



LOCAL VOICES

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May – June 2010

UAW Local 2209, PO Box 579, Roanoke, IN 46783

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GETTELFINGER EXPLAINS TRADE INEQUALITIES AT CONFERENCE

On March 10, UAW President Ron Gettelfinger spoke at the 64th Annual Indiana University Business Conference in Indianapolis. The theme of this year's conference was "Remaking America: New Strategies for Exceptional Times." He spoke on a number of topics relating to the theme. Excerpted here is a portion of his speech relating to trade policies and manufacturing:



President Ron Gettelfinger

"We also need a new approach to international trade to create a high-road path to economic growth for workers and employers. We support trade as long as it is fair trade. Consider this one example: In 2009, in a bottomed out auto market, imports of Korean automotive products in the U.S. were valued at \$8.4 billion, while U.S. exports of similar products to Korea amounted to only \$492 million. Also, last year, Korea exported 476,833 passenger

vehicles to the United States, while all U.S. producers were allowed to export only 5,878 vehicles to Korea. Another way of saying this is the deficit in automotive products now accounts for 75 percent of our overall trade deficit with Korea.

Historically, Korea has kept its market almost completely closed to U.S.-built automotive products, as well as automotive products from other nations. It does this through a combination of tariff and non-tariff barriers such as safety, emissions and other technical standards.

Korea's market has one of the lowest levels of import penetration — 4.4 percent — of any major automotive producing economy in the world — second only to Japan which has a 3.9 percent level of import penetration. Despite previous agreements between the United States and Korea in which Korea promised to eliminate its barriers, the Korean market is still shielded from any significant competition.

Korea is one of a number of striking examples that could

be used. However, there is hope in the area of trade practices but it comes about because the negative impact on our economy is looking us squarely in the eye....

There are other things we can do to help get this nation moving again.... It starts with enacting a manufacturing policy that invests in the factories, technology, skills and infrastructure essential for a robust, competitive industrial economy.

The decline of manufacturing in our country poses a serious threat to both our nation's economic and national security. In the last several decades, we've witnessed the exodus of our industries from clothing and computers, to cameras, cell phones and semiconductors.

The rapid relocation of manufacturing from the U.S. to China and other low-wage countries is now accompanied by a transfer of our technological capabilities. Foreign manufacturers are quickly shifting their design and R&D functions to China. So much so, in fact, that China has now surpassed the U.S. in technological standing according to Georgia Tech's biennial "High-Tech Indicators" study.

Couple this with the alarming decline of our machine-tool industry -- long considered essential to maintaining our national security -- and it should come as no surprise that we are quickly losing our capacity to supply our own military with ammunition and other essential armaments, as well as our ability to develop the defense technologies of the future.

Manufacturing also matters; not just because it's a source of good-paying, family-supporting jobs, but

because those jobs create a ladder to the middle class. Because manufacturing jobs create other jobs, they provide a stable tax base that contributes to stronger communities."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- P. 2** Unit #1 Shop Chair report
- P. 4** The man with the golden pen
- P. 6** Reuther assassination attempt
- P. 7** March of Dimes recap
- P. 9** Unions didn't tank economy
- P. 10** Gov. Daniels' flip-flop
- P. 11** Two appointed to NLRB

Chairman's Report Unit #1

Third Shift



Photo by Mark Gevaert

I would like to welcome all the new 900 plus members to UAW Local 2209. With a membership of over 3000 it makes us stronger.

With the notification that Fort Wayne Assembly would

be adding a 3rd shift a great deal of hard work and effort went into making the necessary changes by May 3rd. Now it is a reality, and with this reality an election will be held for committee/alternate persons. Our Election Committee (per UAW Local 2209 By-Laws) will meet and bring a

recommendation to the June membership meeting as to time and date of the vote. Adding the 3rd shift will require 1st and 2nd shift to be redistrict per Paragraph 10 of the National Agreement. Please check UAW bulletin boards and the local website at www.local2209.org for complete information.

I would like to thank all the facilitators for their hard work and dedication getting all our new members through orientation in such a short period of time. Thanks also go out to the two UAW ADAPT Representatives, Janet Vollenhalls and Pat McGee, for all their hard work with the massive task of job placement and postings. A "great job" done by all.

I'd like to say thank you to all the Bargaining Committee for all of their hard work and dedication while serving this membership.

In Solidarity,
Mark Orr



Red Cross Blood Drive

When: Wednesday June 16

Times to accommodate all three shifts
12:45 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.
7:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
3:45 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Where: General Assembly and Paint/Body cafeteria areas

Team coordinators should have already canvassed their team to see who is interested in donating for this important drive.

Our Editorial Policy

To our readers: This newspaper is the voice of your local and international union. This is our only vehicle for bringing to you, on a regular basis, the views of the leaders you elected, so you can evaluate them.

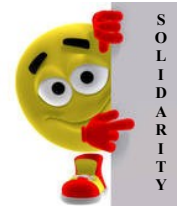
The newspaper also is the voice of the membership. We welcome articles from UAW members and stories about members.

All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of this union and its members.

We will accept no attacks on any union leader or member. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues in the letters column.

We reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the union and its policies.

Thanks for your support, and we look forward to hearing from you.



Financial Report

February 2010

Beginning Balance	\$
Income	\$
Total Expenses	\$
Account Balance	\$

Financial Report

March 2010

Beginning Balance	\$
Income	\$
Total Expenses	\$
Account Balance	\$

DEADLINE

for the July - August issue of
LOCAL VOICES
is Friday June 18, 2010.

Submissions should be turned in to Darlene at the union hall or emailed to:

news-editor@local2209.org

As a Missouri native, I am an admirer of another Missouri-born president - Harry S. Truman. He popularized such phrases as "The buck stops here" and "If you can't stand the heat, you better get out of the kitchen." I recently ran across an address that President Truman gave while on the campaign trail in 1948. So much of it rings true today that I thought that I would share it with you.

"Today the forces of liberalism face a crisis. The people of the United States must make a choice between two ways of living—a decision, which will affect us the rest of our lives and our children and our grandchildren after us.

On the other side, there is the Wall Street way of life and politics. Trust the leader! Let big business take care of prices and profits! Measure all things by money! That is the philosophy of the masters of the Republican Party. Well, I have been studying the Republican Party for over 12 years at close hand in the Capital of the United States. And by this time, I have discovered where the Republicans stand on most of the major issues.

Since they won't tell you themselves, I am going to tell you.

They approve of American farmer-but they are willing to help him go broke. They stand four-square for the American home—but not for housing.

They are strong for labor—but they are stronger for restricting labor's rights.

They favor a minimum wage—the smaller the minimum the better.

They indorse educational opportunity for all—but they won't spend money for teachers for school.

They think modern medical care and hospitals are fine—for people who can afford them

They approve of social security benefits -so much so that they took them away from almost a million people.

They believe in international trade—so much so that they crippled our reciprocal trade program, and skilled our International Wheat Agreement.

They favor the admission of the displace persons—but only within shameful racial and religious limitations.

They consider electric power a great blessing-but only when the private power companies get their rake-off

They say TVA is wonderful—but we ought never to try it again.

They condemn "cruelly high prices"—but fight to the death every effort to bring them down.

They think the American standard of living is a fine thing—so long as it doesn't spread to all the people.

And they admire the Government of the United States

so much that they would like to buy it.

Now, my friends, that is the Wall Street Republican way of life. But there is another way—there is another way—the Democratic way, the way of the Democratic Party.

Of course, the Democratic Party is not perfect. Nobody ever said it was. But the Democratic Party believes in the people. It believes in freedom and progress, and it is fighting for its beliefs right now.

In the Democratic Party, you won't find the kind of unity where everybody thinks what the boss tells him to think and nothing else.

But you will find a overriding purpose to work for the good of mankind. And you will find a program-a concrete, realistic, and practical program that is worth believing in the fight for.

Now, I call on all liberals and progressives to stand up and be counted for democracy in this great battle. I call on the old Farmer-labor Party, the old Wisconsin Progressives, the Non-Partisan Leaguers, and the New Dealers to stand up be counted in this fight.

This is one fight you must get in with every ounce of strength you have. After November 2nd, it will be too late. It will do no good to change your mind on November 3rd. The decision is right here and now.

Against us we have the best propaganda campaign that money can buy.

But we are bound to win—and we are going to win, because we are right! I am here to tell you that in this fight, the people are with us.

With a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress, you will have the right kind of unity in this country.

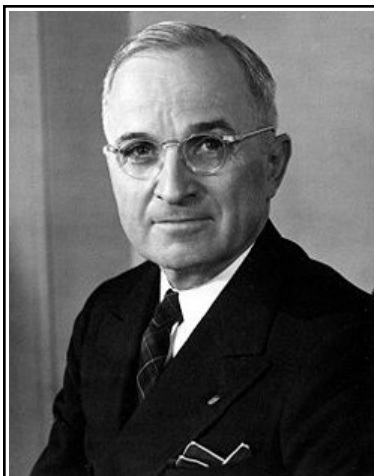
We will be unified once more on the great program of social advance, which the Democratic Party pioneered in 1933.

We will be unified in support of farm cooperatives, rural electrification, and soil conservation. We will be unified behind a housing program.

We will be unified on the question of the rights of labor and collective bargaining. We will be unified for the expansion of social security, the improvement of our educational system, and the expansion of medical aid. Moreover, we will be unified in our efforts to preserve our prosperity and to spread its benefits equally to all groups in the National.

Now, my friends, with such unity as this, we can secure the blessings of freedom for ourselves and our children.

With such unity as this, we can fulfill our God-given responsibility in leading the world to a lasting peace."



*President Harry S. Truman
served from April 12, 1945,
to January 20, 1953.*

RETIREES

We Wish You Well

Mildred Collette
Dan Mc Daniel
Terry Jackson
John LaBelle
Andrew Losinski
Johnny Ray Martin
Michael J. Martin
Susan Rhodes
Richard Schuckman
Larry Yant



Attention Veterans

Please take a moment to look at our Veterans' Memorial Wall in the General Assembly atrium. If you are a veteran and do not see your name, please contact your committeeperson and we will be sure to get a plaque ordered for you.

The Veterans Committee

Our standing committees are still looking for dedicated people to join with other members to make a difference. flexible. Stop at the hall and fill out an application and become involved.

Len Maydwell earns JG Golden Pen Award

Each month the Fort Wayne *Journal Gazette* honors a letter to the editor writer with the Golden Pen Award. The award is given as an appreciation for the contributions the letter writers make to the paper's editorial page. Maydwell received a gold-plated inscribed pen for his efforts. This was his second golden pen honor from the paper. The newest award-winning letter is included here.

About the writer

Len Maydwell, whose letter appeared February 14, was selected by the *Journal Gazette* editors as the most effective letter to the editor during February. Maydwell works as an electrician in the Body Shop on 2nd shift.

Maydwell wrote his first letter to the editor while in junior high. He continues to write letters on "anything that strikes a chord."

He wrote his letter to the editor because he and one of his sons have respiratory issues that are aggravated by secondhand smoke. "It's disheartening to us to notice the number of places we can't go to because there is smoking," he said. Maydwell was particularly troubled by Sen. David Long's recent comments justifying his vote against a statewide smoking ban. "To tell me protecting my health is bad for business – that was the wrong thing to say."

Not banning smoking is bad for business

Regarding the story by Niki Kelly "Senate chief rejects smoking ban" (Feb. 4): State Senate President Pro Tem David Long "doused," as Kelly wrote, the likelihood of a statewide ban, concluding that improving indoor-air quality and protecting Hoosiers' health is "bad for business in a tough economy."

The assumption that smokers will refuse to enter places covered by the smoking ban overlooks the glaring fact that smokers make up only about 26 percent of the Hoosier population. It's important to note that when employers implement smoking bans, not one employee refuses to go to work because of it. Instead, we elect to enter our workplaces, ban or no ban.

As opposed to running scared from the empty assumption that smokers will refuse to patronize non-smoking establishments, Long would better serve the state by considering that the majority of his constituents are non-smokers, and many of us refuse to patronize establishments that allow smoking indoors. He should focus on the majority of his constituency when considering what's "bad for business in a tough economy."



Len Maydwell not only writes a thoughtful and concise letter to the editor, but can also snap his own photo. The editor thanks him for doing this for us.

RECYCLE this paper. Pass it on to a non-union acquaintance.

International Executive Board Retirements Loom Large

The 35th Constitutional Convention in Detroit this June will see the end of the careers of three members of the UAW International Board. Replacement of

these three officers will be one item on the agenda at the convention. Our delegates will vote for the new president and other executive officers.



Ron Gettelfinger was elected to a second term as president of the UAW on June 14, 2006, at the UAW's 34th Constitutional Convention in Las Vegas.

For six years he served as the elected director of UAW Region 3, which represents UAW members in Indiana and Kentucky, before being elected a UAW vice president in 1998. A member of UAW Local 862 since 1964, Gettelfinger is proud to be called a chassis line repairman.

Ron is a graduate of Indiana University. He and his wife, Judy, are the proud parents of two adult children, and they also have four grandchildren.



Elizabeth Bunn was elected to a second term as secretary-treasurer of the UAW — the highest post held by a woman in the union's history — on June 14, 2006, at the

34th Constitutional Convention in Las Vegas.

She was initially appointed in 1985 by then-UAW President Owen Bieber as an associate general counsel of the UAW assigned to the President's Office.

As a member of the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO, Bunn has been an eloquent voice for the interests of industrial workers in auto and other industries.



Cal Rapson was elected to a second term as a vice president of the UAW on June 14, 2006, at the union's 34th Constitutional Convention in Las Vegas.

Rapson directs the UAW's General Motors and Delphi Departments.

Rapson has been a UAW member since 1965 when he joined Local 659 at the Chevrolet Engine plant in Flint, Michigan. He is a graduate of the UAW-GM apprenticeship program and holds a machine repair/machinist skilled trades journeyman's card.

His motto is, "Never give up."

Biography information for these three is from the www.uaw.org website.



UAW-GM NIGHTS with the Fort Wayne Tincaps 2010

UAW-GM and the Fort Wayne Tincaps are partnering to promote UAW-GM Nights at Parkview Field throughout the 2010 season. On these nights, UAW members and GM employees can pre-order tickets at an exclusive discount of \$1.50 off the regular ticket price.

Available 2010 Game Dates

Monday May 24th at 7:05 p.m.

Family Feast Night featuring Hot Dogs, Small Fountain Drinks, Popcorn and more for only \$1.00!

Thursday June 17th at 7:05 p.m.

Post-Game Fireworks and Thirsty Thursday featuring \$1.00 domestic draft beer and other \$2.00 specials!

Monday July 12th at 7:05 p.m.

Post-Game Fireworks and Family Feast Night featuring select concession items for only \$1.00!

Monday August 9th at 7:05 p.m.

Family Feast Night featuring Hot Dogs, Small Fountain Drinks, Popcorn and more for only \$1.00!

Saturday September 4th at 7:05 p.m.

Post-Game Fireworks display and an appearance by *QuickChange* (as seen on *America's Got Talent*)!

*To take advantage of this great special, pick up a flyer at the hall with the ticket order form or call the Fort Wayne Tincaps box office at (260) 482-6400. Tickets are priced at \$6.50 for this promotion. **Deadline to order tickets is ten (10) days prior to desired game date.***



WALTER REUTHER

Leader Activist Visionary

When ruffians instead of crab rangoon arrived at the apartment door of Walter and May Reuther on April 9, 1938, the surprise encounter demonstrated that Walter was a "marked man." The knock on the door was expected to be the arrival of Chinese take-out, but instead it became two goons with guns whose purpose was to grab Walter and remove him from the apartment. However, Walter and the other ten people in the apartment had a different idea. Broken lamps, flying pickle jars and Walter fending off blows from a blackjack describes just part of the action. Fortunately with all of the commotion, one of Walter and May's guests snuck out a window and roused the neighborhood with shouts of "Help! Help!" The two intruders made a hasty retreat when the cry for assistance drew a crowd. Walter came out of the attack without any serious injuries, but both he and his brother Victor eventually secured permits to carry guns as protection. However, this was not to be the last shot to harm Walter. An assassination attempt ten years later would have much more serious consequences.

Walter's decision to park his car in front of the house rather than in back quite possibly saved his life on the night of April 20, 1948. He was returning home late from a UAW Executive Board meeting. He greeted May and settled in to eat his dinner, which had been kept warm for his arrival. While retrieving a bowl of peaches from the refrigerator, he turned toward May just as the shotgun blast ripped through the kitchen window. Because he had turned slightly, his right arm rather than his chest took most of the impact of the Double O buckshot and probably saved his life. Moreover, if Walter had entered the house through the back door as usual, he surely would have walked right into the assassin's trap. Now a bloody mess on the floor, his right arm ravaged from the four pellets that nearly severed it from his body, Walter still remained conscious. Angry and anguished, he called out, "Those dirty bastards! They have to shoot a fellow in the back. They won't come out in the open and fight!"

Quick actions by May and one of their neighbors surely saved his life and his arm. May called the police and an ambulance. The neighbor secured the help of Dr. Angelo V. Lenzi, who was also a neighbor. Morphine was

administered to Walter. However, memories of the industrial accident when he lost his toe rushed back into his head. He pleaded to Dr. Lenzi to not let anyone amputate his arm. Two and a half hours of surgery at New Grace Hospital saved Walter's life and his arm. He

was given three pints of blood and one pint of plasma during the surgery. These transfusions complicated issues even further because he became sick with both malaria and hepatitis. His upper body was put in a cast and his arm suspended in a traction apparatus.

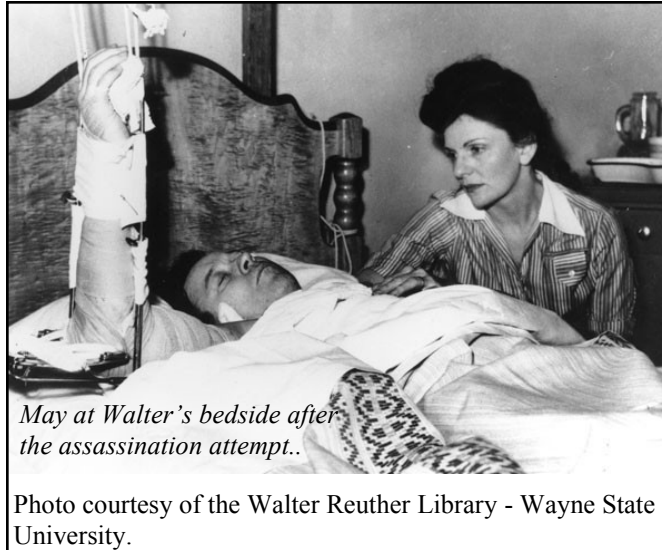
Family came to the hospital from as far away as West Virginia. Walter's mother was deeply disturbed by the shooting. She tried to coax him into leaving the union while she sat at his bedside. He responded, "No, I must do what I'm doing; it's bigger than I am, and we can't run away from it." To show his resolve despite the attempt on his life, he released a statement to the press, which in part stated: "The momentum and power of our new kind of labor movement cannot be stopped and thrown back by slugs from a shotgun. The social and economic

democracy for which we struggle...cannot be clouded or killed by assaults on one man." The assassination attempt forced changes for the leader of the UAW. A bullet-proof Packard was purchased by the union. The family moved to a new house thirty-five miles north of Detroit. Bodyguards became constant companions. Additionally, his brother Victor was also shot thirteen months later and lost an eye because of a shotgun blast. Over \$200,000 was offered as reward money in these two shootings. This amount was the

largest reward in the history of the United States. No one was ever brought to justice for the crimes.

Life went on for Walter. More surgeries on the arm to repair nerve damage and endless physical therapy helped him to regain some use of hand and arm. However, it was not the last attempt on his life. Thirty-nine sticks of dynamite were discovered near the rear entrance of the UAW headquarters in 1949 after an anonymous tip was phoned into a newspaper. A reporter's call to the headquarters prompted the search, which led to the detection of the explosives. Fortunately, a heavy rain had extinguished the fuses. What could not be extinguished was the incredible desire of Walter Reuther to accomplish goals of the UAW in the years following these attempts on his life.

Kirk Swenson
Newspaper staff



May at Walter's bedside after the assassination attempt..

Photo courtesy of the Walter Reuther Library - Wayne State University.

Spring is upon us and summer is right around the corner! The Union Label Committee would like you to remember, when you are sprucing up your home and lawn this season, to look for the Union Label.

Listed below are many brands of air conditioners and other items you may need to maintain your lawn/home. This is only a partial list, so if there is any other item that you are having difficulty finding, try an internet search or contact a member of the Union Label Committee.

Air Conditioners

American Standard
General Electric
Goodman Manufacturing
Trane
York International

Home Improvement

United Window & Door

Above Ground Pools

Pool King

Pool Accessories

Aqua Chem

Lawn Mowers

John Deere
Simplicity
Toro

Lawn Care

Ames Company (rakes)



In Solidarity, The Union Label Committee

Members involved in March of Dimes' March for Babies

A recent Fort Wayne *Journal Gazette* article describes the tragic truth with this sentence: "Indiana has some of the highest infant mortality rates in the nation, and for black babies in Allen County the rate has been comparable to that of developing countries." Helping babies is why Local 2209's involvement with March of Dimes goes back over 10 years. Plaques from the organization line the wall of the hallway in the office area at our local. This year, a \$3,500 donation from our General Fund helped sponsor the March for Babies event. The recent gate collection contributed another \$1950.25 to the organization. The Local 2209 walking team collected and donated another \$600. An estimated \$93,000 was raised to help improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

As we have for the last number of years, members and retirees volunteered to help set-up, work registration and other duties for the annual March of Dimes event. One of our members, Cathy Jordan, sang the "The Star Spangled Banner" to open the day's festivities.

Another member's family was selected as the Ambassador Family for the Fort Wayne event. Brett Molitor (Planned Maintenance Program Coordinator) and his wife, Reggie, recently welcomed two new members to their family. The twins were born 11 weeks premature. The Molitors now fully realize the contributions that the March of Dimes makes to preemies like their daughters in the form of education for health professionals and funding of neonatal research.

Thanks go out to our volunteers who helped make the March for Babies a success. They include Greg Bedford, Mickey Benton, Lee Briedienstien, Cathy Calzadillas, Jermail Craig, Deb Goldsmith, Sheryl Griffin, Ronnie Hampton, Danelle Hoffman, Guy Jackson, Cathy Jordan, Ralph Magana, Brenda Marshall, Mike McClain, Larry McDowell, Todd McKibben, Amy Richardson, Bill Robinson, Sharon Sasser and Gwen Winston.

Mark Gevaart, Newspaper staff



Photo by Mark Gevaart

Unit #2 Chairperson Mike McClain leads the warm-up at Headwaters Park before the event kicked into gear. Mike is a nurse in the Medical Dept. at the plant. He works 2nd shift.



Photo by Todd McKibben



Photo by Mark Gevaart

Everyone is all smiles just prior to the walk. L to R: Reggie Molitor, Jessica and Michael. In the stroller are Alexis and Delaney or is it Delaney and Alexis??



It's The Banks, Stupid—And Us, And...

By Stuart Kauffman

In 2007 something like 25% of total US corporate profit was in one industry - the financial industry that makes no mops, drives no trucks, builds no ships. Do we need banks, including those large enough for national and international business? Of course. But how big is big enough? Is there big enough below the "too big to fail" level? Would reducing the sizes of our dwindling number of vast banks reduce their undue influence on Congress? Smaller banks can make the same mistakes and failed during the Great Depression, but at least are not likely to spend \$120,000,000 lobbying the House and Senate Finance Committees.

But why so much profit? Mike Brown, former Chairman of NASDAQ has permitted me to give his theory. Fast cycles. Suppose it takes you fifteen years to conceive of a new business and bring it to success for an Initial Public Offering or to sell the company and realize your earnings for your 60 hour weeks. Now consider making the same money in a few hours of millisecond trading via a hedge fund on Wall Street. Brown's argument is that money flows from long to short cycles for earning money.



The answers would seem to be beyond regulation. The Obama Administration is seriously considering a high tax on the profits of big banks. That seems a very useful idea. If the big banks cannot so readily make vast profit, maybe money will flow back to Main Street. Perhaps the sprawling, egregious influence of the same banks over our public life will dwindle. That seems a good idea, since, now, thanks to the Supreme Court, they are legally individuals whose money is free speech.

It is time for We the People to rise up and speak. Loudly, now. Benjamin Franklin was right, We The People will get the government we deserve.

The financial crisis is poised to proliferate again. The banks, in particular the too big to fail big banks, continue their activities largely unchecked. Profits in the financial sector were about 25% of total corporate profits in 2007. That flood of money is needed on Main Street, not Wall Street. It is time for We The People to speak.

This article is part of a longer piece from the 13.7: Cosmos and Culture blog project. This project is hosted by National Public Radio at <http://www.npr.org/>

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

There is a 12-Step meeting on 2nd shift during the lunch break every work night. The meeting is held in the back of the General Assembly cafeteria area.

Marcia Gensler - 2nd shift E.A.P. / Work Family Rep
Questions: In the plant call 2011

Wild Game Feed / Solidarity Dance Thanks

The Recreation and Conservation Committee would like to thank everyone for making this year's event another to remember. Without the volunteers who gave their time and the food providers who furnished the numerous dishes and desserts, the committee would not be able to pull it off so successfully. Additional thanks to all who provided the wild game as this is what makes the event so special. Keep a look out for the date of next year's event in these pages and plan on attending.

Bus Riders Wanted

Arrangements are ongoing to secure 54 riders for a coach bus to travel from Fort Wayne Assembly to Janesville, Wisconsin, at the end of 3rd shift on Friday mornings. The bus would return to the plant on Sunday. The bus can only be hired once 54 paying customers commit. For more info call Al Knutson at 608-921-9865 or Jim O'Leary at 608-290-9704.



Unions Didn't Tank Economy

By Harry J. Holzer

Conservatives are attacking labor unions and President Barack Obama's relationship with them. The charges? Unions are corrupt and engage in "thuggery"; they destroy jobs and the economy; and Obama is increasingly "in the tank for the labor movement" and has ruined his signature initiatives by kowtowing to them.

The notion that a single pro-union provision in the Senate health-care bill destroyed its public support is silly. Clearly, Republican demagoguery about the bill -- including charges of "death panels" and "socialized medicine" -- were vastly more destructive to public support than the exemption from the "Cadillac tax" for union members.

Conservatives are very upset about union financial contributions to the Democrats and Obama. But they aren't so outraged at the enormous reliance of Republicans on contributions from the business sector and the wealthy. And when George W. Bush's administration rewarded these contributors with huge tax cuts that were never paid for and that wiped out our nation's fiscal balance, they didn't seem to be so troubled.

A lot is written about union corruption, especially among the Teamsters. But whatever sins some Teamsters have committed, tarring the entire movement with such charges because of one union is akin to claiming all business leaders are corrupt due to Bernard Madoff. "Thuggery" and violence are prominent parts of American labor history, but most of it has been perpetrated by employers and their cronies against pro-union workers.

Perhaps the weakest of these arguments are those on unions and the economy: Unions invariably lead to lower employment, higher rates of business failure, and lower economic growth. Economic analysis implies a complex relationship between union wages and employment. It depends on a range of things, including how competitive the markets are in which the company operates; how flexible its production techniques and locations are; how collective bargaining affects workers' skills and productivity as well as management's human-resource policies; and the strength of demand for workers in the nonunion sector.

If markets are less than fully competitive, if alternative modes of production are limited, if unions generate more skilled and productive workers, or if nonunion demand is strong enough to absorb any workers displaced by unions, economic analysis predicts unions won't reduce employment by very much or at all.

For decades, economists have researched these issues, and a substantial body of evidence has emerged. Without a doubt, unions raise the wages and benefits of their workers and tend to reduce economic inequality. The increase in economic inequality in America over the past three decades was at least partially caused by the decline in private-sector union coverage.

Beyond that, evidence shows unions reduce costly worker turnover, raise the skill levels of employees, and often lead to more productivity. And any negative union effects on employment or economic growth in the U.S. and abroad are mostly modest.

Unions aren't to blame for recent firm closures and bankruptcies. Richard Freeman, of Harvard University, and Morris Kleiner, of the University of Minnesota, found no statistical effect of unionization on corporate-bankruptcy rates in a 1994 study. The U.S. economy destroys and creates millions of jobs each year, with tens of thousands of establishments closing and opening, often in the same industries. Little of this is driven by unions.

As an economist, I don't always agree with America's union movement, the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, and I wouldn't argue that union actions are always beneficial or costless. But a sensible discussion requires a careful, dispassionate look at the theory and evidence on unions -- rather than right-wing ideology and stereotypes dressed up as analysis.

Harry J. Holzer is a professor of public policy at Georgetown University and a former chief economist at the U.S. Labor Department. A version of this article was posted at Business Week online on March 2, 2010.

THANKS EVERYONE

Thanks to everyone who sent cards/money along with calls after my fall in January causing me to have elbow surgery and therapy. During this time period, I was forced to have 2 laser eye surgeries also.

Thanks again and with great appreciation to ALL!

Paul Gebert aka "Santa"
Body Shop 2nd shift

Scholarship Essay Deadline Approaching

There is still time to enter the Education Committee's Annual Scholarship Essay Contest. Pick up a packet from the union hall and return it by May 25. Two \$1000 scholarships will be awarded this year. This year's essay topic is: **The impact on a community when a large union manufacturer closes.**

Governor Daniels' Opposition to Auto Bailout Now in Reverse?

Dear Hoosier Democrat,

A great many Hoosiers are celebrating the wonderful news that General Motors will be adding hundreds of jobs to the automakers' Southern Indiana plant in Bedford. In addition, GM plants in Marion and Fort Wayne have also added hundreds of jobs.

As you recall, back in March of 2009 President Obama laid out a framework for General Motors to once again achieve economic viability. GM, one of the most recognizable and largest businesses in the world was one of the auto companies assisted through the President's Auto Restructuring Initiative.

Governor Mitch Daniels was never shy about his strong opposition to this plan and repeatedly spoke out against it, saying essentially that it was a waste of taxpayer money and would never succeed.

However, we are now seeing the beginnings of the resurgence of General Motors, as hundreds of jobs once thought to be lost are returning to the Hoosier state. And despite Governor Daniels' negative assertions about the Auto Restructuring Initiative, GM's Chief Financial Officer recently stated that remarkably, the company has a reasonable chance of turning a full-year profit in 2010.

What's ironic in all of this celebrated news is that Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman announced that she

is going to be joining with GM executives for today's job announcement event at the Bedford facility. Ironic in that the Governor's office has been so critical of this plan all along.

It appears that Mitch Daniels and his office want to revel in the benefits of the President's Auto Restructuring Initiative after being so strongly against it.

How can that be?

Mitch Daniels has been adamant and outspoken in his opposition of the Auto Restructuring plan. In fact, Daniels stated back in 2008 that he was "skeptical that Congress can help the struggling U.S. auto industry." And that "the only thing we know for certain is the way they've been doing business does not work and throwing taxpayer dollars after it won't make it work."

Governor Daniels could not be more wrong and is clearly trying to have it both ways on this issue.

He can't be against the Auto Restructuring Initiative - slamming it and the President's efforts on this front in the press, then send his Lt. Governor to a ceremony celebrating new jobs created by the New General Motors.

This email was sent on April 27, 2010, to people who are signed up to receive emails from the Indiana Democratic Party. - Editor

Report from a Tea Party Rally

Early yesterday morning, Valerie and Rob Shirk corralled their 10 home-schooled children into their van for the 2 1/2-hour drive from their home in Connecticut to Boston, arriving just in time to hear Sarah Palin denounce government-run health care at the tea party movement rally on Boston Common.

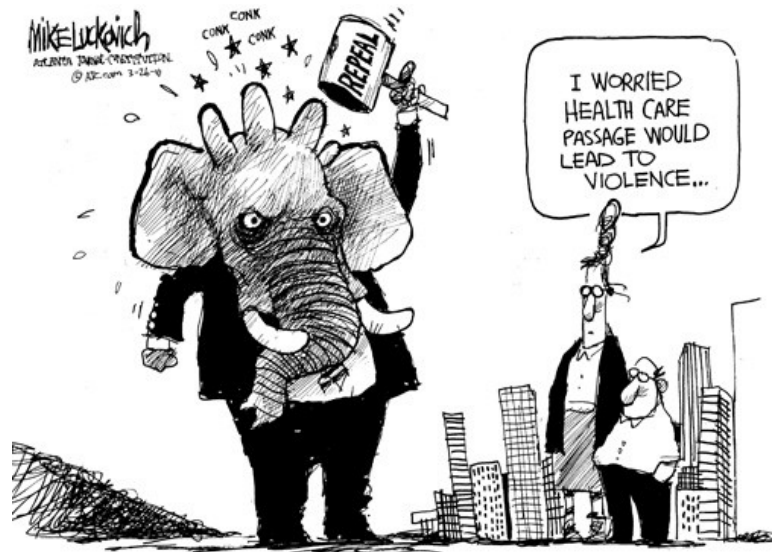
They thought it would be a learning opportunity for their children, who range in age from 9 months to 15 years old and who held up signs criticizing the government for defying the "will of the people."

"The problem in this country is that too many people are looking for handouts," said Valerie Shirk, 43, of Prospect, Conn. "I agree with the signs that say, 'Share my father's work ethic — not his paycheck.' We have to do something about the whole welfare mentality in this country."

For the Shirks, it was a day for their children to seek inspiration from Palin and the other speakers, who questioned Obama's patriotism and at least one of whom referred to him repeatedly as Barack Hussein.

The couple, who rely on Medicaid for their health care, were also upset about the nation's new health reforms.

When asked why her family used state-subsidized



health care when she criticized people who take handouts, Valerie Shirk said she did not want to stop having children, and that her husband's income was not enough to cover the family with private insurance.

"I know there's a dichotomy because of what we get from the state," she said. "But I just look at each of my children as a blessing."

Excerpted from The Boston Globe online article by David Abel posted on April 15, 2010.

OBAMA APPOINTS TWO TO NLRB

After waiting over 8 months for Senate confirmation, President Obama used the recess provision of the Constitution to appoint Craig Becker and Mark Pearce to serve on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) on March 27. The NLRB is the agency which administers the Labor Relations Act. The Act was signed into law nearly 75 years ago "to protect the rights of employees and employers, to encourage collective bargaining, and to curtail certain private sector labor and management practices, which can harm the general welfare of workers, businesses and the U.S. economy." The two newest board members were sworn in during the first week of April.

Craig Becker has served as Associate General Counsel to both the Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations. Mark Pearce was a founding partner of the Buffalo, New York law firm of Creighton, Pearce, Johnsen & Giroux, where he practiced union side labor and employment law before state and federal courts and agencies.

Both of these gentlemen have union-related backgrounds. Of course this ruffled the feathers of the Republican National Committee (RNC). The RNC response in the form of a research briefing titled, "Recess Appointment Of Becker Payback From Obama To His Union Paymasters, With More Job-Killing Bailouts To Come." was no surprise to those of us in labor. How quickly the Republicans forgot that President Bush used the recess appointment provision to appoint two members to the NLRB in 2002.

Our side had praise for the appointments. "When jobs are scarce, workers are often forced to endure unfair working conditions," said Kimberly Freeman Brown, executive director for American Rights at Work. "America's workers need a fully functioning NLRB to mediate their claims for better wages, benefits and other rights now more than ever -- and after two long years they have one." The five member board has been working short-handed for more than two years since three members left in December 2007.

Kirk Swenson, Newspaper staff

E-Board Donation Request Policy

In order to operate more efficiently and keep the membership informed regarding the financial expenditures of this local, I would like to implement the following policy:

- E-Board requests may be e-mailed to me **arayclark@aol.com** no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.
- Fax to (260-672-9220) or deliver to the union hall no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.
- Or e-mail our secretary Darlene Walker at **uaw2209dkw@verizon.net** no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (260) 672-2209. Thank you.

In Solidarity,
Andy Clark

Union Meeting Notice

The membership meeting in June will be held on Saturday June 19 at 11:00 a.m. All membership meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m. according to our by-laws. If production is scheduled for the day of the union meeting, the meeting will be held the following day (Sunday) at 1:00 p.m.

Thank You 2209 Bowlers

I wish to thank the bowlers from Local 2209 who participated in the 54th Annual UAW Region 3 Bowling Tournament held in New Castle, Indiana, on two weekends in February.

Region 3 Director
Mo Davidson

Mine Safety on the Mind: Think Union

Phil Smith, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Communications Director, cites safety provisions in their contracts – including job protection for miners who refuse unsafe work, and union members accompanying government inspectors – as some of the reasons for the two-thirds difference. Smith stated, "Workers who work in union mines are statistically less likely to be involved in fatal accidents than workers who are in a non-union situation."

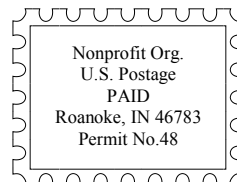
There also is mounting evidence that Massey Energy's fight with the UMWA could have figured into the conditions at Upper Big Branch. Smith says it was a union mine before Massey bought it, but the company ran what he calls "a difficult union-busting campaign," after which the UMWA lost a tie vote.

When Massey took over the mine, Smith says, seven out of ten miners there favored a union vote. He believes if the Employee Free Choice Act now being debated in Congress had been law, it would have been sufficient for the company to force recognition of the union.

From www.publicnewsservice.org

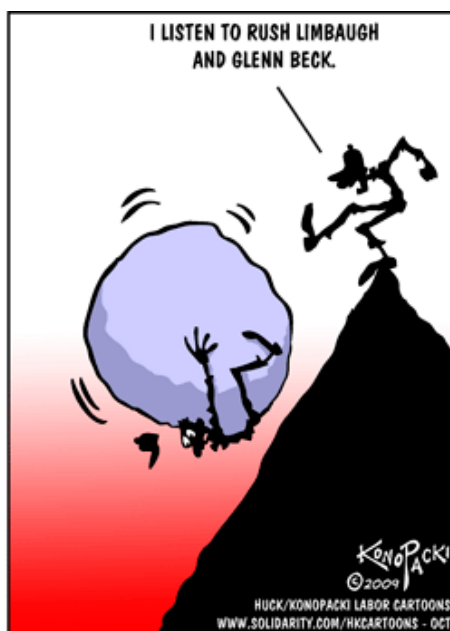
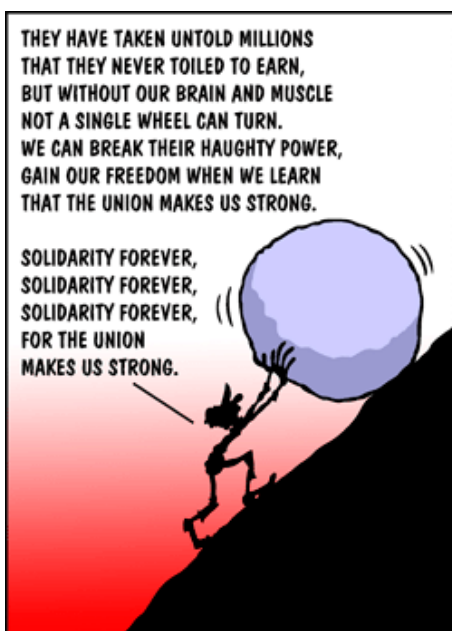


Layout and edit by:
Kirk Swenson &
Mark Gevaart.



Important union news
Do not delay

WE WELCOME THE NEW TRANSFERS TO 2209



As seen in *The Progressive*:

From AP: “Citizens United, the group at the center of the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark campaign finance ruling, has asked...the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign to change the name of its ‘Citizens United Against Citizens United’ online petition and Facebook group... ‘There is more than a little irony involved here,’ said Mike McCabe of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. ‘The group claimed this decision was a huge victory for the First Amendment and free speech. But now they want to turn around and silence others who don’t share that view, and who believe the decision has very dire implications for political speech in our democracy.’”

OTHER UNIONS IN THE NEWS

Plug pulled on teacher’s union in Arkansas

Less than a week after hiring a new superintendent who preached reconciliation and unity, the Pulaski County Special School District voted to cancel its contract with the Pulaski Association of Classroom Teachers (PACT), effective June 30, 2010.

School Board member Charlie Wood of Sherwood made the motion to withdraw recognition of PACT and to adopt personnel policies effective July 1, 2010, that would meet the state requirements. It also contained a provision to notify certified staff members that their contracts would be non-renewed pursuant to the new personnel policy.

California college organization drive

University of California Hastings College of Law’s administrative and clerical workers recently told the administration that a majority of them have signed cards

authorizing AFSCME Local 3299 to represent them. The workers are still waiting for a response from the school.

Union would raise standards for workers

In a multi-state protest organized by the Service Employees International Union, rallies were held to create public awareness of alleged intimidation of Sodexo employees who seek to unionize. Sodexo is a global food service and facilities management contractor with 120,000 workers in the U.S.

Actor Danny Glover was arrested along with 11 other protesters at the company’s U.S. headquarters in April. Sodexo is also being sued by a union-busting firm for unlawfully using their copyrighted materials and distributing them to managers without permission.

Compiled from various online sources.