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### News for Labor's Non-Partisan League of California & Humboldt County

Labor's Non-Partisan League of California & Humboldt County

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INPL

ORGANIZE  
to VOTE WISE



NEWS

PUBLISHED BY LABOR'S NON-  
PARTISAN LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA  
&  
OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Eureka, California.

June 21, 1940.

#### LIBERAL DEMOCRATS OF FIRST DISTRICT COORDINATE ACTIVITIES

"Unique in the history of Northern California," -- that is the way the Conference of Liberal Democrats of the First Congressional District was characterized by one of the speakers at the Conference in Ukiah on Sunday, June 16.

Five counties and thirteen organizations were represented either by voting or fraternal delegates, and these organizations included five unions, three county branches of Labor's Non-Partisan League, one Grange, two racial minority groups-- the Indians and the Finns-- one chapter of the Retirement Life Payments Plan, and the International Labor Defense.

All delegates were in hearty agreement that the issue of peace or war for the United States overshadowed everything else and that the First Congressional District must make its-self vocal to prevent the hurtling a second time of this country into war abroad. Following the keynote address by Conference Chairman Herbert Resner, the delegates unanimously voted that the following telegram be sent to Congressman Clarence F. Lea:

"Conference labor, farmers, progressives meeting Ukiah today declare unequivocally that U.S. has no business in present war and we want no part of it. We are against war hysteria being manufactured in Washington and against billions for arms when we are in no danger of invasion as reported by House Naval Affairs Committee. Spend our money to solve U.S. problems of relief, youth, pensions, farm aid. Protect labor's rights and civil liberties. Come home and learn what the people are thinking. Keep U.S. out of war."

#### Program Drafted

A national program was drawn up with planks on Peace, Civil Rights, Work for the Unemployed, Social Security, Pensions, Health, Farm Aid, and Labor's Rights. A committee was elected to improve the wording and to give the program full publicity.

#### Endorsement Committee Selected

Power to endorse a candidate for Congress in the August 27th Democratic Primaries, should any suitable persons file, was delegated to a permanent committee consisting of James H. Chesnut, Mill Valley; John W. Naysmith, Chico; E.A. Brown, Petaluma; Pat Fogarty, Santa Rosa; Ethel Unselt, Fort Bragg; and Clara St. Peter, Eureka. The Committee is to draft others and can call together the Liberal Democrats of the First District as the need arises. It was also instructed to serve as a committee to suggest and coordinate peace activities throughout the District.

#### Able Speakers Address Conference

Frederick Thompson, ex-supervisor of Marin County and more recently a delegate on the Liberal Democratic Slate in the May 7th Presidential Primaries, and Estolv E. Ward, Executive Vice-President of INPL for Northern California, were guest speakers and stressed the need for finding candidates whom the people can trust and then "put them through the political chairs."

HAVE YOU WRITTEN A CHAIN LETTER FOR PEACE?  
Here Is One Already On Its Way

The people are using the 1932 dime chain letter technique to let themselves be heard in Washington. A copy of one of these chain letters for peace follows:

"United States Congressman

"Honorable Sir:

"It is your duty to defend us from those forces at home who are seeking to force us into a war abroad.

"It is your duty to defend our living standards, our farmers! welfare, our trade unions, our peoples' organizations, our freedom to speak, to write and to assemble freely and to worship God as we see fit.

"It is your duty to protect and to extend, NOT to limit, our democratic institutions.

"It is your duty to see that M-Day does not come to the United States, that there are no more crosses in Flanders Fields, no more American Gold Star Mothers, no more shell-shocked inmates of insane asylums.

"Defense, yes--but Defense for Peace Not for War.

"Defense, like Democracy, begins at home,

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Send a copy of this letter to Congressman Clarence F. Lea and to Senators Hiram Johnson and Sheridan Downey. Then write an exact copy to five friends and ask them to write to the Congressmen and Senators also so that there will be an unbroken chain of protest against the black-out of civil liberties now going on in that center of war hysteria--Washington, D.C.

Do a little arithmetic and you will see how you have helped in expressing the peoples' longing for a chance to live and have made those longings heard where they can have the greatest salutary effect--in Washington, D.C.

REMEMBER, CONGRESS HAS THE POWER TO VOTE US INTO WAR; BUT WE, THE PEOPLE, HAVE THE POWER TO REPLACE THE CONGRESSMEN.

Start the Chain Letter for Peace Today !

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CALIFORNIA TODAY

When a man tumbles from a height into the water, he is likely to be half-stunned -- yet he must swim to save his life.

That seems to be the situation of the labor movement in California today. It is half-stunned by sudden, tragic events at home and abroad -- and yet it must act courageously, militantly, to save its existence.

We are faced today with invasion and demolition of everything labor and liberals have fought for. The Associated Farmers told the whole story in one furious blast. Following swiftly on the heels of the Governor's announcement that he was forming a California Defense Council, the gentlemen who control the Associated Farmers announced that they were quietly forming a total of 50,000 men to deal with the "fifth column."

"Fifth Column" Means Labor

We know what the record of the Associated Farmers stands for. The records of the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee tells the tale. This group has always stood for anti-labor, anti-civil liberties vigilantism. It stands for it today. And when it says it is organizing against the "fifth column", it means that it is organizing, under the hysterical phraseology now sweeping the country, against labor and labor's rights!

Labor's enemies have found the war a heaven-sent opportunity to spy and to intimidate under the guise of patriotic duty. Many a union worker, in the past few weeks, has listened to his or her employer say: "You'd better watch out now. You'd better get out of your silly little union. This nation is practically at war, and

we're going to bust the unions like nothing at all!" The number of such incidents in California is too numerous to count.

#### No Time To Pull The Ostrich Stunt

With the entire structure of unionism hanging in the balance; with the right to strike, to organize and bargain collectively being taken away already, piece by piece, this is no time for union men and women to go sticking their heads in the sand and hoping no one will kick what remains above ground.

Our unions were organized, won some semblance of a decent life for their members because of vigilant, militant action. We're in a beef now -- the beef of war or peace. Comes war and we lose. We know that. And this is a beef that cannot be won on the picket line. It can only be won through political action.

Contracts, wage scales, hours and conditions CAN BE MAINTAINED. Peace can be maintained. But you can only do it through your political expression. A hundred strikes wouldn't make a particle of difference now, except that very shortly you'd find yourselves in prison for exercising that right. What counts now is the strength of your political organization.

#### Let's Get Our Heads Up!

In California the picture follows so closely the national pattern that it is difficult today to distinguish national news from state news. There is a raging war hysteria on Capitol Hill at Washington, D.C., and "under the dome" at Sacramento.

The last week of the special session of the Legislature was sickening. To wave after wave of applause, reactionary Assemblymen damned as "fifth columnists" the brave unionists who refused to testify before the Yorty committee. Did Sam Yorty California's "little Dies", tell the legislators that he was peeved because these unionists, members of the State, County and Municipal Workers of America, had refused to produce their union records and thus expose their memberships to the blacklist? Not Yorty. What he told the Assembly was that these dangerous social workers were Communists, and had refused to admit it to his committee. He admitted that some who refused were perhaps not Communists, but said that they all ought to be fired anyway and asked the Legislature to pass a retroactive law to have them all kicked out of their jobs.

#### League Action Helped

Representatives of LNPL and the Workers' Alliance went to Sacramento in an attempt to beat down the kind of relief desired by the Associated Farmers and other reactionary interests and secure passage of decent relief legislation. These representatives found the few liberals left in the Legislature so discouraged and intimidated by the raucous, self-confident majority that it was difficult, at first, to get them to take a strong stand.

When they felt, however, that the labor movement and its organizations still stood by them, they rallied. Under the leadership of Assemblyman Maurice Atkinson of Long Beach, to whom LNPL had presented its ideas on relief, they drafted a liberal relief bill. It was knocked down, of course, but during the fight some of the worst features of Senate Bill No. 90, pet creation of Senator John Phillips, also got defeated.

Out went the strikebreaking clause, which would have forced a relief client to accept any work offered, regardless of wages or working conditions. Out also went the section making California a "foreign nation", and requiring all SRA workers to have been residents of this state for five years. Discarded likewise was the wording in the five-year residence clause for relief clients prohibiting them from obtaining aid if they had received assistance from any source other than legally responsible relatives. The bill passed was bad enough, but it would have been much worse had LNPL not been on the job.

As Senator Phillips said, his committee could have cut off \$5,000,000 more from the insufficient appropriation finally passed, "but (with a glance at the LNPL and Workers' Alliance representatives) we wanted to be generous."!

### The Democratic Youth Federation

The young people of California, through the California Youth Legislature and the Young Democrats, have been fighting hard for labor and liberalism on the political front. A hard fight always creates controversy, and controversy is something the Young Democrats had plenty of at their annual state convention two weeks ago.

After three days of struggle in committees over the undemocratic ouster of 17 clubs, which represented the balance of power, the convention finally convened. On the first roll-call vote the convention split on the question of program and interorganizational democratic rights. The progressive groups, comprising about two-thirds of the delegates, immediately formed a new organization, the Democratic Youth Federation. Their initial meeting was addressed by an officer of LNPL, who offered them the full cooperation of the League. They responded by adopting a platform demanding protection of labor's rights and opposing war.

### The Man On The Flying Trapeze

Lieutenant-Governor Ellis E. Patterson, in making the principal speech at the Young Democrats' convention, performed one of the finest somersaults ever witnessed in the political or circus rings. The man who climbed on the Olson-McAdooless Ickes "harmony" bandwagon after informing LNPL he would keep off of it; the man who claimed he had "learned a thing or two" and got off that slate to lead an un instructed anti-war slate; the man who accepted a program drafted at a convention of liberals opposed to the war policies of Roosevelt -- turned right around and tried to rush back into the camp he had deserted.

His speech to the Young Democrats was painful to hear. He warned against the dangers of war, against hysteria -- and then proceeded to plug for meddling in Europe, seizure of foreign territory, and (by inference) for the use of the FBI for super-snooping and labor spy work.

A few days later Patterson cleared up the contradictions of his speech, making a public statement in which he dropped the liberal guise and came out plainly as a warmonger.

### SAN FRANCISCO LABOR HITS BIG BUSINESS AS REAL "FIFTH COLUMN"

100,000 AFL workers, through their elected representatives to the San Francisco Central Labor Council, largest such council on the Pacific Coast, have declared that labor is not the "fifth column" but that its enemies are. The resolution was introduced by Council President Jack Shelly, also a State Senator. It was adopted unanimously, and reads in part:

"Refusal of the San Francisco Employers Council to submit to arbitration issues of wages and hours can be regarded only as a strategic move on the part of these organizations to maneuver labor into a position where it will once more be criticized and labeled as a 'fifth column' seeking to destroy the industrial security of the community.

"In effect, it is those who refuse the use of such machinery as has been established for the peaceful settlement of issues, and who are unable to substitute any other equitable and legitimate methods in lieu thereof, who are actually the 'Fifth column' and subversive influences which are eating at the heart of our country's welfare today.

"We go on record as opposing all attempts of employer groups or employers individually or collectively to use this situation to the advantage of those who wish to restrict the rights of labor."

### Eureka Council Too

The Eureka Federated Trades and Labor Council, representing 25 organized crafts, has also passed a resolution "warning against war psychology which is being created at this time and opposing unstintingly any American participation into the European conflict on either side."

THE NATIONAL PICTURE

A weird raz-ma-taz is going on in Washington that bodes ill to every American working man and woman. Closest to home for Californians is HR 9766, by Democrat Allen of Louisiana, which would deport Harry Bridges. It is a bill of attainder, expressly forbidden by the Constitution as the result of the sad experiences of our forefathers before they left England centuries ago. A bill of attainder is repugnant because it harms or punishes an individual by legislative fiat without a judicial trial. In this case it is particularly offensive because Harry Bridges has been acquitted of all charges by one of the highest legal authorities in America and after a lengthy trial. If Congress gets away with this, a precedent will be set under which no individual in America is safe.

The Bridges deportation bill is rightfully seen by labor as another attempt by reactionary forces to destroy unionism by striking at its leadership. By parliamentary maneuvering the Bill has been shuttled back and forth, but is now in the Immigration Committee.

Write to Hiram Johnson, member of the Immigration Committee of the Senate; to Sheridan Downey and to the President, asking them to defeat this frenzied legislation. A personal letter from you will mean a great deal.

Other Body Blows At Labor

But the Bridges Bill isn't all. There are bills now being rushed through Congress taking all Labor regulations off of naval shipbuilding and other Government construction; abolishing the safeguards of the Walsh-Healy Act, which provides that holders of Government contracts must obey the labor laws; restricting the unions in their choice of negotiators; amending the Wagner Act so it will be a weapon, not a friend, of labor; striking at labor and civil liberties by refusing work to members of unpopular political minorities on WPA, in interstate commerce and in Federal civil service.

The right to strike for higher wages is threatened by U.S. Senators. The U.S. Administrator of the Wages and Hours Act says he is going to exempt large groups of workers from the protection of the act.

Any labor safeguard which might be construed as impeding the sudden "speed-up" for national defense is being tossed out the window.

And meantime, legislation has actually been introduced to TAKE OFF THE PROFIT LIMITATION on munitions and war weapons.

On the face of it, the legislative record Congress is now madly writing spells more work (though for no more people), less real wages, more suffering for labor --and more millionaires!

There's only one way to beat this game-- organized to vote wise! Get busy now -- before it is too late -- in Labor's Non-Partisan League.

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WHAT YOU CAN DO.

1. Start a Chain Letter for Peace.
2. Write to your Congressmen and Senators.
3. Write in to the people's columns of your daily newspapers.
4. Send us the names of those who should be receiving the "LNPL News."
5. Send in nickles, dimes and quarters so that this bulletin can come out regularly in the future --

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800 copies of this issue of the "LNPL NEWS" is going to persons all over the First Congressional District.

Let's make it 8,000 !

Uncle Sam wants cash on the line for stamps; so if you want to know what's going on and want others to know too, it's up to you.

Send communications and contributions to Labor's Non-Partisan League, 236 D St., Eureka, California.

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