

Old age (1951)

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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October 17, 1951

STATE FEDERATION ISSUES POLICY STATEMENT ON PROBLEMS OF AGING

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--The California State Federation of Labor issued a seven-point program calling for an end to age discrimination and for consideration of the total needs of older workers, at the Governor's Conference on the Problems of the Aging, held October 15-16 in Sacramento.

An introductory policy statement declared that "the public and private pension plans organized within the past generation have lost much of their significance in the present era of soaring prices and climbing rents."

The statement charged that "our fixed income citizens of advanced age fight today at a cruel disadvantage against the odds of inflation."

AFL representatives were well scattered through the 22-section conference called by Governor Earl Warren.

The State Federation program follows:

1. Employment Opportunity

- a. Age discrimination against older workers should be abolished.
- b. Training programs should be introduced for older workers who can no longer meet the physical requirements of their customary crafts.
- c. There should be an intelligent selection of job assignments for older workers.
- d. The industrial defense of the nation suggests full use of all manpower skills, including those of our older people.

2. Private Pension Plans

- a. Group pension plans achieved through collective bargaining make for secure retirement.

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INSTITUTE OF
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

3. Public Insurance (Old Age and Survivors Insurance,
Federal, State and Local Government Retirement Systems).

- a. Coverage of OASI (federal social security) should be extended to all workers.
- b. Benefits under OASI should be increased. The national Cost of Living figure has already risen 7% since adoption of the 1950 amendments to the Social Security Law.
- c. Public employees on federal, state, or local government jobs should receive at least the same benefits as extended by OASI.
- d. The ruling restricting earnings of pensioners under OASI should be liberalized. At present earnings of \$50 per month in "covered" employment disqualify an applicant, although there is no ceiling on the amount a pensioner may take through unearned income, such as rents or dividend payments.

4. Public Assistance (State Old Age Pensions, County Relief)

- a. Cost of living increases should be provided for state old age pensioners.
- b. The relatives' responsibility clause should be eliminated from state old age assistance. The clause requires expensive administration, and places a cruel burden on young struggling workers seeking to rear their own families, thus creating family tensions and hostilities between dependent parents and children.
- c. State old age assistance should be financed and administered on a state rather than county basis. County financing victimizes county property owners. State administration would make for uniform efficiency and interpretation.
- d. State funds should be extended to general county relief to care for those not quite eligible for State Old Age Assistance, such as workers between 60 and 64, who may not receive aid in most counties if possessing a bank account of \$1.00 or more.

5. Health

- a. A program of prepaid health insurance would improve general public health, and allow workers to enjoy employment in the later years of life.
- b. Public nursing homes for the senile are needed for those unable to pay for private care.

6. Housing

- a. Low cost housing, public or private, would benefit older people with their reduced incomes.

7. Education and Recreation

- a. Adult education programs should be encouraged for

the mental and physical development of older people.

- b. Proper recreation programs, public or private, should be available for older people in their leisure hours.

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JOHN DAVIDSON
DIES IN VALLEJO

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--John Davidson, one of the grand old men of California labor, passed away at his home in Vallejo, October 10, 1951, at the age of 80.

Davidson was the second president of the California State Federation of Labor, serving in 1902 and 1903. In 1904 he was the Federation's delegate to the National American Federation of Labor convention in San Francisco.

In 1899, as a member of Ship Joiners No. 9, he organized and was a charter member of the Solano County Central Labor Council. He was its first secretary and served Solano labor faithfully and well for many years in that position.

In 1932, he retired from the Mare Island Navy Yard to enter the insurance and appraisal business.

Davidson was active in many civic affairs, including 16 years' service on the Vallejo School Board and 6 years on the Housing Authority Board.

Throughout his life he remained a strong and staunch supporter of working men and women.

He leaves a son, four daughters, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WINS 15¢
FOR AFL WORKERS IN AUGUST

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--During the month of August, California workers who are members of AFL unions obtained an average increase of 15 cents as a result of collective bargaining. For those unions negotiating on a percentage basis, the average increase was 6%. The low percentage figure is due to a 4% increase obtained by one large group

as a supplement to earlier gains.

Approximately 63,000 workers were covered by the August negotiations. The number of workers covered this August is slightly lower than for August 1950. This is presumably a result of wage stabilization regulations which have made it virtually impossible for many unions to obtain increases.

Details below are from the labor press:

Building Trades

Electricians No. 243, Salinas, AND inside wiremen and linemen employers: 12½ cents; 8/51.

Laborers No. 291, Santa Rosa, AND material yard employers; 7 cents; 8/51; 50 workers.

Laborers No. 690, Monterey, AND lumber yards: 8 cents; 8/51.

Millmen No. 1495, Redding, AND Diamond Match Co.: 15½ cents; 7/25/51.

Plumbers No. 250, No. 364, No. 400, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Bakersfield, AND Betchel Corp.: 12½ cents; 7½ cents to health and welfare fund; 8/51.

Metal Trades

Building and Metal Trades unions (9 locals), Long Beach Harbor area, AND Small Boatyards Assn.: 5 cents (in addition to 18 cents last January); improved vacation clause; 8/51; 500-1000 workers.

Iron Workers No. 491, San Francisco, AND Iron Workers Employers Assn. of No. Calif. (23 Bay Area fabricating shops); 14 cents, retro. 7/1/51; improved vacation; 1100 workers.

Iron Workers No. 624, Fresno, AND 3 steel fabricating shops: 14 cents; retro. 7/1/51.

Machinists No. 727, No. Hollywood, AND Lockheed Aircraft Corp.: 8 percent or 10 cents; 8/13/51; 18,500 workers.

Machinists No. 1047, San Bernardino, AND Lynn Equipment Co: 16½ cents; retro. 4/25/51.

Machinists No. 1125, San Diego, AND Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp.: 4 percent (in addition to earlier gains); 8/51; 19,000 workers.

Machinists No. 1166, San Luis Obispo, AND creameries: 10 percent, 8/51.

Machinists No. 1166, San Luis Obispo, AND six automotive shops: 25 cents/day; health and welfare plan; 5 days sick leave; 8/51.

Machinists No. 1414, San Mateo, AND Motor Car Dealers Assn.: 10 percent; 7/15/51.

Machinists, Santa Rosa, AND 15 garage and repair shops: 14 cents; 8/1/51; 90 workers.

Sheet Metal Workers No. 199, Bakersfield, AND employers: 7 cents; 7 cents to health and welfare fund; 8/51.

Teamsters

Bakery Drivers, Pacific Coast, AND employers: reduction in hours from 48 to 40 with no change in weekly pay; health and welfare plan of \$8.65/mo.; 10/1/51; 6000 workers coastwise.

Tank drivers, statewide, AND employers: 10 per cent (18 cents); 8/20/51; 3300-5000 workers.

Teamsters No. 186, Ventura, AND lumber yards: 9 cents; 8/51.

Teamsters No. 186, Santa Barbara, AND Santa Barbara Transit Company; 10 cents now and 1 or 2 cents in January; 8/51.

Garage and Automotive Workers No. 495, Los Angeles, and Los Angeles and Hollywood Turf Clubs; 10 percent; health and welfare fund; 8/1/51.

Teamsters No. 692, Long Beach, AND Petrolane, Ltd., and Long Beach Pipe and Supply Co.: 10 percent; 8/1/51.

Teamsters No. 890, Salinas, AND local pick-up and delivery employers: 17 cents; 8/51.

Other Trades

Bakery and Confectionery Workers No. 119-C, Oakland, AND candy shop owners: 11 cents; 8/51; 150 workers.

Barbers No. 814, San Mateo, AND employers: 25 cents incr. in price of haircut; 8/14/51.

Bill posters, various locals in California, AND Foster and Kleiser and other employers: 10 percent; 7/1/51.

Boot and Shoe Workers No. 320, Bay Area, AND shoe repair employers 9 cents; 7/2/51; 250 workers.

Building Service Employees No. 399, Los Angeles, AND American Building Maintenance Company: 6 cents; 8/51.

Cigar and Liquor Clerks No. 1089, San Francisco, AND Retail Tobacco Dealers Assn.: \$5/wk. 8/1/51; ad. 50 cents/wk. to health and welfare plan; 1/1/52; about 320 workers.

Culinary Unions, San Pedro - Wilmington area, AND Harbor District Tavern and Restaurant Assns.: \$1.00/day; 7/10/51.

Farm Labor Union, Fresno, AND Raisin Growers Protective Assn.: 10% increase in piece-rate; 8/51.

Fishermen, Monterey, AND fish dealers: increase in price from \$36 to \$46/ton; 8/51.

Fish Cannery Workers, Monterey, AND canneries; 3 cents (in addition to 12 cents obtained last year); 8/51; 3000 workers.

Laundry Workers No. 52, Los Angeles, AND Laundry Owners Assn: 5 cents; 8/51.

Lincoln Industrial Council, Lincoln, AND Gladding, McBean Clay Products Co.: 13 cents; 8/51.

State Employees (custodians) No. 371, Berkeley, AND University of California: \$10/mo.; 8/1/51.

State and Municipal Employees (custodians) No. 257, Oakland, AND Oakland Board of Education: \$20/mo.; 7/1/51.

Street and Motor Coach Employees No. 256, Sacramento, AND Sacramento City Lines: 10 percent, other gains; 8/51.

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