



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 12



DECEMBER 1997

Huge victory for workers!

Fast Track derailed

by Fred Fuchs, SEIU 752

It was a proud moment for labor when the House pulled back the proposal giving President Clinton the Fast Track authority he and big business had lobbied for so hard. Fast Track would have allowed Clinton to negotiate trade deals with other nations that could only have been approved or disapproved, not amended, by Congress. Labor unions opposed granting this authority because, as with NAFTA, more American jobs would be lost to companies moving overseas, and there would still be no guarantees to include labor and safety provisions for workers in those countries.

An important part of this victory is that so many rank and file union members participated in the fight from their homes and workplaces across the country. Thousands of American workers let their congressional representatives know of their opposition to this legislation through letters, post cards, phone calls and e-mail. Once again, union members have proved that when we participate and join our voices together, we will be heard.

The revolution is underway, and we are well armed and will continue to stand up for those who cannot stand for themselves, and raise our voices for those who cannot be heard. Our members have shown that we are not a special interest group looking out only for dues-paying members, but a strong

and vocal *community* interest group concerned for all working people both here and abroad.

Congratulations and thank you to the many individuals here in our own San Joaquin Valley who took part in this brave and difficult fight. It was close (about six votes), but we won!

The Gap and anti-union initiatives

by Mike Rhodes

In September, *Labor/Community Alliance* carried an article raising important questions about the Gap. These points of concern should have been raised before the City of Fresno rolled over and made all kinds of concessions to entice the company to locate a regional distribution center here. We sent the article to *The Fresno Bee* with a request that they publish it. *The Bee* declined, citing its belief that the ideas expressed were too dangerous for the public to read. We keep reading more about The Gap, and what we're learning is not encouraging.

The Gap's founder and CEO, Donald Fisher (worth \$1.1 billion in 1996), is a leading backer of one of the anti-union initiatives circulated recently. The initiative would impose onerous requirements on all unions, severely restricting their ability to raise and spend money on political campaigns.

The clothing magnate, who announced that he would be bringing a distribution center and hundreds of jobs to Fresno, made a \$5,000 donation to the circulation effort to put the initiative on the November 1998 ballot. Fisher's

(continued on p. 8)



The purpose

*of Labor/Community Alliance
is to strengthen and unite the
labor movement and the progressive
community in the Central San Joaquin
Valley through information sharing.*

*This publication is printed monthly and
includes a calendar of events. In addition
to providing the basis for mutual support
between labor and community groups,
this newsletter will be used to promote
dialog on the subject of creating an
independent political party for the
U.S. working class.*

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Holiday Season of Conscience is upon us



as a powerful network to defend human rights.

Thanks to everyone involved, The Day of Conscience was a great success. There were major Day of Conscience events on October 4 in at least 40 U.S. cities including New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, San Francisco, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and Baltimore; dozens of creative and exciting activities in communities and on college campuses across the country; and events in several other countries including South Africa, France, Italy, and Belgium.

What characterized Day of Conscience events everywhere was the continued emergence and growth of a new coalition of children, high school and university students along with religious, solidarity, and women's organizations joining together with labor groups in the struggle to end child labor and sweatshops. We will emerge from the Holiday Season of Conscience with a national network that the corporations must listen to. Momentum is building—there is no reason that this social movement to defend labor and human rights can't become as strong as the environmental movement in influencing corporate policy. In the same way that companies want to be seen as being "green" or environmentally friendly, they will also want to be recognized for making products under humane conditions.

What began as a single campaign has grown into a movement to end sweatshops and child labor. The Holiday Season of Conscience campaign is in the hands of people and organizations all across the country that are emerging

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Nurses' fight continues

by Larry Langford and John Veen

On November 10, the California Nurses Association staged a one-day strike against Kaiser Permanente hospital and medical facilities throughout northern California. About 100 nurses from the Fresno area took part in the strike, which forced Kaiser to cancel or alter services.

Don Nielsen, local CNA representative, was exuberant about the response to the strike, saying that Kaiser knows it is losing this battle. "We won a big victory with the labor board recently," he said. "A judge ordered Kaiser to bargain with us on the issue of quality of care. He agreed with us that it's negotiable. Up to now, Kaiser has said, 'This is our bailiwick.' We said no, and the board agreed, because we—the nurses who work here—are also consumers of Kaiser health care."

The union is battling Kaiser over pay cuts and freezes in salaries and benefits. Also at stake, however, is the union's claim that the quality of health care at the HMO is deteriorating due to cost cuts. The strike comes at a time when there is a serious shortage in the number of nurses in California. According to *The Fresno Bee*, Kaiser employs about ten percent of the nurses in the state.

"We'll do whatever it takes. It's just a matter of time before Kaiser wakes up." Don Nielsen, CNA

The strike in Fresno was interrupted by heavy rains that hit the area that Monday. Nielsen said people were willing to walk the picket line despite the bad weather. "We had a great turn-out," he said. "People were there all day long. It was a real testament to how strongly they feel."

When asked about future plans, Nielsen said there could be another strike in December, possibly lasting two or three days. "We're not going to cave in," he said. "If we have to, we'll keep this up for years. These strikes cost Kaiser \$10 million a day.... We'll do whatever it takes. We'll go as long as we have to. It's just a matter of time before Kaiser wakes up."

Rallies support Martinez Jobs Bill

by Larry Langford

On October 18, rallies occurred in more than 20 cities as part of what organizers called a National Day of Action to support passage of the Jobs Creation and Infrastructure Restoration Act (HR-950), otherwise known as the Martinez Jobs Bill. In Los Angeles, hundreds of people gathered on the steps of City Hall to listen to labor and political leaders, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), and Delores Huerta, national secretary-treasurer of the United Farm Workers Union.

According to the *Weekly World*, Rev. Jackson saw the passage of HR-950 as part of the same struggle to win back affirmative action in California. "The dream Dr. Martin Luther King marched for was not just about self-esteem, the content of one's character, or the color of one's skin," he said. "It's about public policy. Dr. King marched to shift public policy for jobs and justice." Delores Huerta had some sharp criticisms for Congress and the President. "You would think," she said, "that with welfare 'deform' that a public works jobs bill would be a priority, but it's not! Congress and President Clinton should be putting this bill first instead of last."

The Martinez Jobs Bill, also known as the Jobs 2000 Act of 1997, was introduced into Congress by Rep. Matthew Martinez (D-Calif.). The purpose of the bill is to create jobs through the establishment of a national public works program. Specifically, the bill would:

- authorize grants to state and local governments for construction, repair, renovation, or other improvements in works projects
- require minority participation in these projects
- stipulate Buy American guidelines
- provide jobs for the unemployed and underemployed
- provide for the part-time employment of eligible youth, up to 32 hours a week
- assist in the reclamation and conservation of public lands

Currently, the bill has 56 cosponsors in the House of Representatives. First introduced on March 5, 1997, it has since been referred to several subcommittees where it awaits further Congressional action.

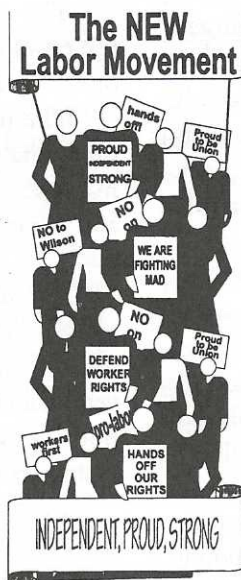
CSEA Chapter 379 ratifies contract

by Susie Salem

The California School Employees Association Chapter 379, representing classified (non-instructional) employees at the State Center Community College District, recently ratified a three-year contract. A few significant changes:

- ★ a 5.04% salary increase for 1997-98; 1% + COLA (plus another 1% if the district has sufficient growth) for 1998-99 and 1999-2000
- ★ employee's choice for pay or compensation time whenever overtime is mandatory
- ★ waiver of enrollment fees for any campus course offering on a space availability basis
- ★ jury duty time served applied against regular work schedule for employees who work the late shifts

The issue of part-time temporary employees continues to be a subject of negotiations that the chapter and employer view differently. In most aspects of employer/employee relations, the chapter continues to support and maintain a positive and open relationship.



Bustamante honored by labor

by Larry Langford and John Veen



California Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante was given the Labor Leader of the Year Award at a ceremony held at the Golden Gate Plaza in Fresno on Nov. 7. More than 300 local union leaders and activists were in attendance. Supervisor Juan Arambula was master of ceremonies.

When asked why Bustamante was chosen for the award, Randy Ghan, Secretary-Treasurer of the Central Labor Council said, "Cruz has been a friend of labor for a long time, first as a key staff member for elected officials, then as an elected representative, and now as Assembly Speaker. He has always been mindful of the interests of working folks in the Valley."

In addition to the award, proclamations and words of praise were heard from the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, Fresno City Council, Clovis City Council, Building Trades Council, and from State Senator Jim Costa on behalf of the California State Senate. Letters of congratulation were received from U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer and Rep. Gary Condit.

In response to the praise, Bustamante said he felt humbled. "I'm sitting here asking myself, who the hell are you talking about?" In his remarks to the gathering, he spoke of his early days in politics, when it was difficult to get the media's attention. But now that he is Speaker, he said, everywhere he goes, someone is sticking a microphone in his face. He expressed his gratitude to everyone who had helped him on campaigns, including those who had walked precincts and participated in other get-out-the-vote efforts.



Head for the Borders?

Borders books opened a 25,000-square-foot store in Fresno on Nov. 15.

Before you drop what you're doing and head for the area's newest Borders, you should know that the United Food and Commercial Workers kicked off a national pressure campaign against the giant bookseller on Oct. 1. One hundred twenty union supporters marched on the company's national headquarters in Ann Arbor, Michigan, asking management to sign a "fair campaign agreement" and refrain from hiring union-busters when employees start talking union. Borders declined both to sign and to get rid of its union-busting firm, Jackson, Lewis, Schnitzler and Krupman.

The average starting wage at Borders is \$6.25. This is one reason employees at four of Borders' 169 (now 170) stores have voted to join the UFCW over the last year. At all four, management has stalled negotiations, but on Oct. 1, workers at the first store to go union, in Chicago, ratified a

contract that includes a grievance procedure, a guaranteed 40-hour week for full-timers who want one, and a union shop.

The contract contains no new money, only guaranteeing the raises in Borders' existing wage progression, but adding a one-time \$150 bonus for current employees.

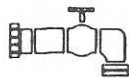
The national campaign is three-pronged, says chief organizer Lisa Canada. The goal is to win a neutrality pledge from management; to get customers to take up the workers' cause; and to say to Borders' 10,000 employees: we're here, come on out.

The union does not claim to represent a majority of employees yet, or even to have solid organizing committees at many stores. The campaign will run through the end of the year, which is by far Borders' best sales period. The union is not calling for a boycott, but rather wants customers to ask managers to sign the fair campaign agreement.

Borders' CEO Robert DiRomualdo pulled down nearly \$24 million last year. Borders is on track to open 40 new stores in 1997 and to expand to the rest of the English-speaking world. Paying employees the lowest possible salaries is clearly part of Borders' approach to business, and they are up front about it. From a company newsletter:

Ultimately each person must make a choice within the modalities of the possible. If you desire an enjoyable job while you figure out what to do with your life, this is a good place to be. But if you try to make a career path out of something which can never be a well-paying job, you will be up against an impossible task because of all the economic constraints in the retail industry.

(Adapted from an article by Jane Slaughter in *Labor Notes*, November 1997)



El Porvenir, a non-profit development organization, offers two-week brigades to Nicaragua. Live in a small rural community and work with local people in the construction of a potable water project. No prior construction experience or Spanish required. Groups are accompanied by an experienced bilingual U.S. coordinator. For details, call (805)653-1488 or write to P.O. Box 1213, Ventura, CA 93002

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Local activists honored Nov. 11

by Richard Stone, Fresno Center for Nonviolence



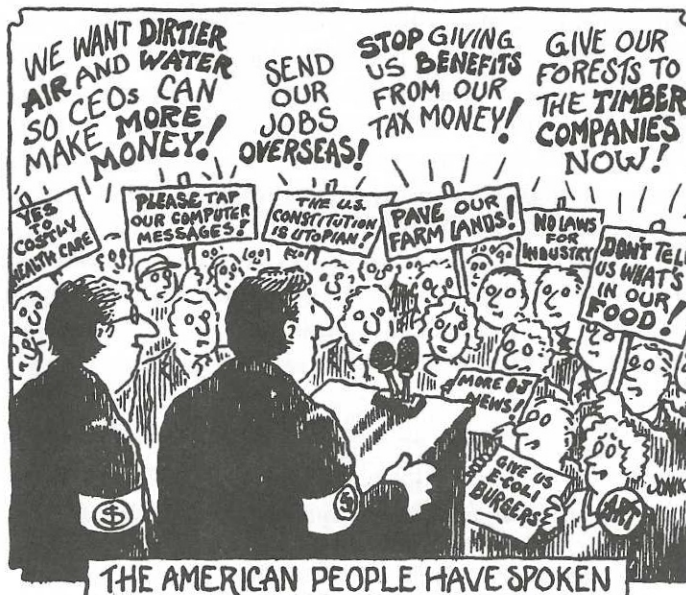
Veterans Day nominally honors the men and women who endangered themselves and disrupted their lives to protect the American democracy in wartime. But a typical aspect of Veterans Day programs is a hyper-patriotic endorsement of militarism as a means to achieving whatever ends (often imperial ones) our governors have chosen.

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence has established a tradition of celebrating an alternative vision of Veterans Day. For three years, the center has taken the occasion to honor those who, in time of war, have worked for peace nonviolently, following ends consonant with principle and conscience.

This year, the center's honorees were people who have worked for peace and justice in Mexico and Central America. They represented human ties between citizens of the United States and citizens of countries our government has targeted as enemies for refusing to act as client-states.

The Nov. 11 ceremony coincided with the passage through Fresno of a Pastors for Peace contingent taking aid to Chiapas (Mexico) and Nicaragua. One of their members outlined the policies now dominating the global economy, linking the advanced stages of poverty and economic dislocation south of the border with the problems emerging here.

Certificates of recognition were awarded to: *Marcia and Victor McLane*, for five decades of involvement in Mexico and Central America; *Juniko Kunitake and Patrick Young* for their numerous trips to El Salvador with medical supplies; *Betsy Temple and Margaret Hudson*, for participation in observation and support programs; *Jason Hubbard, Nancy Marsh, Pam Whalen, Mike Rhodes and Christopher Price* for work in Fresno's sister city, Telpeneca, Nicaragua; and to *Jill Winegardner and Katie Hunter*, members of the Pastors for Peace caravan.



Update on Han Young union fight

As reported in our last issue, workers at the Han Young maquiladora factory in Tijuana voted Oct. 6 to support the Metal, Steel and Allied Workers Union of the Authentic Labor Front. The factory produces exclusively for Hyundai and, under Mexican law, Hyundai is responsible for all labor law violations by Han Young management. Workers produce parts for truck trailers and large shipping containers.

On Nov. 10 the Tijuana Labor Board denied Han Young workers certification of their election victory. The board's decision declared that the majority vote in favor of the independent union did not constitute sufficient proof to credential the union. It also claimed the union does not have the legal authority to provide affiliation to the Han Young workers. According to the board, Han Young workers who weld and assemble steel chassis for tractor trailers are making auto parts, and therefore cannot be represented by a union of metal, steel, iron and allied workers.

The board claimed that the vote only demonstrated the sentiment of the workers at the time of the election and does not necessarily indicate that a majority of workers continue to back the independent union. A variety of organizations filed a complaint against the board before the national Administrative Office (NAO), created under the NAFTA side accords, on Oct. 30, alleging that the board does not function as an impartial arbiter to uphold labor law but rather violates its own country's labor law in order to keep independent organizing out of the maquiladora sector.

Boycott Hyundai

The Support Committee for Miquiladora workers, in cooperation with the Campaign for Labor Rights, is coordinating a boycott of Hyundai Motors that has included demonstrations in more than 25 cities nationwide. "Boycott Hyundai" bumper stickers are now available for \$1 each or \$6 for 10 from Labor/Community Alliance. Mail your check, along with \$2.50 for postage and handling, to: P.O. Box 5077, Fresno, CA 93755.

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Open Letter to the Workers and Peoples of the Americas

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On June 8, 1997, I participated in an international labor conference in Geneva against the dismantling of the international norms and conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO). The meeting, held on the eve of the ILO's 85th session, was sponsored by the International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peoples (ILC). It gathered trade union leaders from 40 countries. I attended on behalf of the San Francisco Labor Council (AFL-CIO) and the Western Hemisphere Workers' Conference Against NAFTA and Privatizations, of which I am the coordinator.

The ILO was established in 1919 and today regroups 150 countries. Through a tripartite body of government, corporate and union representatives, it has registered the gains of more than 100 years of labor struggles in conventions guaranteeing the formation of free unions without prior authorization of the state (No. 87), the right to collective bargaining (No. 97), and the outright ban on child labor (No. 138), to mention but a few. All these conventions, which are the law of the land in the ratifying countries, are today an obstacle to the "globalization" offensive by the multinationals and the financial institutions and governments in their service. Defense of these conventions is a central task facing all unionists fighting to preserve past gains and the very existence of the trade union movement.

At the June 8 meeting in Geneva, the delegates were informed of a treaty—the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI)—that takes the corporate assault to a previously unheard of level. As such, the meeting decided to place the issue of the MAI at the center of its deliberations.

The MAI is a treaty that has been negotiated secretly among the 29 industrial countries that comprise the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In essence, it is a treaty designed to consolidate global rule by the multinational corporations. It seeks to establish a whole new set of global rules for investment that will grant multinationals the unrestricted "right" and "freedom" to buy, sell, and move their operations whenever and wherever they want around the world, unfettered by government intervention or regulation.

As coordinator of the Western Hemisphere Worker's Conference Against NAFTA and Privatizations held in San Francisco Nov. 14–16, I feel it is incumbent upon me to inform all the trade unions, organizations and individuals that have endorsed our conference—and, more broadly, all workers and peoples of the Americas—of the unprecedented threats posed by the MAI to our unions, our communities, our rights—to the very existence of sovereign nations and democracy.

The MAI sheds new light on NAFTA, the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), and all the other "free trade" pacts we are being asked to buy into. It reveals the extent to which the

multinationals and their financial institutions are willing to go to establish what WTO Director-General Renato Ruggerio, speaking of the MAI, refers to as the "constitution of a single global economy." The MAI discloses the true corporate agenda of global pillage.

As with NAFTA and the FTAA, the cornerstones of the MAI treaty are investment codes that would force countries to treat the multinationals, in their role as "foreign investors," as favorably as domestic firms, prohibiting all laws that violate that principle. Through national treatment clauses and provisions for the elimination of job content requirements, export quotas and foreign investment measures, these codes seek to grant the multinationals full powers over our economic, social and environmental future.

But the MAI goes further than NAFTA to establish—for the first time ever—the right of the multinational corporations to sue and collect compensation from local communities that exercise any manner of control on investment behavior. For instance, it would bar "living wage" laws like that recently enacted in Baltimore; overrun the Community Reinvestment Act, which prevents redlining by U.S. banks; and would essentially outlaw minority hiring requirements in

city contracts.

In many respects, this MAI was originally pioneered by NAFTA. Many of the terms and conditions originally laid down in the investment code of NAFTA have been transplanted into the draft MAI. Even some provisions that were rejected in the final negotiations of NAFTA reappear in the OECD investment treaty. Now a NAFTA-plus investment code is about to be adopted by the 29 countries of the OECD, thereby setting the stage for a worldwide investment treaty in the 21st century.

Even though the MAI will initially apply only to OECD signatory countries, an accession clause built into the proposed treaty allows non-OECD countries to sign into the pact. Once concluded, the MAI template will thus be forced on the "developing" world. All member nations of the WTO will have no choice but to accept whatever the OECD contracting governments finally work out—which is why this MAI poses, as of today, a deadly threat to the workers and peoples of the Americas. . . .

Let us build a powerful continental movement, as part of a broader international effort, to demand that our governments refuse to sign the MAI treaty. Where our governments are part of the OECD, we should also demand that they make public all discussions and documents of these secret negotiations.

Yours in Solidarity,

Ed Rosario
Ed Rosario

President, San Francisco Chapter, Labor Council for
Latin American Advancement
Coordinator, Western Hemisphere Workers' Conference



Background to the MAI Negotiations

The Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) is a new pact about which people have probably heard very little. In fact, had a copy of the Jan. 13, 1997 draft agreement not gotten out, these negotiations would still be confidential, and implementation would still be on track. The MAI had been scheduled for ratification by the U.S. Senate this fall, but with the growing scrutiny OECD ministers decided in late May to extend negotiations into 1998.

MAI negotiations began in May 1995, at the initiative of the U.S. Council for International Business (USCIB) and other lobbies. Industry groups, which have participated directly in developing the pact, are briefed regularly on progress.

Using the OECD as the negotiating body was a clever ploy by the multinationals and the leading financial institutions, who wanted to ensure a "high-standard" agreement without any "watering-down"—presumably of the sort that happened with NAFTA. The U.S. government insisted that countries of the "developing" world be excluded from the negotiations for this very reason. That's why the negotiations have taken place secretly in Paris, rather than under the more open aegis of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Unions know the way to San Jose. The city of San Jose has joined the Food and Commercial Workers in supporting a consumer boycott of a Super Kmart store. The City Council approved a resolution calling for the city to boycott the store and support a community campaign for improved benefits.



Whose side? A so-called pro-workers group, the Ag Workers Committee, formed to battle the Farm Workers' efforts to organize strawberry workers in California, showed whose side it's really on last month. The committee has asked for financial help from the growers. "Growers and workers have always been a team," said Antonio Perez, committee manager. "We don't need anyone else." That must be why the UFW could turn out 30,000 at a march and rally last spring and these folks had trouble rounding up a few hundred for their countermarch last summer.



AFT, NEA collaborate. In their first such national collaboration, AFT and the unaffiliated National Education Association have formed a national joint council to work on school infrastructure, school safety and discipline and teacher quality. "We are trying to lead our unions down a new path, joining forces on behalf of our children, seeking partnerships instead of conflict with management and taking responsibility for our profession," says AFT president Sandra Feldman.



Women: labor's future. The ninth biennial convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women in Seattle Nov. 6-9 focused on ways to strengthen the voices of working women. The conferees heard from sweatshop workers and discussed ways of ensuring worker protections in trade agreements. The delegates also sought to establish closer links with younger working women by identifying issues important to young workers and to develop organizing methods that will attract younger women.

Labor News

(From the AFL-CIO's *Work in Progress* weekly news bulletin)



Frontier strike finally over. The six-year strike at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, during which not one union member crossed the picket line, ended Oct. 28 in a win when the hotel was sold. Kan-

sas businessman Phillip G. Ruffin, who reportedly is paying more than \$165 million for the resort, has reached an agreement with the five unions representing about 550 workers. Under the agreement, the workers, members of two locals of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees, the Teamsters, the Operating Engineers and the Carpenters, will have contracts matching those at other Strip hotels. The agreement restores full seniority rights to all workers who want to return to the Frontier and commits management to work to resolve outstanding unfair-labor-practice issues.



I heard it on the radio. The medium was the message in San Jose. When Khanh Tran, an organizer for UFCW Local 428, hosted a radio program on workers' rights on Vietnamese radio there, the message

reached workers at high-tech Supracor Systems. The workers contacted Tran and asked for her help in forming a union. After a tough campaign, the workers, mostly immigrants from Mexico, Bosnia, Vietnam and Samoa, voted to join the union.

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BOSSES BEWARE!



**When we're screwed
we multiply!**

The Gap and anti-union initiatives, cont. from p. 1

donation ranks as one of only two \$5,000 donations the initiative has received.

The *Labor/Community Alliance* thinks this is an indication of what Fresno can expect when The Gap comes to town. We already knew they didn't want to pay their fair share of taxes. In fact, taxpayers are giving them money to locate in California. Now we find out the Gap is backing anti-union initiatives that seek to weaken organized labor.

This initiative is an outrage! Imagine organized labor backing an initiative requiring corporations to get the approval of every stockholder before spending money on political campaigns. We would hear Mr. Fisher howling to high heaven if such an initiative were on the streets.

Let's be clear. This is class warfare, and the CEO of The Gap is leading the charge against the interests of working people. Is this the kind of person who deserves a hero's welcome to Fresno? I don't think so!

➡ At press time, two local labor stories were reported in *The Fresno Bee*. The American Federation of Musicians reached a tentative agreement with the Fresno Philharmonic Association. And about 115 Teamster truck drivers struck four Fresno sand and gravel companies. The issues are salary, health and welfare benefits, and various other workplace guarantees. According to the report, some workers expect the Teamster strike to last until the first of the year. Also reported: company threats to bring in scabs.

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Global Fresno #1 packs them in!

A thousand thanks to Peter Lumsdaine, Gloria Hernandez and Marcelo Salcido for an informative, disturbing, inspiring evening of presentations at the first "Global Fresno" event held November 19 at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

There was standing room only (next time we'll use a bigger space!) as people crowded in to hear about some very timely issues--for example, the effects of NAFTA on Mexico's indigenous people (described as a "death knell" for them), the U.S. role in the arming of Mexico's military against its own citizens, and conditions for workers in deregulated industrial zones.

The theme was "Mexico: what happens there, happens here." The plan was to learn about conditions in various parts of Mexico, compare them to life here in the U.S. and the Fresno area in particular, and to publicly encourage local, multi-lingual, multi-cultural solidarity work.

Thanks to Gloria we had translation equipment (head sets) for people to wear, so the event was successfully bilingual. Larry Langford and John Veen did double-duty as hosts and furniture movers. (Larry also got "volunteered" to be camera man). Frances Sivak supplied the pastries. The Labor Party supplied beverages. And of course the Fresno Center for Nonviolence lent us the space, the chairs, the restrooms--not to mention a stipend for our keynote speaker, Peter Lumsdaine. Peter is Latin America Program Coordinator at the Resource Center for Nonviolence, Santa Cruz.

Thanks are also due to the Immigrant Women's Access Project for the use of their translation equipment and video camera. Three petitions were circulated and inked-up pretty heavily: one supporting the Martinez Jobs Bill; another for the latest effort to bring universal health care to California; and the Labor Party's 28th Amendment Campaign petition (demanding living-wage jobs for all). Call 226-2078 for information about this and future events, about the petitions, and about subscribing to Labor/Community Alliance.

We hope to have a more complete report on "Global Fresno #1" ready in time for the January issue of this newsletter.

Implementation of Welfare "Reform" in Fresno County

Question asked and answered

Q: In the draft of the county's implementation plan, it is estimated that "... 55,000 jobs will be needed during the next five years in order [to] provide employment for all of the CalWORKS recipient population." Is it possible that if and when these 55,000 jobs are created, there will still be a 14 percent or higher unemployment rate in Fresno County?

A: Yes.

Q: Is it possible that employers will regard this new pool of workers as a ready supply of cheap labor, and that local wages and the tax base will be driven down?

A: It is possible, of course, but we can't really speak to that. It would be speculation.

Q: Are there laws in place to protect against displacement of current workers by people engaged in CalWORKS-related "work activities" and job placements?

A: Yes. Refer to AB1542 (CalWORKS), sections 99 and 100, Welfare and Institutions, Codes 11324.5 and 11324.6 (revised).

Q: Is it possible that an aid recipient engaged in a "work activity" could work side-by-side with a paid employee doing the exact same work?

A: Yes. And that has been a practice for many years in what used to be call the "Prep" program, which was part of GAIN. In the current plan, it is called "Community Service."

Q: The implementation draft estimates that 55,000 new jobs will be needed in five years. What percentage of that 55,000 do think will actually be created?

A: We don't have such a projection, but there are numbers in the report you could extract from.

[Over a five year projection period, the report estimates that total wage and salary employment will increase by an average of 6,220 per year. That's 31,100 jobs. 55,000 minus 31,100 equals 23,900. Roughly 44 percent of the CalWORKS people expected to find jobs in five years will be required, at their peril, to find something that does not exist.]

Q: What will happen if, at the end of five years, an aid recipient is unable to find work?

A: CalWORKS recipient adults who have received the maximum 60-months of cash aid assistance will be ineligible for further cash aid, for life. However, any eligible children under 18 years of age...will continue to receive assistance in the form of vouchers.

[These questions and answers were compiled by John Veen, and are based on interactions with the Fresno County Board of Supervisors, the Director of the Social Services Department Alan Peters, and Coordinator Janet Rickert in November. The final CalWORKS plan will be returned to the Board of Supervisors in December, and will incorporate input gathered from the public in November and December. Upon the Board's final approval, the Plan and a resolution formally adopting its contents will be submitted to the State by the January 10, 1998 deadline. The December Board meeting is Tuesday the 9th at 9 a.m.]

Calendar of Events



December 1997

Monday, December 1

World AIDS Day; activities at CSUF include: 5:30-6:30 P.M.—*Celebration for Hope in a World with AIDS*, CSUF Education Building, Room 172; 6:30-7:30 P.M.—*Candlelighting Ceremony*, Satellite Student Union; 7:30-8:30 P.M.—*Main Event*, Satellite Student Union.

Friday, December 5

Annual Labor Christmas Party, 5 P.M., IBEW Hall, 5420 E. Hedges, Fresno, sponsored by Central Labor Council, Building Trades Council, Coalition of Organized Labor. Food, drinks, fun!

Saturday, December 6

WILPF Holiday Craft Faire, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., First Congregational Church, 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.

Sunday, December 7

WILPF Meeting with Felicity Hill, Australian peace leader, 3 P.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence, followed by supper in the Tower District. Call 229-9661.

Tuesday, December 9

Monthly Potluck and Discussion Group, Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Meets every second Tuesday. Meal at 6:30 P.M.; discussion begins at 7:30. Dr. Robert Valett will be talking about his book, *The Spiritual Guide to Holistic Health and Happiness*. Call 237-3225.

Wednesday, December 10

International Human Rights Day

Saturday, December 13

Fresno Center for Nonviolence Board Meeting, 9:30 A.M., 985 N. Van Ness. Guests welcome.

Monday, December 15

Amnesty International, 7:30 P.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness. Call 224-0924.

Deadline for submission of information for September issue of *Labor/Community Alliance*. Call 226-2078.

Tuesday, December 16

Health Care for All, 7:15 P.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness. Call 855-2438

Thursday, December 18

Death Penalty Focus, 7:30 P.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness. Call 323-4871.

Monday, December 29

Labor Party, Frank Little Chapter, 5:30 P.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence. Everyone welcome. Call 226-2078.

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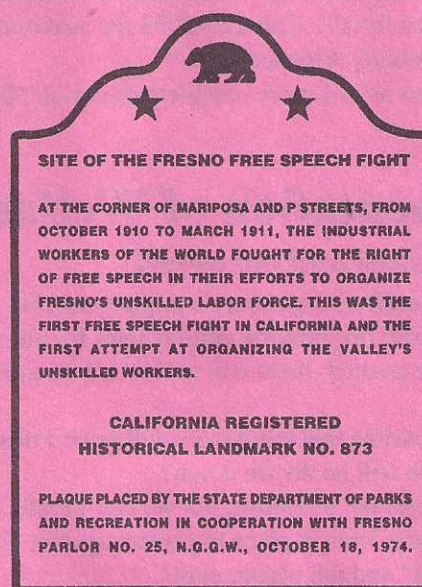
Ongoing Activities/Events

Scalzo Talk, Mon & Thurs 6-9 P.M., KAAT 103.1-FM.

Weekly

Monday-Friday: The Living Room, support and referral resource center for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Noon to 5 P.M., Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 985 N. Van Ness. Call 485-3667.

Every Saturday: Food Not Bombs feeds the hungry; 1-2 P.M. near the Olive Avenue entrance to Roeding Park. **Needed: volunteers to help cook food Saturday mornings**, 9:30, Sierra Vista United Methodist church, corner of Maple & Illinois.



A historical marker on Fulton Mall (by the clock tower) in downtown Fresno commemorates the free speech fight of 1910-11. Frank Little was a principle agitator and organizer of this movement. He spent time in Fresno's jail for exercising his First Amendment rights.

Frank Little remembered

Page 1 of the Aug. 2 Butte Montana Standard featured a large photo of Wobbly troubador Mark Ross performing at the unveiling of a sculpture honoring IWW organizer Frank Little, lynched by the copper bosses on Aug. 1, 1917. Thirty people attended the dedication ceremony, and others attended an earlier graveside ceremony. The black steel sculpture, depicting two thugs carrying Little's limp body, stands near the site of the boarding house where the thugs roused Little from his sleep. The state legislature responded by outlawing militant unionism. Local Wobs issued t-shirts for the occasion bearing Little's picture over the motto, "We Never Forget." (*Industrial Worker*, October 1997)