Fair Trade Caravan Rolls

THE FAIR Trade Caravan moves out this Labor Day weekend on a seven-week tour to spread the truth about George Bush's proposed North American Free Trade Agreement.

The California Economic Earthquake Express includes three huge trucks that serve as stages and display platforms for speakers, entertainers and exhibits showing the social and economic chaos that will result if Bush's trade agreement is ratified.

Motorhomes and vans will carry representatives of the coalition of organizations allied with labor in opposition to the trade agreement. Included will be environmentalists, community activists, clergy and Mexican workers who have experienced exploitation and horrendous living conditions in maquiladora plants along the border, and unemployed Americans whose jobs have been exported.

The agreement would allow U.S. companies to fire their American workers and ship jobs to Mexico in search of sub-poverty wages and freedom from environmental and health and safety controls.

"Earthquake" in the caravan title refers to the devastation that will come with vast new increases in unemployment and loss of tax base.

The public got its first official look at the caravan and its traveling show this morning at San Francisco outside the Hilton Hotel where the S.F. Labor Council was holding its annual Labor Day weekend breakfast.

The anti-NAFTA message will be presented Monday at Pleasanton during the 35th annual Labor Day Picnic of the Alameda County Central Labor Council.

Then the caravan will hit the road on an odyssey that will cover communities throughout California. A sortie into Arizona also is planned.

The caravan will set up its dis-

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Workers Cheer for Gore

Photo by Lincoln Smith, East Bay Labor Journal.

Al Gore, left, confers with labor leaders Ignacio De La Fuente, Walter Johnson and Owen Marron during tour of Oakland foundry.

Al Gore toured an Oakland foundry that is holding its own against cheap foreign labor Monday and drew cheers from union members when he promised that a Clinton Administration will curb unfair competition by China.

The vice presidential candidate cited American Brass and Iron Co. as proof that Americans don't have to choose between jobs and the environment.

He told workers, civic officials and labor leaders that Allan Boscacci, president of ABI, "has looked upon environmental protection as a business opportunity,"

AFL-CIO General Board makes Clinton–Gore endorsement official.
Page 4

using new technology to cut pollutants.

"This company is a model of the future," Gore declared. Boscacci, he said, "has innovated a partnership approach between management and all employees...that really works."

Heads of six central labor councils were on hand to walk with Gore through the plant, which recycles scrap metal into iron pipe and fittings and construction re-enforcing bars. Also in attendance was Ignacio De La Fuente, Oakland City Council member and international vice president of the Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers, the union that represents the ABI workforce.

Gore took the opportunity to hit back at Republican charges that he is an environmental extremist pushing ideas that would cost American jobs.

Bush and Quayle, he said "are still pushing this phony choice between jobs and the environment and they haven't done a good job with either."

Gore added, "We can create millions of new jobs by leading the environmental revolution instead of fighting against it as Bush and Quayle have done."

Foundry workers applauded Gore's promise to withdraw most-favored-nation status from China

(Continued on page 4)

Labor Rejects Comp Package

Workers' compensation reform legislation opposed both by labor and by employers today is on the desk of Gov. Pete Wilson, who is expected to veto it.

The three-bill package was characterized as "well-intended but unacceptable" by Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation.

"The legislation fails labor in two major respects," Henning said. "The benefits it provides are inadequate given the magnitude of the structural reforms, and the draconian restrictions on stress claims would result in many legitimate claimants being deprived of needed medical treatment and benefits."

The governor is expected to veto the package for the wrong reasons. Employer organizations are demanding restrictions on compensation that are even tougher and improvements in benefits that are even smaller.

Wilson, responding to a reporter's question during a Capitol news conference, indicated he would veto the three-bill package.

There was talk of a special session.

"If anything merits a special session, it would be workers' compensation," Loren Kaye, Wilson's cabinet secretary, told the Los Angeles Times.

The legislation is the product of two weeks of intensive debate and high-voltage lobbying before an Assembly-Senate conference committee that was charged with sorting out the large number of workers' compensation reform bills submitted during the 1992 session of the Legislature.

Four measures came out of the conference committee last weekend as the 1992

(Continued on page 2)

Kirkland: The Nation Needs Jobs

By Lane Kirkland
President, AFL-CIO

In this presidential election year, on the third Labor Day of the current recession, America's working men and women need a government that believes in them and takes bold steps to invest in their potential.

They demand job-creating programs to rebuild the nation's decayed infrastructure and improve our education and training system, thereby setting the stage for the country's long-term growth. They deserve national policies that generate high-wage jobs and offer our poorest workers the opportunities to build a better life and work their way up into the middle class.

Lane Kirkland

What they're actually getting from the White House, however, is inaction, lame excuses and self-deluded pronouncements that a recovery is already underway.

The bare facts speak for themselves. During the past four years, 1.3 million manufacturing jobs were lost forever. Seventeen million Americans are now out of work or under-employed. Even the Bush Administration's own forecasts call for continued high unemployment and anemic growth for the next five years.

This misery index is the result of more than a decade of tax policies that have favored the wealthy, trade policies that have shipped millions of American jobs overseas, a government-sanctioned assault on the trade union rights of ordinary working Americans and a conscious effort to erode the minimum wage, the recompense of America's poorest workers.

It is the consequence of a strategy of offering millions of working Americans a choice: either accept lower wages and debased working conditions or we can find some poor soul in the Third World who'll be glad to have your job.

Never has it been more apparent that the so-called "rising tide" created by the Reagan and Bush Ad-

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Few Victories in Budget Battles

Labor succeeded in beating back a number of anti-worker proposals before the bitterly contested state budget finally was signed Wednesday.

A proposal to eliminate payment of prevailing wages on public works projects was killed. The California Labor Federation also lobbied successfully against proposals by the Wilson Administration to strip away an array of worker protection rules and regulations administered by the Department of Industrial Relations.

But there was no blunting the impact the budget will have upon workers, especially when schools and local governmental agencies start laying people off.

> ***'Once the Legislature gave up the fight to close tax loopholes and restore fair taxes on corporations and the richest Californians, there was nothing left to do but divide up the misery.'***

"It is a tragedy," one legislative advocate for labor declared yesterday.

"Once the Legislature gave up the fight to close tax loopholes and restore taxes on corporations and the richest Californians, there was nothing left to do but divide up the pain."

The Clinton-Gore campaign placed ultimate blame on the doorstep of the Bush Administration.

"The devastating effects of George Bush's failure to plan an economic strategy are being felt by families throughout the nation and especially here in California," declared John Emerson, California director of the Democratic campaign.

"Our new state budget is going to affect the lifestyles of most Californians, many of whom no longer will be able to afford to go to college, will suffer from cuts to education and health care, and will see their police protection impacted.

"George Bush's bankrupt policies have led to a nearly bankrupt state. The self-proclaimed education president was truant while the school system was falling apart," Emerson concluded.

"If George Bush wants to spend time soothing people who are living through a disaster, he should think about visiting California."

Workers Memorial Day Gets Gov.'s Signature

Legislation making April 28 of each year Workers Memorial Day in California was signed into law this week by Gov. Pete Wilson.

Senate Bill 1388, sponsored by the California Labor Federation and introduced by Sen. Herschel Rosenthal, D-L.A., establishes an annual day to remember workers injured or killed on the job and remind Californians of the need for workplace safety and health.

"Workers Memorial Day is meant to focus public attention on the human and financial toll that results from an unsafe work environment," Rosenthal declared after Wilson signed the measure. "This increased awareness, hopefully, will lead to stronger safety laws and improved worker training.

"I think Gov. Wilson realized that part of the solution to the state's workers' compensation crisis lies in preventing injuries and illnesses in the first place," Rosenthal added. "SB 1388 is directed toward that goal."

Workers Memorial Day was established in 1989 by the AFL-CIO. It falls on the anniversary of the enactment of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act and coincides with a similar Workers Memorial Day established in Canada.

A bill by Rosenthal to make Workers Memorial Day an annual observance in California was vetoed by former Gov. George Deukmejian who remarked in his veto message that Labor Day should suffice for workers and that establishing an annual observance might give workers the idea that they could gain an additional paid holiday.

All four Worker Memorial Days to date have been declared state holidays by resolution of the Legislature.

By signing the bill making the observance an annual event, Gov. Wilson saves the state the expense of putting a new measure through the legislative process each year.

Workers' Comp...

(Continued from page 1)

session ground to a close.

Three of the bills were double-joined, which means that they move together on a one-fail, all fail basis. These make up the package that's on the governor's desk today. They passed both houses.

One bill was allowed to stand alone. This was Assembly Bill 819 by Jackie Speier, D-South San Francisco, which aimed at curbing references of workers' comp patients by doctors to labs, clinics and diagnostic facilities in which the doctors own for-profit interests.

Experts testified earlier that overuse of for-profit referrals is so great that California's workers' comp bill could be reduced by $356 million a year if the practice were prohibited.

Speier's bill passed the Assembly but was shot down on the Senate floor Monday night in a demonstration of the medical profession's awesome lobbying power.

The measure already had been watered down to a shadow of its original scope in accordance with demands by the California Medical Association.

But support melted away Monday night in the face of a renewed onslaught by the doctors' lobbyists, and there were only a smattering of "aye" votes when the Senate roll was called.

The three measures that made it to the governor's desk are Senate Bill 1539, raising benefits to inadequate levels without indexing them as most states do; SB 1904, introducing "managed medical care" into the workers' comp system and eliminating the minimum rate law that gives insurers "cost-plus" guarantees, and AB 69, diminishing compensibility of stress-related claims, reducing vocational rehabilitation entitlements and altering medical-legal provisions.

All three measures are by conference committee members.

AB 69 is by Assembly member Burt Margolin, D-L.A., a co-chair of the conference committee along with Sen. Bill Lockyer, D-Hayward, who authored SB 1539. SB 1904 is by Sen. Pat Johnston, D-Stockton.

Also on the committee were Assembly Members Steve Peace, D-Chula Vista, and Paul Horcher, R-Whittier, and Sen. Bill Leonard, R-Upland.

Additional bills crucial to labor are on the governor's desk today. They include:

- AB 1544 by Terry Friedman, D-L.A., setting up an agricultural labor law enforcement unit in the Department of Industrial Relations to curb scofflaw farm labor contractors. Costs would be paid by increasing labor contractor license fees. The measure is a response to exposure of farm labor law violations by the Sacramento Bee in a series of stories entitled "Fields of Pain."
- AB 3825, the omnibus civil rights bill introduced by Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr.
- SB 1931 by Bill Greene, D-L.A., preventing employers from continuing to expose workers to dangerous machinery or materials while Cal-OSHA charges are appealed.
- SB 1699, David Roberti, D-L.A., raising maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefits from $330 to $350.
- SB 1739, Johnston, adjusting the unemployment rate trigger for expanded unemployment insurance benefits to enable Californians to participate in added federal jobless pay funds.
- AB 1542 by Terry Friedman, making garment manufacturers liable when their subcontractors withhold money from employees and otherwise violate worker protection laws.
- AB 2601, Terry Friedman, prohibiting discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual preference.

Museum Gets Dellums' Letters from Randolph

Personal papers of the late C. L. Dellums—including his voluminous correspondence with A. Philip Randolph, were donated this week to the Northern California Center for Afro-American History and Life in Oakland.

Dellums, who died at his Oakland home in 1989 at the age of 89, was an organizer along with Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first international union founded and led by blacks. He also was chair of the California Fair Employment Practices Commission for 26 years.

Dellums' daughter, Marva, presented the collection to the museum, which is dedicated to portrayal of the lives of black persons prominent in California history.

Included is one of the Stetson hats that became Dellums' personal trademark.

But the letters—particularly those from Randolph—are the most valuable. The two men kept in close contact while forming and leading their union even though they often were separated by thousands of miles.

"The history of civil rights cannot be told without these papers," said Dr. Lawrence Crouchett, the museum executive director.

Also chronicled in the letters is Dellums' struggle to establish the state FEPC. He lobbied the act through the Legislature despite opposition of then-Gov. Earl Warren, who went on, as chief justice of the United States, to preside over the court that handed down the most sweeping civil rights decisions in the nation's history.

Clinton Aide at COPE Sessions

Bill Clinton's California campaign chairperson will address general election strategy planning sessions set for Sept. 22 in San Francisco and Sept. 24 in Los Angeles by the state AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE).

John Emerson, Clinton's chief aide in this state, will speak to Northern California trade unionists Sept. 22 at the S.F. Airport Hilton Hotel and to Southern Californians Sept. 24 at the Biltmore Hotel in L.A., according to Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation and head of state COPE

Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr., is to deliver the keynote address at both COPE sessions.

Datebook

COPE general election planning and training sessions: San Francisco, Sept. 22 at the S.F. Airport Hilton; Los Angeles, Sept. 24 at the Biltmore Hotel.

OPEIU Wins Three S.F. Elections

Local 3 of the Office and Professional Workers has won representation elections in three San Francisco bargaining units.

Included are:

- The Information Store, a research service in the S.F. financial district, where 50 researchers and clerical workers voted by better than two to one for OPEIU representation on Aug. 21.
- St. Vincent de Paul Society, where 120 employees at six service centers and the administration offices voted overwhelmingly for Local 3 on Aug. 27.
- Steam and Plumbing Co., a plumbing supply house where office personnel and warehouse workers designated Local 3 their bargaining agent.

The Information Store is believed to be the first such research company in which workers have voted for OPEIU representation, according to Nancy Wohlforth, senior business representative, and Diana Volpini-Allen, business representative.

Members of the new unit selected their bargaining committee this week in preparation for contract negotiations, Wohlforth and Volpini-Allen said.

The 120 employees of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which is operated by the Catholic Archdiocese of S.F., are employed at seven sites scattered throughout the city.

Included are two Riley Centers for battered women, Multi-Service Center South, serving homeless adults; Richmond Hill Manor, aiding homeless families; Arlington Hotel, a residence for low income workers and for persons in recovery from substance abuse; Ozanam Center, a detoxification facility, and the society's S.F. administrative offices.

Contract negotiations are to begin shortly. Local 3 expects to confront the notorious Littler Mendelson Fastiff and Tichy across the bargaining table, the two representatives said.

Local 3 already represents workers at the other major S.F. facility for homeless adults, Wohlforth and Volpini-Allen pointed out. It is Multi-Service Center North, operated by Episcopal Community Services, where workers voted to join the union in 1990.

Representation for the Steam and Plumbing Co. office and warehouse workers means that S.F. has two completely organized plumbing supply houses, Wohlforth said. The other is the P.E. O'Hair Co., where workers are represented by Local 860 of the Teamsters.

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Call Local 911 for an S.F. Cop

The San Francisco Police Officers Association has voted to affiliate with the Service Employees International Union.

The police union has been designated Local 911 of the SEIU. It has about 1,800 members.

Affiliation was approved by better than two to one in mail balloting conducted during August and tallied last Monday night, according to Al Trigueiro, police association president.

"We in SEIU are pleased that the police officers have made this decision," said Paul Varacalli, international vice president of the Service Employees and executive director of Local 790. "We are pleased as well that they have announced they will join the San Francisco Labor Council. It will mean more unity, more cooperation for the working people of San Francisco."

Paul Dempster, president of the S.F. Labor Council, said the police officers would add a "valuable asset" to the council.

"It has been a long time coming that police personnel with a hard, dirty job achieve their full rights as workers through official participation in the labor movement," Dempster added.

"The POA's admission into the San Francisco labor community will move us into the mainstream on wage and benefit issues," Trigueiro said.

"It will provide us with a better base for support of our demands, making us less dependent on the goodwill of politicians in dealing with our employers in government," he continued.

Varacalli said the 1,800 police officers will increase to about 14,000 the number of S.F. city employees represented by SEIU. There also are about 8,000 SEIU members employed by private businesses in San Francisco, he noted.

SEIU has about 300,000 members throughout the state, making it the largest union in California.

City of Hope Honors Cremins

Jerry Cremins, center, accepts the City of Hope Spirit of Life Award from Richard Egan, left, and Louie Bravo, right, during a testimonial dinner last Friday night at the Los Angeles Hyatt Regency Hotel. Cremins, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California and a vice president of the California Labor Federation, was cited for his service to labor and the community as well as to City of Hope. Eagan, of City of Hope, said proceeds from the dinner would be used to establish a Jerry Cremins Research Fellowship at City of Hope National Medical Center at Duarte, specializing in research into major diseases. The event was chaired by Bravo, business manager of the Southern California District Council of Laborers, a Laborers international vice president, vice president of the state federation, and 1991 recipient of the Spirit of Life Award.

Workers Back Leafleters at Lucky Markets

The Lucky Stores boycott continues to demonstrate that working Californians support those fighting to preserve the family wage.

Up to 80 percent of the shoppers leafleted by Teamster members in Lucky parking lots last weekend turned away and took their business elsewhere when they learned the facts about the dispute, President Chuck Mack of Teamsters Joint Council No. 7, reported this week.

"We got the most support at Lucky markets in the areas where working families have located in search of affordable housing," Mack said.

Teamster leaders predicted when their campaign began that working families would be repelled by Lucky's effort to drive down the living standards of its warehouse and distribution workers.

The results of three weekends of boycott vindicate that confidence in worker solidarity, Mack pointed out.

The purpose of the campaign is to demonstrate just how costly it will be if Lucky Stores continue to demand deep new rollbacks as the price of a new collective bargaining contract.

"Customer support is every bit as great as it was during the Safeway boycott," Mack added, referring to the action that persuaded Safeway management it would be a costly mistake to fire warehouse and distribution workers and replace them with non-union people at wages close to the legal minimum.

The Lucky boycott has affected that chain's supermarkets in 10 counties in the San Francisco Bay Area and Central California.

Even though its profits are soaring, Lucky demands concessions that Teamster leaders estimate would reduce pay and benefits by 15 to 20 percent. This would be on top of a 27 percent reduction in purchasing power during the past five years for Lucky's distribution workers.

Affected are about 1,300 Teamster members working at distribution centers in San Leandro, Vacaville and Sacramento. The workers are members of Locals 70 and 78, Oakland; 490, Vallejo, and 150, Sacramento.

Forty-four of the company's markets were leafleted last weekend in Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Marin, Sonoma, Sacramento, Placer, San Joaquin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties.

Leafleting will resume tomorrow and Sunday, Mack said.

There is to be no leafleting Monday, Labor Day. Instead, Teamster members will attend the Alameda County Central Labor Council Labor Day Picnic at Pleasanton to thank trade unionists for their support.

More U.S. Families Fall into Poverty

At least 2.1 million additional American families have fallen below the poverty line since 1990, according to new Census Bureau statistics.

This means that 14.2 percent of all the families of four in this country are living on less than $13,500 a year.

It is yet another measure of the failure of the Reagan-Bush-Quayle policies, Bill Clinton's California campaign headquarters pointed out yesterday.

Despite Bush's continued lip service to family values, increasing numbers of American families are enduring unemployment, homelessness, hunger and want.

Fair Trade Caravan...

(Continued from page 1)

plays at shopping malls, worksites, festivals, fairs, sporting events and other locations.

Teamsters members will drive the caravan vehicles under direction of IBT officers including International Vice Presidents Ken Mee and Jim Benson.

Dave Sickler, AFL-CIO regional director, said the project gives individual trade unionists an opportunity to help change or halt the agreement, which otherwise will cost hundreds of thousands of good-paying American jobs.

Central labor councils and local unions will be called upon to assist and to plan demonstrations in their areas.

"Each event will be different, depending uppn local recommendations and resources," Sickler said.

"Along with the objective of educating the public about the pitfalls of NAFTA, we also aim to register our union memberships to vote and to obtain signatures on a petition to be submitted to Congress," Sickler added.

The tentative schedule includes:

Tuesday, Sept. 8, University of California-Berkeley; Sept. 9, Vallejo; Sept. 10, Diamond Walnut, Stockton; Sept. 11, Lucky Stores Distribution Center at Vacaville; Sept 9, Campbell Soup at Sacramento; Sept. 13, Cal-Cedar, Stockton;

Sept. 14, Modesto canneries; Sept. 15, Merced and Madera canneries; Sept. 16, Fresno canneries; Sept. 17, Visalia and Tulare dairies;

Sept. 18, Adelanto and Barstow; Sept 19, Yuma, Arizona; Sept, 20, Calexico and El Centro; Sept. 21 and 22, San Diego; Sept 23, Ventura; Sept. 24, 25, 26 and 27, Los Angeles; Sept. 28, Santa Barbara; Sept. 29, San Luis Obispo; Sept. 30, Salinas;

Oct. 1, Watsonville; Oct. 2, Santa Cruz and San Jose; Oct 3, Santa Rosa; Oct 4, Ukiah; Oct. 5, Willits; Oct. 6, Fort Bragg; Oct. 7, Eureka; Oct. 10, Crescent City;

Oct. 9, Yreka; Oct. 10, Redding; Oct 11, Susanville; Oct. 12, Redding; Oct. 13, Chico and Oroville; Oct. 14, Sacramento; Oct. 15, Stockton; Oct. 16, Oakland; Oct. 17, San Francisco; Oct. 18, San Jose; Oct. 19, San Jose and Santa Cruz;

Oct. 20, Salinas; Oct. 21, Los Angeles, and Oct. 22, San Diego.

Auto Parts Plants Set to Flee

A majority of the auto parts manufacturers supplying the U.S. auto industry with new car components are set to join the stampede to Mexico if Congress ratifies George Bush's North American Free Trade Agreement, a new survey reveals.

Nearly 70 percent of these suppliers who responded to a recent poll by an industry publication said they are "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to move production to Mexico if the treaty is approved.

The poll results were reported by the Los Angeles Times last weekend.

Tens of thousands of good-paying American jobs are involved.

Many of the manufacturers responding to the survey are among the largest payrolls in their communities, indicating that Bush's free trade plan would destroy tax bases supporting schools, social services and local governments while throwing hordes of Americans out of work and casting thousands of families into homelessness, poverty, want and despair.

Ignored in the survey were the thousands of such automotive parts jobs already moved to maquiladora factories along the Mexican border by U.S. firms seeking sub-poverty wages, weak unions, and freedom from environmental and worker health and safety regulations.

San Mateo COPE Dinner Friday

Jim Hightower will be guest speaker, and Rep. Tom Lantos and Georgia Nielson of the Association of Flight Attendants will receive awards at the San Mateo County Labor Council's 14th Annual COPE Banquet on Friday evening, Sept. 11, at Burlingame.

The affair will open with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. at the Burlingame Hyatt Regency Hotel. Dinner will be at 7:30. Donations are $65 apiece, with tables of 10 available.

Donahue: Labor Day Reappraisal

By Thomas R. Donahue
Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO

What is the state of the American trade union movement on this Labor Day? How are working people faring?

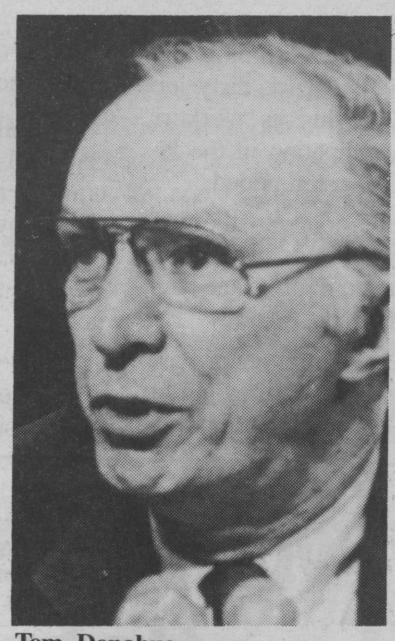
In some respects, the picture is bleak. We are confronted with a legion of problems, and the cause of many of them is nearly four years of misrule by the Bush-Quayle administration.

There have been nine presidents since World War II, but the one who has presided over the very worst economic performance in the entire postware era has been George Bush.

Under his watch, the economy has had the worst record for overall economic growth, the highest annual budget deficit, the lowest job growth, the largest increase in public debt, the lowest growth in personal income, the lowest number of housing starts, and the only decline in industrial production during a four-year term.

In other words, if you work, buy a home, or raise a family, this administration has been a catastrophe.

It doesn't help matters that nearly every piece of progressive legislation since Bush took office in



Tom Donahue

1989—the ban on permanent replacement of strikers, family leave, minimum wage increase, health care reform, fair trade, and more—has met with gales of resistance from the President and his subordinates. On the rare occasions when such measures became law, the administration had to be dragged along, kicking and screaming.

But even if this is a disastrous time for working women and men in so many ways, it is also—ironically—a very good time. That is because we have reason to hope. There are signs that after 12 years of conservative ascendancy, the tide is gradually beginning to turn our way.

For example, the trade union movement is more united now than it has been in decades. This is significant since solidarity has always been our life-blood. We need it to prosper. Over the last few years, we have brought back into our federation the teamsters, the auto workers, the West Coast longshoremen, and others. We are all far stronger as a result.

Another example is that literally millons of working people—37 percent of American adults—are not now union members but would like to join a union. That suggests something important. If our labor laws were truly democratic, and Americans had the right to vote on joining a union as freely as they can vote for state senator, then our ranks would increase dramatically. There is a vast number of people who want to join us. We believe they should have that opportunity. We will not rest until they do.

Yet another reason for hope on this Labor Day is that in the 1992 presidential election, we have two splendid candidates, Bill Clinton and Al Gore, with an excellent chance of being elected in November.

Governor Clinton has emerged from the primaries as a strong, effective spokesman on the issues that matter most to working people. On every single major issue of the campaign—from health-care reform to a ban on permanent replacement, from rebuilding infrastructure to fair trade—Bill Clinton is on our side.

After eight years of Reagan and four years of Bush, it would be refreshing to have a President and Vice-President who understand the needs of working people. We are working hard to ensure victory for the Clinton-Gore team in November. When they win, we all win.

There is no question that the last decade has been a difficult one for the trade union movement. But on Labor Day 1992, change is in the air.

To appreciate the opportunity, consider where things were on Labor Day 60 years ago. The country was in a deep economic crisis. It was not long before an incumbent Republican president was defeated, a bright and vigorous Democratic governor was elected to the White House, and Congress created a historic new framework of rights for America's working people.

In his Labor Day speech that year, AFL President William Green said: "Obivously, it would be impossible for trade unionism to pass through such a trying experience as it has been forced to undergo during the past three years, without subjecting its soundness, its stability, and its principles to a most severe and trying test...Through it all, however, it has followed a constructive course, holding fast to the principles upon which it was founded."

Green's words still resonate. In a different world and a different time, we are adapting and changing; but we are still holding fast to the principles upon which our movement was founded, and those principles are fair wages and benefits, decent working conditions, and dignity for the working people of America.

That is what we celebrate on Labor Day. That is what we are all about.

Kirkland...

(Continued from page 1)

ministrations was meant to lift the yachts only.

During the 1980s, the top one percent of Americans ***doubled*** their after-tax income, and their entire net worth is now higher than the combined total of the bottom 90 percent. During the same time, the average weekly wages of American workers, when adjusted for inflation, actually declined by $17.

While it is true that median family income may be up slightly over the past decade, that is mostly because there are now many more two-earner families. And keeping pace with the general rate of inflation is hardly a victory when one considers that the cost of health care has tripled since 1980, while the cost of both a public and private college eudcation has far more than doubled.

Perhaps most disturbing is the explosive growth in the number of full-time American workers living below the poverty-line, which has shot up from 12 to 18 percent of the workforce. Something is clearly wrong when so many Americans who work full-time still have to depend on government handouts to survive or, worse yet, don't have enough to feed, clothe, house and provide medical care for themselves and their families.

What type of "family values" are at work in this country when these things are allowed to happen?

Through their unions, working people have made clear the changes they want. Instead of a government that worships at the corporate bottom line and leaves them undefended in the jungle of the international marketplace, they want a government that is on their side—one that fights to rebuild the country's economic strength and provides fair opportunities and equal justice for all.

With or without it, this labor movement will continue to use methods grounded in solidarity to fight and win our battles against employers who seek to cast their unions aside and return to the master-servant relationship.

From the New York Daily News to the Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation in West Virginia, courageous union members and their families—with the help of a united labor movement—are carrying the day against tremendous odds. In the coming weeks, we will focus our efforts on helping our striking brothers and sisters gain fair contracts at the Pittsburgh Press and the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas.

Trade unionists understand and accept their responsibility to help lead our country away from our current economic path, to reorder our national priorities and to ensure that our government invests in our people again. We'll fulfill this responsibility the way we always have—by organizing the workers, by turning bad jobs into good ones through the collective bargaining process and by agitating on behalf of all working people in the legislative and political process.

But we need everybody working together to provide jobs, to raise income and to improve the economic well-being of the country. The labor movement stands ready to do its part.

Clinton Officially AFL-CIO's Candidate

Bill Clinton received the formal endorsement of the AFL-CIO yesterday at Washington, D.C., accepting from President Lane Kirkland an "ironbound commitment to work for you in every state of the union."

The endorsement came from the AFL-CIO General Board, which includes state federation leaders, heads of all international and national unions and central body leaders as well as the Executive Council.

Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jack Henning represented the California Labor Federation.

Associated Press reported that the applause was thunderous when the International Brotherhood of Teamsters—which has backed Republican presidential candidates for 20 years—announced its support of Clinton.

Bill Becker, president of the Arkansas AFL-CIO, urged the endorsement. He called Clinton a "friend of labor" who will support such goals as a ban on the hiring of scabs to permanently replace workers exercising their right to strike.

Clinton renewed his promise to spend $20 billion a year rebuilding highways, communications and other parts of the nation's infrastructure and putting Americans back to work.

"I know we have not always agreed and will never agree on everything," Clinton told the AFL-CIO leaders. "But we share a common commitment to working men and women and their children and the forgotten middle class."

Clinton hit hard at Bush on the issue of trustworthiness, charging that the president would have to strip away Social Security benefits to make good on his promise to reduce the national debt while cutting taxes across the board.

"Mr. Bush says the election should be about trust, and I believe that's right," Clinton said. "But for George Bush to say the election should be about trust is like me saying it should be about short speeches.

"Four years ago Mr. Bush said we could trust him when he said, 'Read my lips. No new taxes.'

"Then he signed the second-largest tax increase in history, and it turned out what he really said was 'Read my lips. No new taxes for the wealthiest one percent.' "

Gore...

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until that country improves its human rights record and its manuacturing and trade practices.

China's vast gulag system is known to supply forced convict labor to export industries, and workers at the Oakland foundry expressed deep concern that ABI was being hurt by underpriced metal goods that Chinese factories are dumping on the American market.

"We totally disagree with Bush and Quayle when they continue to grant most-favored-nation status to one of the worst Communist dictatorships remaining in the world, with a record of human rights violations as long as your arm, ignoring their trade practices," Gore assured the workers.

GMP Member Tommy Randle asked Gore what the Clinton Administration would do about drugs, which he said are destroying his neighborhood.

Gore said the new Democratic leadership would put 100,000 more police officers on the streets and dry up the demand for cocaine as well as arrest suppliers.

"One of the solutions is creating more good jobs so people can lead lives with purpose and meaning and provide their children with hope for the future," Gore added.

Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris participated. Among labor leaders present were Owen Marron, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alameda County Central Labor Council and vice president of the California Labor Federation; Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council; Rich Sawyer, business manager of the Santa Clara-San Benito Counties Central Labor Council, and Steve Roberti, executive secretary-treasurer of the Contra Costa County Central Labor Council.

George Will Bewails Bush Campaign Lies

These words appeared last week in the Los Angeles Times and other newspapers under the byline of George Will, conservative defender of right-wing ideology, in a syndicated column criticizing Bush's trashing of Hillary Clinton and the president's discredited contention that Bill Clinton raised Arkansas taxes 128 times:

"Can't Bush's people be honest about anything?... Serious people flinch from the intellectual slum that is the Bush campaign....

"Bush calls his campaign a crusade to bring back values. His campaign is powerful evidence of the need for such a campaign."

Labor, Allies Map Trade Fight

A conference on international trade next Wednesday at Washington, D.C., will draw some of the AFL-CIO's staunchest allies in the fight against ratification of a treaty ruinous to the nation's industrial base and to American working families.

Bill Clinton is scheduled to speak.

Secretary-Treasurer Thomas R. Donahue of the AFL-CIO, Ralph Nader, President Carl Pope of the Sierra Club, Jane Perkins of Friends of the Earth, and Leland Swenson of the National Farmers Union will participate in the opening panel discussion at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

They and other labor leaders, environmentalists, consumer advocates, legal experts, economists, and leaders in international trade, business and agriculture also will lead a series of workshops.