. The complete roll of delegates is therefore printed in full in the proceedings of the convention of the California Labor Council on Political Education, held on December 9, 1958.)

Appointment of Committees

Secretary Haggerty announced the names of delegates appointed by President Pitts to serve on the several convention committees, as follows:

Committee on Credentials

James Blackburn, Chairman, Painters District Council No. 48, Riverside.

Phyllis Mitchell, Secretary, Office Employees No. 3, San Francisco.

Wayne J. Hull, Painters No. 256, Long Beach.

C. J. Hyans, Bill Posters No. 32, Los Angeles.

George Bronner, Central Labor Council, Ventura.

W. Lloyd Leiby, Southern California District Council of Laborers, Los Angeles.

Edna Waugh, Hotel, Restaurant, Cafeteria Employees No. 512, San Pedro.

Paul E. O'Bryant, Motion Picture Cine technicians No. 789, Hollywood.

Henry Hansen, Labor League for Political Education, Stockton.

Lilas Jones, Waitresses No. 561, Sacramento.

Leo Vuchinich, Cooks, Pastry Cooks and Assistants No. 230, Fresno.

Vernon W. Hughes, Electrical Workers No. 465, San Diego.

James P. McLoughlin, Clerks No. 428, San Jose.

Fred L. Martin, Machinists No. 1305, San Francisco.

E. M. Mueller, Laborers No. 507, Long Beach.

Committee on Resolutions

Thomas A. Small, Chairman, Bartenders No. 340, San Mateo.

Albin J. Gruhn, Secretary, Central Labor Council, Eureka.

William Sidell, District Council of Carpenters, Los Angeles.

Mary Olson, Hotel, Restaurant, Cafeteria Employees No. 512, San Pedro.

William E. Pollard, Dining Car Employees No. 582, Los Angeles.

Donald K. Overhiser, Millmen No. 2020, San Diego.

Joseph J. Christian, Building and Construction Trades Council, Los Angeles.

Armon L. Henderson, District Council of Carpenters, San Diego.

Phil Deredi, Elevator Operators No. 117, San Francisco.

Charles Foehn, Electrical Workers No. 6, San Francisco.

Fred C. Smith, Fire Fighters No. 1014, Los Angeles.

Robert F. Willsey, Building and Construction Trades Council, Riverside.

Harry Finks, Labor League for Political Education, Sacramento.

Thelma Thomas, Voters League, Los Angeles.

S. P. Robinson, State Council of Lathers, San Rafael.

Committee on Constitution

A. F. Bartholomew, Chairman, Shipyard Laborers No. 86, Oakland.

John Quimby, Secretary, Central Labor Council, San Diego.

Lowell Nelson, Building and Construction Trades Council, Vallejo.

George Johns, Central Labor Council, San Francisco.

L. A. Parker, Council of Federated Municipal Crafts, Los Angeles.

Francis Donnelly, Street Railway and Motor Coach Employees No. 1277, Los Angeles.

Isidor Stenzor, Cloak Makers No. 55, Los Angeles.

M. R. Callahan, Central Labor Council, Long Beach.

Burnell Phillips, Central Labor Council, Riverside.

Chester Mucker, Hod Carriers and Common Laborers No. 294, Fresno.

John M. Carney, Electrical Workers No. 477, San Bernardino.

James F. Murphy, Bartenders No. 52, Oakland.

Phil Deredi, Elevator Operators No. 117, San Francisco.

George E. Jenkins, Hod Carriers and Laborers No. 690, Martinez.

George Bronner, Central Labor Council, Ventura.

Committee on Rules and Order of Business

John Schiavenza, Chairman, Machinists No. 1566, Oakland.

Lilas Jones, Secretary, Sacramento-Yolo Central Labor Council, Sacramento.

C. L. Dellums, Sleeping Car Porters, Oakland.

Pat Somerset, Screen Actors Guild, Hollywood.

Frank McCain, Barbers No. 295, Los Angeles.

Charles Brown, Allied Printing Trades Council, Los Angeles.

Earl Wilson, Theatrical Stage Employees No. 614, San Bernardino.

Ed A. Doyle, Bartenders and Culinary Workers No. 654, Oroville.

Henry Hansen, San Joaquin County Central Labor Council, Stockton.

John G. Bell, Joint Executive Conference of Southern California Electrical Workers, Los Angeles.

Charles J. Hardy, Waiters and Bartenders No. 500, San Diego.

Newell J. Carman, Operating Engineers No. 3, San Francisco.

Carl L. Hehnke, Sheet Metal Workers No. 273, Santa Barbara.

Hazel O'Brien, Waitresses No. 48, San Francisco.

W. H. Diederichsen, Electrical Workers No. 619, San Mateo.

Sergeants-at-Arms

Rex Pritchard, Chief, Golden Gate District Council of Lathers, San Rafael.

Ronald Benner, Building and Construction Trades Council, Ventura.

Andy Hemnes, Bartenders No. 591, San Pedro.

Convention Rules

President Pitts proposed that, since the Committee on Rules and Order of Business had been unable to meet, the rules of previous conventions, except for the time of meeting, be the rules of this convention. By motion, this proposal was adopted.

Report of Committee on Merger

Secretary Haggerty reported for the Committee on Merger, as follows:

"As a result of a series of meetings of the Joint Merger Committee of the California Labor League for Political Education and the California CIO Council on Political Education, the Joint Merger Committee formally recommended to their respective governing bodies on August 23, 1958, a formal merger.

"On August 24, 1958, the Executive Council of the California Labor League for Political Education adopted the recommendation of this merger committee and on September 9, 1958, similar action was

taken by the governing body of the California CIO Council on Political Education. This Executive Council is accordingly submitting to you its favorable recommendation for the adoption of the Agreement to Merge, the Constitution, and the Convention Rules and Order of Business which have been printed and distributed to each delegate at his time of registration and which has heretofore been distributed to each of the affiliates of the League.

"Before moving the adoption of the recommendation of the Executive Council, I feel it proper briefly to explain the Agreement to Merge, the Constitution, and the Convention Rules and Order of Business.

A. AGREEMENT TO MERGE

This Agreement provides:

1. For the voluntary merger of the California Labor League for Political Education and the California CIO Council on Political Education into a merged organization to be known as California Labor COPE.

2. That the powers and duties of the officers, the selection of the officers, the affiliation and structure of California Labor COPE are determined by the Constitution incorporated in the Merger Agreement.

3. That the current affiliates of each organization become affiliates of the merged organization.

4. That all assets and liabilities of each organization are transferred to the merged organization, but a complete audit of each is provided for.

5. That a merged convention is to be called and that the joint California Labor COPE merger convention is vested with various authority insofar as the handling of the convention is concerned.

6. That the Constitution of California Labor COPE and the Convention Rules and Order of Business incorporated in the merger agreement shall apply to this convention, and shall become effective upon adoption by the California Labor League for Political Education and the California CIO Council on Political Education.

B. CONSTITUTION

Article I. Simply establishes the name of the organization as the California Labor Council on Political Education, known as California Labor COPE.

Article II. Purposes: Substantially the same as the preamble of the old League constitution.

Article III. Affiliations: Substantially the same as the old League constitution

with the incorporation of Section 2 formerly in the State Federation constitution dealing with disqualification because of Communist, etc., activities.

Article IV. Revenues: Is substantially the same as the old League constitution.

Article V. Officers: Is substantially the same as the old League constitution.

Article VI. Powers and Duties of the President: Is substantially the same as the old League constitution, except that his appointment of committees is subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, and if convention committee, is subject to the approval of the convention.

Article VII. Powers and Duties of Secretary-Treasurer: Is substantially the same as the old League constitution except:

1. He is required to compile and keep up to date a list of principal officers of each affiliate;

2. To submit a complete audited financial report to the pre-convention meetings of the Executive Council and at such other times as the Council may require;

3. To compile and keep up to date lists showing names and addresses of the active political leadership in the state.

Article VIII. Vice Presidents and General Vice Presidents: Has been amended to care for the increase in the number of officers and to specifically provide that the General Vice Presidents shall represent California Labor COPE with their duties assigned by the Secretary-Treasurer under whose direction and supervision they work.

Article IX. Selection of Officers: Substantially the same as the old League constitution.

Article X. Executive Council: Substantially the same as the old League constitution, except:

1. Provisions are revised to care for the additional officers;

2. It is expressly provided that the Executive Council is empowered to act between conventions of California Labor COPE and that ten members of the Executive Council may call a special meeting;

3. Provides the Executive Council may budget major functions of California Labor COPE on recommendation from the Secretary-Treasurer;

4. Requires the Executive Council to meet prior to each convention for the purpose of making recommendations, including submission of resolutions, statements of policy, etc.;

5. Provides that the appointment of all

committees by the President shall be subject to approval by the Executive Council;

6. Sets forth specifically the right to thirty days' notice on charges and upon conviction, appeal to the convention of California Labor COPE;

7. Incorporates the provision from the former State Federation constitution restricting the right of officers of the League to endorse candidates and requiring their public disavowal of the use of their title in the event it has been misused.

Article XI. Recommendation and Endorsement: The provisions of this section are substantially the same as the provisions of the old constitution, except that endorsement by the convention requires not merely a majority vote, but a 60 per cent vote of the delegates present and voting.

Article XII. Conventions:

A. General. Substantially the same as the former League constitution, except:

1. It specifically provides for the issuance of a convention call by the Secretary-Treasurer;

2. It increases the requirements for a roll call vote from 25 delegates to 75 delegates;

3. It requires the Secretary-Treasurer to submit to the convention a list of the average per capita tax paid by each affiliate together with his estimate of the average dues paying membership of each such affiliate.

B. Representation. Revises the present one delegate for each affiliate and provides for delegates on a per capita tax basis, not to exceed ten. The determination of the delegates will be:

1. Two delegates for the first 500 members or less;

2. One delegate for the next 250 or major fraction;

3. One delegate for each succeeding 500 or major fraction;

It provides that one delegate may represent up to three affiliated local unions affiliated with the same National or International union with a combined vote of not more than 1200, if he is a member in good standing in at least one affiliate.

C. Certification of Delegates. Is substantially the same as the provisions of the merged constitution of the California Labor Federation.

D. Resolutions. Is substantially the same as the provisions of the merged constitution of the California Labor Federation, except that the determination of the

Secretary-Treasurer that a resolution does not properly apply to the subject matter is conclusive, unless reversed by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council after notice to the proponent and appeal by the proponent to the Executive Council.

As to untimely resolutions, the decision of the Secretary-Treasurer is conclusive in the absence of unanimous consent on motion by convention delegates to permit their introduction and consideration.

E. Committees. Substantially the same as the old League constitution.

F. Teller Board. Substantially the same as the old constitution, except that it is changed from "Ballot Board" to "Teller Board."

Article XIII. Expenses: The expenses have been increased from \$25.00 per diem to \$35.00 per diem and from \$10.00 a day for hotel accommodations to \$15.00 a day for hotel accommodations with mileage if by automobile at not less than 10 cents per mile.

Article XIV. Has been substantially revised but is substantially the same as the similar provision in the merged Federation constitution and among other things, permits the Executive Council to exonerate the payment of per capita of affiliated local unions upon specific good cause established.

Article XV. Refund: Is completely new and provides for the refund to the organization of any individual member upon request who disagrees with the COPE endorsement of state candidates.

Article XVI. Substantially the same as the old constitution.

C. CONVENTION RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Substantially the same as the former rules and order of business, except:

1. Rule 6 expressly provides for the rendition of minority reports.

2. Rule 7 specifies the quorum of committees.

3. Rule 9 increases the request for a roll call vote from 25 to 75 delegates.

4. Rule 10 spells out the precedence of motions during debate.

5. Rule 16 specifically provides for separate types of microphones for delegates speaking "For" and "Against" a proposition.

Secretary Haggerty then offered the following motion:

"That the recommendation of the Executive Council of the California Labor

League for Political Education approving the Agreement to Merge, the Constitution, and the Convention Rules and Order of Business establishing the California Labor COPE, be concurred in and that this convention approve said Agreement to Merge, Constitution and Convention Rules and Order of Business."

This motion was duly seconded and adopted.

Referral of Unfinished Business

On motion by Secretary Haggerty, any business remaining untransacted, any resolutions or similar matters, were referred to the merged convention of the California Labor Council on Political Education on December 9, 1958.

Secretary Haggerty

Secretary Haggerty then spoke as follows:

"I have asked the Chairman for the privilege to make a very short statement. I do not intend to burden you with a long speech, because it is not necessary.

"We are now merging this organization with a sister organization for the purpose of keeping ourselves alive and potent in the political field. Nobody has to tell this delegation what is going on now in the country: the attempts being made by the corporate powers and their satellites in public life and in the Congress to see if they cannot stop the activity of organized labor in the field of politics.

"I am sure you all know why we got into the field of politics in the first place. It was not because we wanted to divert our attention, our time, our talents and our funds into this field, but because of dire necessity in 1947. I am not going to go back to that time, because you all know about it, when we were required as a matter of self-protection to become active in the field of politics. Now we are in it.

"I think the recent campaign that ended on November 4th indicates that there is some potency in organized labor when they decide to do a job and pay attention to the problem at hand. In view of the fact that we are in this field, we should not be in it part way. We should be in it all the way. And I am sure that our delegates here, and those who will meet in a merged group tomorrow night are conscious of this fact.

"The world should know that it is our deep and firm intention to stay in the field of politics as a matter not alone of self-defense, but as a matter of giving con-

structive aid and assistance to our government in its various functions on local, state and national levels. When we do that, we should do it as a unit, as we did in this last campaign against Proposition 18. There, we showed to the world that when we have to do a job, we know how to do it. We know how to get the funds, we know how to use the manpower, and we know how to get the support of the public in our proper, justifiable efforts and goals.

"I believe, therefore, that from now on, those irritating incidents that have occurred in the past, such as a local group feeling itself superior to the state group, after being a part of the state group and participating in the convention, but not getting its own way, then going back home and having its own way locally, such incidents should be over and done with. I think we now realize the error of our ways in that particular incident, just as I am sure we realize that the important thing is a solid, unified movement on the statewide level if we are to perform our proper functions in Sacramento and obtain there the recognition to which we are properly entitled from those whom we helped to elect.

"The job is not too hard to do. There is no secret about the field of politics. Like any other field, it just takes devotion to the cause at hand and willingness to work. We showed we can work in a recent campaign; we showed we know how to work intelligently and constructively and accomplish our end.

"When we leave here tonight, and particularly tomorrow night when we leave the convention of the merged body, we should leave with a firm intention and conviction that we will keep up the organization we started, enhance its strength and make it the potent body it should be!"

In Memory of Roderick MacKenzie

A motion by Delegate Edwards, Sheet Metal Workers No. 108, Los Angeles, to adjourn in memory of Brother Roderick MacKenzie, business agent of District Council of Painters No. 36, Los Angeles, was adopted.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the convention, the closing convention of the California Labor League for Political Education was adjourned at 9:00 p.m., the delegates standing for a minute of silence in memory of Brother Roderick MacKenzie.