



California AFL-CIO News

Official Publication of The California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Vol. 38—No. 21



November 3, 1995

EDITORIAL

New York! New York!

By JACK HENNING
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

This was not the San Francisco convention of 1934 when John L. Lewis of the Mineworkers spoke defiance: "Industrial unionism or we walk."

Nor was it Atlantic City a year later when Lewis walked and formalized the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Farewell to rule by craft.

Nonetheless, the timbered walls of labor history shook in New York with the first contested presiden-

tial election in AFL-CIO history.

As compared with bawdy public politics, the Sweeney-Donahue rivalry was civilized. A proper reflection on Labor's House.

Some seven million to some five million settled the vote count. The candidates had given dignity to conflict as the winds of change blew.

It awaits now only the handshake of concession. Certainly neither President Sweeney nor Tom Donahue would allow schism. The times would neither condone nor forgive.

It is more than rhetoric to cite present perils. With soaring globalized power, American capital is bent on breaking the U.S. labor movement.

It has long since bartered away our industrial base in the markets of foreign exchange. On its lust the sun never sets.

American capital covets nothing less than a new world order. Workers as trash.

Workers of the world unite! Now, who in the hell said that? No matter. It is the way of labor survival as this bloodied century dies.

Labor's New Leaders Wage Prop Due on Ballot

The 21st constitutional convention of the AFL-CIO was historic by any standard. More than a thousand delegates—the most ever—watched precedent setting debates among candidates in the only contested election for top leadership in the federation's 40-years, and the first in more than a century for its predecessor AFL.

And before they went back to the 78 unions, 48 state federations and 454 central labor councils that sent them to New York City, they elected John J. Sweeney to replace Thomas R. Donahue as president and Richard Trumka to succeed Barbara Easterling as secretary-treasurer.

They voted to expand the federation's top leadership with creation of the office of executive vice president and named a Hispanic woman—Linda Chavez-Thompson—to the new post. And, they amended the federation's constitution to broaden the governing Executive Council, increasing the number of vice presidents from 33 to 51 and dedicating 10 of the new seats to women and people of color.

The realignment puts six Californians on the Executive Council.

In new seats are Arturo Rodriguez, president of the United Farm Workers; Sumi Haru, president of Screen Actors Guild, and William Lacy, vice president of AFSCME.

Doug McCarron, new president of the Carpenters, was elected to the seat formerly held by his predecessor, Sigurd Lucassen.

They join California incumbents Jake West of the Ironworkers and Al



Newly-elected Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka, Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson and President John J. Sweeney lead AFL-CIO convention delegates into Manhattan's garment district in support of UNITE!

Henning's emotional appeal for global unionism —Page 4

Whitehead of the Fire Fighters.

Donahue reminded delegates in his keynote address that the convention was truly historic and would mark "a rebirth of this workers' movement." He added a plea for unity.

"It's true that we come here today divided on the issue of who will lead us over the next two years," the presiding president said. "But on Thursday, let there be no question that when we leave this hall to carry on our work, we must do so with our

divisions healed, our strength enhanced and our federation more united than ever before."

Sweeney, for 15 years president of the Service Employees, also stressed solidarity and unity two days later after the announcement that he had defeated Donahue by 7,286,837 votes to 5,716,165. Trum-

(Continued on Page 4)

A ballot initiative that will allow voters to raise the California minimum wage above its current sub-poverty level was launched this week by a broad-based coalition of labor and community organizations.

The initiative is to be called the Living Wage Act of 1996. Notice of intent to place it on next year's November General Election ballot was given Monday to the state attorney general by Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, acting as president of the Board of Directors of the newly established Liveable Wage Coalition.

"A public opinion poll conducted statewide shows overwhelming support for an increase in the minimum wage," Henning said.

The initiative calls for increasing the current \$4.25 minimum wage in two steps: to \$5 on March 1, 1997, and to \$5.75 on March 1, 1998.

New studies show that the purchasing power of the California minimum wage is the lowest it has been in the past 40 years. The real value has declined 25 percent since 1988 when the wage was raised to its current \$4.25.

Henning said the coalition has issued a call for start-up funding.

(Continued on Page 2)

Reich Keeps Delegates Clapping

A star-quality performance by Secretary of Labor Robert Reich had AFL-CIO convention delegates leaping to their feet with cheers and applause as the speaker repeatedly touched nerves left raw by the anti-labor Republican Congress and declining prospects for wage-earners.

He claimed credit on behalf of the Clinton Administration for pulling the economy "back from the brink" and getting the "great American jobs machine...humming again."

However, Reich warned, the \$2,000 a year increase in average household income that's been recorded since 1979 is a statistic not

to be trusted.

"About 97 percent of all that growth and family income over the past 15 years, about 97 percent, has gone to families in the top fifth. All the rest, about four-fifths of American families have shared just three percent of the total growth in family income.

"Shaquille O'Neal, the basketball star, and I have an average height of six-foot-two."

It was one of several references to his own slight stature, and it drew laughter and applause.

"I am not referring to some unfortunate little sliver of the population. I am talking about half of the American work force.... When pay-

checks don't rise even though the economy overall is soaring, that's bad for the economy...because, after all, workers are consumers."

The cheering and applause increased as Reich catalogued the economic danger signals.

"Not too long ago...two gigantic banks decided to merge and Wall Street let out a hearty cheer. Hurrah for the corporate CEOs who engineered this deal. Three cheers for the lawyers and all the investment bankers that put it together. Hooray for the stockholders."

"And what about the 12,000 men and women who will be losing their jobs in this deal?" Reich asked.

"Where are the people in all this?"

Too many American workers are being cast off like they were disposable pieces of machinery, and that is not right for America."

Reich asked and got a moment of silence from the packed convention hall "for the more than 5,000 working men and women who have been killed on the job so far this year."

He continued:

"Worker safety? This new gang in Washington wants to gut the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

"Pensions for working people? This new crew in Congress wants to turn them into cookie jars for

(Continued on Page 4)

Victories Over on-Job Violence

The California Faculty Association has won two major victories against violence in the workplace.

An arbitrator has ruled that the California State University system violated its collective bargaining contractual obligation to "endeavor to provide a safe and healthy workplace" when it refused to provide a portable "panic button" alarm to a CFA member who filed a grievance following a rape at San Francisco State.

In a related complaint, Cal-OSHA cited S.F. State for failure to provide an injury and illness prevention program to secure the workplace from violence.

Both the arbitration award and the Cal-OSHA citation can affect workplaces far beyond the 22 Cal State campuses where CFA represents teaching faculty, counselors, coaches and librarians, Nina Fendel, the union's regional representative, pointed out this week. CFA is Local

Study Finds Women at Risk in Workplace

Women are as much at risk from workplace violence as men, and teachers and nurses are among those facing the greatest danger, according to a study announced this week.

About 260,000 women are victims of workplace rapes, beatings

1983 of the Service Employees International Union.

In addition to finding the employer at fault for failing to provide a portable, personal alarm device, Arbitrator Tom Angelo ruled that the university must provide the faculty with secure, locked, alarm-equipped restroom facilities.

"While we were disappointed that the arbitrator did not order the university to lock the campus buildings at an earlier hour, this case still represents an important victory for workers and unions demanding that

and other forms of violence a year in the United States, researchers found at the Center for Women in Government at the State University of New York in Albany. Workplace violence forced 58 out of every 100,000 working women to take time off from their jobs in 1993. For men, the

employers take reasonable steps to prevent workplace violence" Fendel said.

The union presented evidence showing that the building in question contained many possible hiding places for an assailant, that it frequently was open to the public, and that faculty members' jobs often require them to be on campus at night and during holidays and weekends. In fact, a faculty member was raped while working alone in her office on campus during a holiday break.

The Cal-OSHA citation is

rate was 53 out of 100,000.

The study, based upon data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, found that homicide is the leading cause of women's deaths on the job. The risk was highest for women in health care, education and social services.

believed to be the first of its kind issued anywhere in the country in an incident involving workplace violence on a college campus.

Cal-OSHA investigators found that the university did not act in a timely manner to correct unsafe conditions related to the workplace violence. Among the unsafe conditions listed are hallway light switches that any intruder can turn off, malfunctioning door locks, non-locking restrooms, and inadequate security lighting both inside the building and on exterior walkways, stairs and

exits.

The university has appealed the citation, claiming that Cal-OSHA lacks jurisdiction and arguing that the union exerted "undue influence." Fendel said the California Faculty Association would "work hard to make sure that this citation is upheld."

Fendel also said CFA is concerned over emphasis that is being placed upon violent workplace incidents involving disgruntled employees and the proliferation of "consultants" offering screening tests for identification of potentially violent employees.

"These tests may be dangerous," Fendel said. "Their validity hasn't been demonstrated. They may be racially or culturally biased. They distract everyone from the greater problems posed by employers who fail to provide adequate security devices and procedures and meaningful protections in the workplace."

Flight Attendants Put Clinton, Gore In 1st-Class Seats

The Association of Flight Attendants called for reelection of President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore during the 22nd annual meeting of the union's Board of Directors last month at Palm Springs.

National President Pat Friend, who was elected to the AFL-CIO Executive Council one week later, said the action made AFA the first union to endorse Clinton and Gore for 1996.

The directors voted unanimously to accept a recommendation from their Committee on Legislative and Political Policy, which cited the president's support for the Family Medical Leave Act and other issues on the AFA's legislative agenda and successful movement of the Flight Attendant Duty Time rule making process.

Also cited by the committee was Clinton's executive order on workplace fairness, which banned federal

contracts with companies that permanently replace strikers.

"AFA is coming out early in support of the Clinton-Gore team to help build a strong campaign within our union for their reelection," Friend said. "The president's stance on labor and family issues makes him the best candidate for our members."

There was special recognition for two of the founders of AFA, Ada Brown Greenfield and Edith Lauterback.

"Fifty years ago these women took charge of their fate, created our union and set the course for our history," Friend declared. "They took the first step toward gaining respect for themselves and their chosen profession. They overcame huge obstacles because they had a vision of what was fair..."

Lauterback was called upon later in the session to present the annual Edith Lauterback Award, which is



Charlotte Costello, president of AFA Council 12 at Los Angeles; National President Pat Friend and Liz Loeffler, president of Council 11 at S.F., announce the union's support for reelection of President Bill Clinton.

named for the long-time United Air Lines flight attendant who resides in retirement at San Francisco. The award for 1995 went to Betty Jo Stewart of the union's Los Angeles

Council for her years of activism and success as an organizer.

Barbara Easterling, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, addressed the meeting.

Minimum Wage on Ballot ...

(Continued from Page 1)

"This campaign will require generous contributions from unions," the state AFL-CIO leader said. "We expect all-out opposition from the far-right, from the Republican administration, and from employer and industry groups that profit from the labor of minimum wage workers."

Henning also announced that a plan is being developed with union leaders throughout the state to coordinate the gathering of more than half a million petition signatures that will be necessary to place the initiative on the November, 1996, ballot.

The coalition moved ahead with the ballot initiative after it became

L.A. Rally Set for Nov. 13

The new Liveable Wage Coalition will hold its first public demonstration at 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 13, in Los Angeles at the State Office Building, 107 South Broadway.

The occasion is the fifth and final public hearing by the state Industrial Welfare Commission on the adequacy of the minimum wage. The IWC, with its anti-labor majority of Gov. Pete Wilson appointees, is scheduled to

open its hearing at 11 a.m. in the State Building Auditorium, Room 1138.

After the rally, minimum wage workers and coalition leaders including Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jack Henning of the California Labor Federation will present evidence at the IWC hearing that the current \$4.25 minimum keeps families with full-time wage earners hopelessly mired deep in poverty.

clear that there was little hope for a minimum wage increase through either legislation or action of the

State Industrial Welfare Commission.

Senate Bill 500, sponsored by the state AFL-CIO and introduced

by Sen. Hilda Solis, D-El Monte, would raise the wage by the same two-steps proposed in the ballot initiative. But although the measure has cleared the Senate, it faces a hostile Republican majority in the Assembly when the Legislature convenes in January and, ultimately, veto by GOP Gov. Pete Wilson who has declared his opposition repeatedly.

The Industrial Welfare Commission currently is considering the adequacy of the minimum wage, as state law requires it to do. But the IWC has an anti-labor majority of Wilson appointees who are unlikely to grant any relief to workers stuck at the sub-poverty minimum.

COPE to Honor Two at Benefit

The San Francisco Labor Council will honor Jack Henning, executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation and Walter Shorenstein, chairman of the board of Shorenstein Company, at its annual COPE benefit banquet Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the Sheraton Palace Hotel.

There will be recognition for Assemblymember John L. Burton, D-S.F. No-host cocktails are at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is at 7:30.

Sweeney Blasts Senate Vote

AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney has expressed outrage at the failure of the U.S. Senate to muster the 60 votes needed for consideration of a resolution calling for debate and a vote on raising the minimum wage by the end of the current legislative session.

"The Senate's failure to allow even a vote on increasing the minimum wage while rushing to give a \$224 billion tax break to large cor-

porations and wealthy individuals speaks volumes about whose side they're on," Sweeney declared.

The federal minimum is \$4.25 per hour, the same as the California minimum that a new coalition will campaign to raise through a ballot initiative in next year's general election.

"America needs a pay raise," the new AFL-CIO president said. "Instead it gets the cold shoulder from

most Republicans in the Senate.

"The more than 13 million members of AFL-CIO unions will know who voted against even considering an increase in the minimum wage. This vote will be a cornerstone of the massive coordinated political education campaign I will have the federation launch next year."

President Clinton is committed to raising the \$4.25 minimum by 90 cents over two years to \$5.15.

Datebook

Executive Council: Jan. 23-24, 1996, S.F. Airport Hilton Hotel.

Pre-Primary COPE Convention: Jan. 25, 1996, S.F. Airport Hilton Hotel.

A. Philip Randolph Institute Calif. State Conference: April 26-28, 1996, Inn at the Park, Anaheim.

Executive Council: July 24-26, 1996, Los Angeles Hyatt Regency.

Biennial Convention: July 29-31, 1996, Los Angeles Hyatt Regency.

Publisher's Notice

The California AFL-CIO News (ISSN: 0008-0802) is published twice a month except during the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays by the California Labor Federation AFL-CIO, 417 Montgomery St., Suite 300, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. Second class postage paid at San Francisco, Calif.-Individual subscription, \$10 a year; corporate rate, \$20. USPS Publication Number 083-400. John F. Henning, executive secretary-treasurer; Floyd Tucker, editor. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: California AFL-CIO News, Montgomery St., Suite 300, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. Phone, (415) 986-3585. FAX (415) 392-8505.



Chavez Street Renaming, Taxi Reforms, Bring Out Workers

S.F. Prop Wars

Organized labor campaigned fiercely this week against the San Francisco ballot proposition that would rename Cesar Chavez Street and for the union-sponsored proposition that would give taxi drivers a fair shake.

And at the same time, trade unionists walked precincts for Willie L. Brown, Jr., the former Assembly

speaker who is labor's endorsed candidate for mayor of S.F.

There was a dramatic turn this week in the fight against Proposition O, the Nov. 7 ballot measure that would change the name of Cesar Chavez Street back to Army Street.

Nineteen mayors of cities from Michigan to California declared their

disapproval of the proposed name change and criticized S.F. Mayor Frank Jordan for taking a "neutral" stand on the question. Brown, who is running against Jordan, came out early and strongly against Proposition O.

The 19 mayors' declarations were delivered to Jordan on Wednesday by Mayor Joe Serna, Jr., of Sacramento, who labored in the fields as a child and worked for Chavez and the United Farm Workers as an adult.

"I find it extraordinarily bizarre that a compassionate city like San Francisco that Cesar loved so much is now trying to withdraw his honor," Serna said. "I know as a mayor myself the enormous political leadership mayors have. I am personally asking Frank Jordan to speak on this issue. It seems to me that the mayor's neutrality is tantamount to saying he's supporting the measure, and I don't think Frank Jordan is that kind of a guy."

While union members ringed S.F. City Hall with "human billboards" protesting Proposition O, taxi drivers demonstrated on Civic Center sidewalks in support of Proposition I, the measure that would put controls on lease fees cab permit owners charge the people who actually do the driving and end other rip-offs by cab owners.

Members of United Taxicab Workers wearing convict stripes and shackles paraded with an effigy of a greedy boss and symbolic cab on their shoulders.

The "Taxi Chain Gang" was organized by Drivers for better Cab Service, a committee of United Taxicab Workers, which is an affiliate of the Communications Workers.

Proposition I promises cheaper and better taxi service for the city as well as a fairer deal for the drivers. In addition to regulating the "gate fees" drivers must pay to taxi permit holders, the measure would create a centralized dispatching assuring one-call



United Taxicab Workers 'chain gang' urging Yes vote on Prop. I carries greedy boss through S.F. Civic Center.

service to any neighborhood in the city. It also includes better safety inspections, better wheelchair access and improved peak-hour service.

Cab owners are fighting it with all the advertising tricks they can buy.

Columnist Herb Caen, in an article supporting the drivers, reported that cab owners acknowledged spending about \$350,000 to defeat Proposition I, while the drivers have raised about \$6,000.

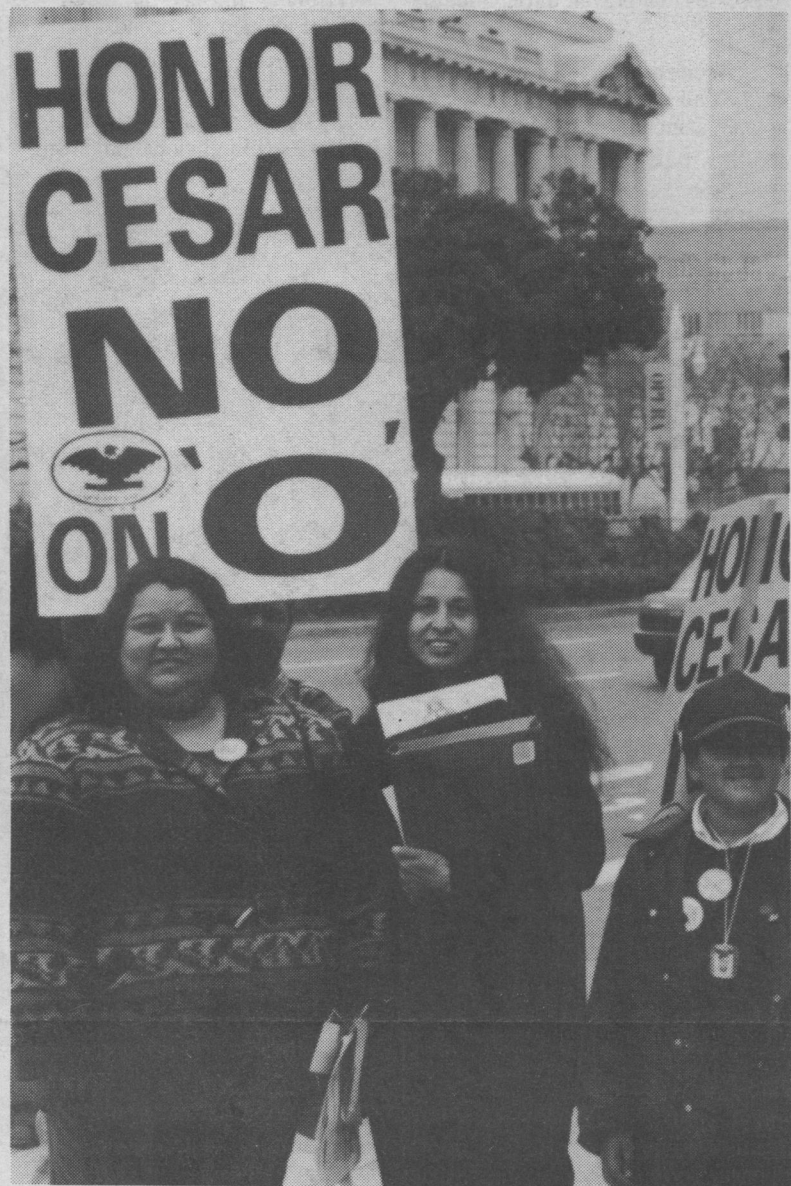
"I know how I'll vote on I," Caen wrote.

Part of the cab owners' war chest was spent on false advertising, the

San Francisco Ethics Commission has charged. The commission strongly criticized cab owners for seizing upon a typographical error in the voters' handbook issued by the city controller and using it in ads that falsely assert the centralized taxi dispatching service would cost "millions" of dollars.

The Commission called the cab owner ads "a serious disservice" to the public.

"This is just one instance of the dirty campaign the 'No on I' side has been waging," said Mark Gruberg, spokesperson for the drivers. "The number of their lies and distortions has been incredible."



Cindy Arreguin, Eva Royale and Jesse Arreguin, 11, keep up the anti-Prop. O pressure at S.F. City Hall.

Festival Returns to Santa Cruz

The next Western Workers Labor Heritage Festival will be held January 12, 13 and 14 at Santa Cruz, the city where it was founded in 1987.

Festivities will be located at the Loudon Nelson Community Center, 301 Center St., in Santa Cruz, said David Winters, festival president.

Organizers are describing this year's 10th anniversary event as a weekend of inspiration, solidarity and workers' culture. There will be three days of performances, workshops and exchanges featuring artists, storytellers, actors, musicians, writers and folklorists whose inspiration show how the arts can help build the labor movement.

The festival, traditionally held on the birthday weekend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., also honors the civil rights leader.

This will be the third appearance of the festival at Santa Cruz since its founding in 1987. It returned there in 1991. Other festivals have been held in the counties of Santa Clara, San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa and San Mateo.

Registration for the weekend activities is \$35. Hotel accommodations can be made at the all-union Dream Inn. The festival phone is (408) 426-4330.

Councils Host Bill Camp Benefit

A barbecue benefiting the Assembly candidacy of Bill Camp on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Machinists Local Lodge 1781 in Burlingame is being hosted by 12 central labor councils, five building and construction trades councils, and the California Conference of Machinists.

Camp, assistant director of the state AFL-CIO Committee on Polit-

ical Education (COPE), is seeking the Ninth Assembly District seat at Sacramento. Democrat Phil Isenberg, a long-time ally of labor, is being forced out by term limits.

"Come join labor in supporting one of its own" is the theme of the event. It is scheduled for 4 to 6 p.m. Local 1781 Hall is at 1511 Rollins Rd. in Burlingame.

Hosts include the central labor councils of Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno and Madera, Inyo, Kern and Mono, Merced and Mariposa, Napa-Solano, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake counties, the San Francisco Labor Council and South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council, the building and construction trades councils of

Alameda, Humboldt and Del Norte, Kern, Inyo and Mono, San Francisco and San Joaquin counties, and the California Conference of Machinists.

Tickets are \$50. Sponsorships, which include 10 tickets, are \$500. They are available from Friends of Bill Camp, 1700 L. St., Sacramento, CA 95814. The phone is (916) 443-8421.

UFW Makes History in Seattle

The first union contract for farm workers in the State of Washington was signed Tuesday during ceremonies at the Seattle Labor Temple.

President Arturo Rodriguez of the United Farm Workers and David Martinez, union negotiator, joined workers from Stimson Lane Ltd.'s Chateau Ste. Michelle—the state's

largest winery—who had ratified the agreement unanimously a week earlier.

Chateau St. Michelle workers voted for UFW representation last June in a secret ballot supervised by an independent, five-member commission headed by former House Speaker Tom Foley under terms of

an agreement between the UFW and the winery reached after a highly successful organizing drive.

The employer guaranteed a contract if the workers chose the union, and the union agreed to back off from economic action if the workers voted no. The election was June 2, and negotiations began on June 19. The

contract includes pay from \$5.75 to \$9.80 for six job classifications, family medical and dental coverage, pension, job security for both regular and seasonal workers, grievance and arbitration procedures, protections from pesticides, paid vacations, and 11 paid holidays, including Cesar Chavez' birthday, March 31.

Taking part in the signing ceremony were AFL-CIO Regional Director Dave Gregory, President Rick Bader of the Washington State Labor Council, Executive Secretary Ron Judd of the King County Central Labor Council, Executive Minister John Boonstra of the Washington Association of Churches, Guadalupe Gamboa of the Chateau Ste. Michelle Neutral Commission, and representatives of other church, community and environmental groups.

Detroit Strikers Due In San Jose

Two Detroit newspaper strike leaders will be in San Jose Tuesday, November 14 to bolster support for workers holding the line at the Free Press, News, and Newspaper Agency.

Kate DeSmet from Detroit Newspaper Guild's Local 22 and Paul Kaulka from Local 372 will take part in a noon unity demonstra-

tion at the San Jose Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Dr.

DeSmet and Kaulka will bring word of developments in the three month-old dispute and appeal for support and financial assistance for workers' families who have suffered the effects of a prolonged strike.

San Jose Local 98 of the Guild is hosting the daytime rally as well as

an evening reception also on the 14th at Local 98's offices located at 735 E. Brokaw Road. Those interested in attending either or both gatherings are requested to contact Luther Jackson, executive officer of Local 98 at (408) 436-0761.

The two strikers will also be available to speak to unions and councils through Nov. 18.

Global Unionism Stirs Delegates

Jack Henning stirred the AFL-CIO Convention with an emotional plea for support of global unionism.

The executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, addressing the full convention, pointed out that this state's AFL-CIO had submitted a resolution calling for global unionism as an answer to global capitalism. The California resolution ultimately was referred to the new Executive Council.

Here are excerpts from Henning's speech:

"Now this has been a great convention," Henning told the delegates. "We've had two great trade unionists seeking the presidency. But however moving and impressive this convention has been, it will be a very forgotten chapter in the history of this

**'Save your nation
and save your souls.
Get behind global
unionism.'**

—Jack Henning

movement unless we can stop the encroachment of global capitalism that is cutting at the heart of American unionism.

"If we have had a declining percentage of the union movement in this country, it is not due to ineptitude or lack of vigor of the men and women who have led the movement.

"It is due, rather, to a power over which they have no control—the glob-

al, united power of capitalism.

"But the most grievous crime of global capitalism is this: it has turned the workers of the world against one another in cannibalism.

"Let's take the NAFTA program. The Mexican trade union movement approved it strongly. Brother Velasquez, the veteran leader of the Mexican trade union movement, said, 'It is a scandal that American Unionism is opposed to NAFTA.

"Don't they realize that 13-year old girls are walking the streets of Mexico City as prostitutes because they come from impoverished family? Velasquez said, 'You take care of yours. We'll take care of ours.'

"The only answer is for the AFL-CIO to meet the challenge and set up

a vehicle to enable the nations to set up a free trade union global group."

Henning continued:

"You can't answer the power of global unionism by nationalism. National trade union instincts are for self-preservation alone.

"So, brothers and sisters, if we are to know the growth or indeed the survival of our unions—we don't want to see them going the way the industrial unions went—we can't compete against the low-wage, cannibalistic processes that prevail throughout the world.

"We need a body that would meet at the call of the AFL-CIO to work toward standards of reconciliation.

"It will be said that this is vision-

ary. Well, there's nothing less visionary than to see a great organization die without power to resist death, and we are on that road."

Here Henning was interrupted by applause that turned to cries of consternation when the microphone at which he spoke went dead. Tom Donahue, presiding as AFL-CIO president, announced that Henning's speaking time had elapsed but said he would allow the California AFL-CIO leader half a minute in which to complete his remarks.

Henning finished in much less than the allotted 30 seconds.

"OK, Tom," Henning said.

"You and the other brothers and sisters save your nation and save your souls. Get behind global unionism."

Convention ...

(Continued from Page 1)

ka, president of the Mine Workers bested Easterling, of the Communications Workers, 7,341,669 to 5,661,333. Chavez-Thompson was elected to the new executive vice presidency by a voice vote.

The fourth president of the AFL-CIO recalled former President George Meany's statement to the final convention of the AFL in 1955: "I'm sure there is enough wisdom, enough common sense, enough dedication and loyalty to the principles of our movement in both the AFL and CIO to make this work."

He also recalled former President Lane Kirkland's advice to the 1989 AFL-CIO convention that "solidarity has been our shield against the most primitive and the most sophisticated assaults by agents of avarice and exploitation."

Sweeney paid tribute to Donahue and Easterling as "great trade unionists."

President Bill Clinton was greet-

Sweeney Fills Top Positions

President John J. Sweeney of the AFL-CIO announced appointments to several top positions Tuesday during a meeting with the all staff members at the federation's Washington, D.C. headquarters.

Robert W. Welsh was named executive assistant to Sweeney. Welsh held the same position at the Service Employees International Union during Sweeney's 15 years as president of that union.

Brad Burton was named executive assistant to Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka. Burton held that position at the United Mine Workers.

Arlene Holt becomes executive assistant to AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson. Holt had been serving as AFSCME's national union area director for California.

John Hiatt was named federation general counsel, a position he held at SEIU.

Denise Mitchell will serve as special assistant to the president for public affairs. She held that position at SEIU. She also is a partner at Abernathy and Mitchell, an advocacy public affairs firm.

Gerald Shea was named an assistant to the president to oversee the transition and was given responsibilities for government affairs. Shea served for the past two years as executive assistant to former AFL-CIO President Tom Donahue. Earlier, he headed SEIU's Health Care Division and served as assistant to the SEIU president for governmental affairs.

ed with a cheering ovation and chants of "four more years" when he stepped to the convention podium on the evening of the opening day.

Donahue noted in his keynote speech that Clinton had done workers an injury with NAFTA. But he said the president "has proven himself to be a friend of America's working families," and he declared that in the 1996 elections "this labor movement is going to be with him every step of the way, fighting to send Gingrich and his mean-spirited, rubber-stamping reactionaries back home where they belong."

He introduced Clinton as "labor's friend in the White House who stands between us and the right-wing Republicans who are determined to weaken or repeal every law that helps working men and women."

Clinton expressed thanks for labor's "strong and passionate" grass roots campaigns against Republican attempts to cut worker safety, job training, education and health care.

The budget battle, Clinton said, "is about the kind of country we're going to be and what kind of people we are going to be. It's about whether the American dream is going to be alive in the 21st Century.

"What we have to do is...just stand up for America's working families," Clinton added. "If it takes a veto, you'll have it. But I need you in the streets standing up for America's future."

Clinton actions benefiting workers were cited with praise: the Family and Medical Leave Act, Hatch Act reform, the strengthening of the National Labor Relations Board, the executive order banning federal agencies from doing business with companies that hire scabs to permanently replace strikers, and his swift repeal of a series of former President George Bush's executive orders harmful to labor.

But it remained for Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, speaking to cheering delegates on the final day of the convention, to clearly define the stark contrasts between the Clinton administration's labor policies and the agendas of the Republicans who seek to capture the White House next year. (See accompanying story.)

The convention drew scores of news media reporters, including two scabs from the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News where 2,600 members of the Newspaper Guild, Typographical Union, Teamsters and other unions have been on strike since July 13.

The scabs showed up the day before the convention opened and asked for credentials that would have allowed them access to the convention floor. They were turned down by Rex Hardesty, AFL-CIO director of information in accordance with federation policy on anybody doing struck work.



Photo by Lia Chan

Richard Womack, director of the AFL-CIO Department of Civil Rights; William Lucy, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and Gloria Johnson, president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, speak at opening session of support group conference.

Support Organizations Shape a Single Agenda

The six AFL-CIO support organizations that speak for women, youths and people of color began shaping a common agenda during a nationwide conference held at New York City immediately prior to the federation's biennial convention.

Some 350 labor leaders representing the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, A. Philip Randolph Institute, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and Frontlash took part in conference sessions at the Sheraton Towers.

The theme, "Building on Diversi-

ty/Achieving Full Participation," was pursued in workshops that developed proposals on topics including defense of exploited immigrant workers, securing women's rights, organizing, community outreach, leadership development and participation in the 1996 elections.

Guest speakers included AFL-CIO President Tom Donahue, John J. Sweeney, who succeeded Donahue during the convention, and John Sturdivant, president of American Federation of Government Employees and chair of the AFL-CIO Full Participation Committee.

APALA President Kent Wong

described the conference as an enormous success.

"It's just the beginning of our development of a joint effort to reinvigorate the labor movement through outreach to our communities," Wong said this week at Los Angeles, where he heads the UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education.

"We were also pleased to see that our calls for greater diversity in the leadership of the AFL-CIO helped bring about expansion of the AFL-CIO Executive Council to include more women and people of color," Wong added.

Applause for Reich ...

(Continued from Page 1)

takeover kings.

"A livable wage for working people? The new gang in let the minimum wage fall to its lowest level in 40 years and not do anything about it. We will fight them, I promise you,"

Clinton, he said, has appointed people to the National Labor Relations Board "who understand that collective bargaining is not a privilege. It is a right."

This brought the delegates to their feet, and they were standing and applauding again seconds later when Reich promised federal action against the spread of sweatshops.

They were up again when Reich

said the president would veto any bill repealing Davis-Bacon or the Service Contract Act, and again when he said any company union legislation would be vetoed. The list of promised vetoes went on, and so did the standing ovations.

"You might as well stay standing," Reich observed, and the audience did just that.

"President Clinton has mapped a course that will lead working men and women to a brighter future. It's a route paved with a higher minimum wage...and health care for all...and low-cost loans so your kids can go to college, and vouchers so you can go to a union apprenticeship program if you lose your job.

"America is at a turning point

right now," Reich declared. "We must decide whether we are merely an economy or whether we are actually something greater...whether we are a society."

"We have to decide whether the glue that binds us together is merely...business...whether the glue is the common membership we have in a society, the responsibilities we owe one another to make sure that all of us have an opportunity to make it, to succeed, to have full and enriched lives," Reich said.

He gave a parting admonition:

"Organize, mobilize and energize. Organize, mobilize and energize. Organize, mobilize and energize to restore the American dream to all of America."