



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

APRIL 1, 1997

Corporate Power and the American Dream

Toward an Economic Agenda for Working People

Corporate Power and the American Dream is an educational program designed for unions, community groups, and school seminars around the country.

This is not a lecture! It's a small group, activity-based, interactive workshop led by worker-trainers.

Participants are supplied with an easy to read and use workbook with over 100 charts designed specifically for worker organizations and community groups. The workbook provokes debate and discussion on alternative, non-corporate economic concepts.

Over the past year, this program has reached over 3,000 people from over 200 unions and community groups from all geographic regions of the country.

Some of the topics covered include: Why is corporate power rising? Why are unions in decline? Why is there

so much job insecurity? Why aren't there enough decent-paying jobs to go around? What's the real "workfare" story? What happened to the nation's wealth? What is Corporate America's game plan? What are the alternatives?

To register, please call 226-2078, or write c/o the Labor Party, PO Box 5077, Fresno, CA, 93755.

Sponsored by the Frank Little Chapter of the Labor Party, the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, California School Employees Association Chapter 379, SEIU 535, the Sociology/Human Services/Criminology Department at Fresno City College, Labor/Community Alliance, Valley Labor Forum (Labor TV).

No Charge!
Saturday, May 10
Fresno City College
8:30-4:30
To Register
Call 226-2078
Lunch provided



A PROJECT OF THE LABOR PARTY (FRANK LITTLE CHAPTER) AND OUR MANY FRIENDS

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.

PROJECT COORDINATORS

Editor:

John Veen

Managing/Contributing

Editors:

Pam Whalen

Mike Rhodes

Del Berg

Photography:

Mike Rhodes

Labor Party

Frank Little Chapter

P.O. Box 5077

Fresno, CA 93755

(209) 226-2078

Fax c/o Pam Whalen:

442-6022

E-mail: clr2@igc.apc.org

Labor/Community Alliance: a Conspiracy?

Our intention is, of course, to get people interested in the Labor Party. But we consider Labor/Community Alliance (LCA) to be a stand-alone project. You may or may not agree with the Labor Party program, "A Call for Economic Justice." But let me ask you: do you think it's a good idea for organized labor, social justice, peace, neighborhood, and religious groups to develop a "solidarity" network? Of course you do!

LCA is more than just a newsletter. It's a seed, planted in valley hardpan. But don't think we're ignoring the efforts of other very important organizations and networks, like the Central Labor Council, the Coalition Of Organized Labor, Fresno Metro Ministries, or the Fresno Center for Nonviolence (to name a few). The idea is to support and expand these efforts.

If something is happening at the Center for Nonviolence, we want (crazy idea) Teamsters and Carpenters to know about it. If the California Nurses Association or Service Employees locals are involved in an action at a local hospital, then single-payer activists, ministers, custodians and school employees should all know what's going on.

This is a serious, high-priority project. Forgive me for stating the obvious, but the working class is divided. *What are we doing about that?* Do we have a local newspaper that is beholden to something other than business interests? Do we have an activist communication network that gets the word out quickly and efficiently when Central Valley workers, employed and unemployed, organized and unorganized, have issues but no megaphone?

Idealistic? Hell yes! But this is also about mutual support and *survival*. I'm not satisfied with the status quo as I see it: when there's a ballot initiative or a do-or-die vote in the legislature, or some natural disaster, *then* we reach out across jurisdictional and political lines. It's a better idea to put a solid communications structure in place. We need a "hotline" connecting independent unions and AFL-CIO affiliates with social justice groups and (potentially) all area workers. LCA could be that hotline. And combined with other media projects currently in the formation stage (like Valley Labor Forum, coming soon to a TV near you) we're making modest efforts to *do* something about the local propaganda imbalance.

Tell us: Are we off to a good start? What are we missing? Where have we gone wrong? Mail your comments, or bring them in person to our monthly meetings. Solidarity - J. Veen

Subscribe!

Your subscription to LABOR/COMMUNITY ALLIANCE is free when you join the Frank Little Chapter of the Labor Party (see form on page 8). Or you can get on our mailing list by writing to the Labor Party, P.O. Box 5077, Fresno, CA, 93755. Donation: \$50, \$35, \$10/yr, or what you can afford. We also gladly accept donations of self-adhesive stamps. Call John at 226-2078 with questions/comments.

Chavez Celebration and March April 6

Fresno's third annual celebration of the life of Cesar Chavez will be held Sunday, April 6, in downtown Fresno.

Assemble at the Fresno Convention Center between 12 and 1:45 p.m. The march will be from 2 - 4:00 p.m.

Program: Speaker of the House, Cruz Bustamante (tentative), UFW representatives, Music by Raices Nuevas. Food will be served. More than 150 Low Riders are expected to participate in the March and Celebration. Free to the public. For more information contact Ben Benavidez at 442-0380 or Alfonso Hernandez at 488-1212.

Fresno County Workers Ready To Strike

SEIU Local 535 members who work in many Fresno County agencies including Family Support, Security, the Jail and Juvenile Hall voted by an 88 percent margin to authorize a strike. Fresno County negotiators responded with a request for mediation.

State Mediator Shirley Campbell has been called in to try to resolve the difference between the Union and the County. The county is asking for numerous take aways in the current contract including reductions in annual leave, health and safety, shift differentials, and Union access to employees.

The county is offering a ½ percent salary increase.

The union is rejecting the county's take aways, asking for a 7 percent increase, agency shop, bilingual pay, and safety retirement for peace officers.

The parties have been at the table since early November and the contract expired in mid December.

Some 3,300 county employees represented by SEIU are without a contract.

On March 18, SEIU presented the county with a petition with signatures of 1,500 county employees requesting a fair contract. SEIU has also asked the Board of Supervisors to meet with county employees in a series of town hall meetings. At press time the Board of Supervisors had not responded to this request.

PEACE CENTER BENEFIT

The Fresno Center for Nonviolence will present **Stylish Seconds II**, a fashion show and silent auction, Saturday, May 17, 1997, 2-4 p.m., at the Second Space Theater, 928 E. Olive Ave. Tickets are \$5.00 in advance, \$7.00 at the door.

Stylish Seconds II is a special kind of fashion show using previously owned designer clothing, showing how to dress fashionably while inexpensively.

A silent auction will also take place in the lobby.

This benefit for the Fresno Center for Nonviolence will feature clothing from two local charity thrift stores: Valley Children's Hospital's La Tienda and The American Cancer Society's Discovery Shop.

The clothing will be available for sale.

For further information contact the Fundraising chair, Angela Price at 435-6383 or 439-6363.

Advertise!

Rates are \$20 for business card size ads, \$20 for the first three column inches, \$4 per column inch thereafter. Ad copy must be camera-ready.



EVENT PRODUCTION
PROMOTION
TALENT BUYING

(209) 436-1143
491 Herndon, Suite 219
Clovis CA 93612

Chenault
ENTERTAINMENT

Max Higley
Realtor

Serving My Union Brothers and Sisters

Associate Member - S.E.I.U. 752
Former Teamster - 20 yrs

GUARANTEE[®]
FINANCIAL
REAL ESTATE

Bus.: (209) 323-7894
Res.: (209) 298-9088
FAX: (209) 323-7309

Urban Bus Tour

There will be a bus tour of urban Fresno Saturday, May 3. The bus will visit agencies, hurting neighborhoods and helping resources.

The tour is sponsored by Metro's Justice Network, which is composed of representatives of the social justice

committees of various congregations in Fresno.

This is an opportunity to become exposed to and educated about what is really happening in our community.

A small registration fee will be charged to cover the bus rental and lunch. Call the Metro office at 485-1416 for details and to register.



*Clockwise from top left:
Carol Bequette,
Laura Fultz,
Grace Solis,
Gloria Hernandez,
Dolores Huerta,
Jessie de la Cruz,
Pam Whalen.*

March 1 at the Cedar Lanes banquet room, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom honored Dolores Huerta, Jesse de la Cruz, Nancy Marsh, Betsy Temple, Grace Solis, Zeferina Garcia Perez, Esther Padilla, Aggie Rose, Pam Whalen, Ann McGregor, Gloria Hernandez, and Liz Hernandez. The occasion was International Women's Day, a day dedicated to women's struggle for equality, freedom and justice.



"Hi, I'm from the Labor Party, and we thought you might want to sign this petition calling for a Constitutional Amendment guaranteeing that everyone have a job at a decent wage."

"Huh?"



Please sign the petition on the facing page, and ask others to do the same. Then send it back to the Labor Party, PO Box 5077, Fresno, CA, 93755. More information about the 28th Amendment Campaign next issue.

Amend the U.S. Constitution to Guarantee a Right to a Job

We, the undersigned, call upon the Congress of the United States to pass for ratification the following Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The Amendment shall read as follows:

“Every person shall have the right to a job and to receive a living wage for their work.”

[illegible]

Petition distributed by: _____
Name

Union/Chapter

WORK IN PROGRESS

THE AFL-CIO'S WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

CAMPUS CRUSADE - A two-day teach-in "Fighting for Social Justice"-- at UCLA wrapped up the AFL-CIO's Executive Council's annual winter meeting. Overflow crowds of students, local activists and union members spilled out of the auditoriums both days. "People came to learn about labor's major battles, and beyond that they came to get involved," said Kent Wong, president of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance. In an unusual show of solidarity, striking janitors from crosstown rival USC made an appearance and were greeted by a standing ovation from the UCLA students.

AFT'S SHANKER DIES - Albert Shanker, the longtime head of the AFT and the senior member of the AFL-CIO's Executive Council, died from bladder cancer Saturday. He was 68. Shanker may best be remembered for transforming the New York City's United Federation of Teachers into one of the nation's most powerful unions. Always an advocate of high standards of achievement for students, Shanker preached the importance of parental involvement, better classroom discipline, increased funding for education and vocational training.

WELFARE REFORM REFORM - New federal welfare reform "must not take jobs opportunities away from people who already have them...and should not create a subclass of workers, welfare reform must include labor law protection--minimum wage, health and safety, the right to join a union--for those on "workfare." The AFL-CIO will support efforts "to organize former welfare recipients by integrating them into bargaining units, organizing new units and defending the living standards and working conditions of all employees," the Council said.

NOT IN OUR TOWN - The city of North Olmsted, Ohio, has introduced a resolution against sweatshop labor. By the mayor's order, all city departments will refrain from purchasing, renting, leasing or taking on consignment goods made under sweatshop conditions.

GOOOOAAAL!!! - The Department of Labor will commit \$500,000 in a coordinated international project to end child labor in the soccer ball manufacturing industry. Others in the \$1.2 million project are the International Labor Organization, U.S. manufacturers, UNICEF, and the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Pakistan.

HEMISPHERIC HEMORRHAGE - Despite all the hoopla surrounding the North American Free Trade Agreement as a mighty job-creating machine, the widening trade gaps with Canada and Mexico have actually cost Americans 420,000 jobs since passage of the pacts, according to the Economic

Policy Institute. In addition, what was once a \$1.7 billion trade surplus with Mexico is now a \$16 billion deficit.

CALIFORNIA GOT A RAISE - Millions of California's low-wage workers will see a boost in their paychecks this week, as the state's minimum wage increased 25 cents an hour to \$5 effective March 1. Voters' approval of Proposition 210 mandated the raise last fall; the minimum wage will reach \$5.75 per hour by 1998.

CLOSER TO MERGER - The merger of the UAW, Machinists and Steelworkers moves a major step closer with the naming of a new 54-member rank-and-file advisory committee. The unification, scheduled for 2000, has the backing of all three unions and would create the largest industrial union in the country.

SUIT AIMS TO PREVAIL ON WAGES - The California Building and Construction Trades Council filed suit last week to block new prevailing-wage regulations that could reduce the average construction worker's pay by as much as \$5,500 a year. The rules change the way prevailing wages for workers on public construction projects are determined. They were championed by Gov. Pete Wilson (R) and went into effect this year.

CENTER RING AT THE CIRCUS - "All children, young and old," will be able to enjoy union musicians during their visit to Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus after the Musicians ratified a new three-year contract. For 70 years, the Musicians have represented instrumentalists who perform with the circus as it travels across the country.

STRIKE NOTICE - The California Nurses Association, an affiliate of the Service Employees, will strike Kaiser Permanente facilities in Northern California "for at least one day" April 16 to protest the failure to negotiate a new contract. The one-day strike could spread to other Kaiser facilities as contracts expire, the union said. Kaiser has proposed freezing wages for two years. The nurses have been without a contract since Jan. 30.

PRIME TIME CHAVEZ - Tune in PBS April 16 for a riveting two-hour look at the late Cesar Chavez and the Farm Workers. *The Fight in the Fields, Cesar Chavez and the Farm Workers Struggle* explores his life, his message and philosophy of creative nonviolence and the impact he had not only on the farm labor movement, but on the drive for Latino civil rights. The AFL-CIO Education Department is exploring ways to make the film available for labor education programs.

Labor Creates All Wealth

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.

Every Wednesday in April

Social Issues Film Series, Fresno City College, Rm. SO-110 or SO-211, 2 p.m. April 2: Panama Deception; April 9: Shawshank Redemption; April 16: The Inheritance; April 23: Gandhi.

Tuesday, April 1

Video: "Peace Train to Beijing" hosted by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 7 p.m., Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Sunday, April 6

Cesar Chavez march and celebration, 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (march from 12-1:45), Fresno Convention Center. Call 442-0380 or 488-1212 for information.

Wednesday, April 9

Central Labor Council executive board meeting, 8:30 a.m., SEIU office.

Saturday, April 12

Fresno Center for Nonviolence monthly meeting, 9:30 a.m. Guests welcome.

Saturday, April 12

Statewide Labor Party meeting, Castroville.

Saturday, April 12

Living Room's One-Year Anniversary, noon to 5 p.m., Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Saturday, April 12

Fresno Metro Ministry's Spring Concert featuring Lui Collins, 7 p.m., Temple Beth Israel, 6622 N. Maroa Ave. Call 485-1416 for tickets and information.

Sunday, April 13

Watsonville march in support of strawberry workers. 20,000 expected. Call 277-6700 for bus tickets.

Monday, April 14

Fresno Democratic Women's Club executive board, 9:30 a.m., Perkios, Hwy. 41 & Bullard.

Tuesday, April 15

Health Care for All, Single-Payer Advocates of Central California, 7:15 p.m., Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Thursday, April 17

Death Penalty Focus, 7:30 p.m., Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Saturday, April 19

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 10 a.m., Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Saturday, April 19

Death Penalty Focus daylong workshop in San Francisco. Call 323-4871 for info.

Sunday, April 20

Premier episode of Valley Labor Forum, grassroots labor television show, 6 p.m., cable channel 61 (KKAG). Call 226-2078 for info.

Sunday, April 20

Meditation for World Peace with Veena Kapoor. Call 435-2212.

Monday, April 21

Amnesty International, 7:30 p.m., Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Wednesday, April 23

Central Labor Council delegates meeting, 6 p.m., SEIU office.

Saturday, April 26 & 27

Statewide Peace Centers Conference at La Paz (UFW). Call 237-3223 or 237-3225 for info.

Monday, April 28

Labor Party, Frank Little Chapter, monthly meeting, 5:30 p.m., Fresno Center for Nonviolence.

Monday, April 28

Fresno Democratic Women's Club luncheon, Cedar Lanes, 12 noon, \$8.50.

Tuesday, April 29

Death Penalty Focus Sixth Annual Awards Dinner, honoring Rev. Jesse Jackson, Santa Monica. Call (415) 243-0143 for info.

Friday, May 2

Bluestein Family Reunion Concert, 8 p.m., Tower Theater. Tickets: Laser's Edge, Valley Women Books & Gifts.

ALLIANCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LABOR/COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Labor Party (Frank Little Chapter)

PO Box 5077, Fresno, CA 93755



PLEASE SUPPORT THESE ORGANIZATIONS!

Coalition Of Organized Labor (COOL)

3485 W. Shaw
Fresno, CA 93711
275-1129

California Nurses Association

PO Box 27317
Fresno, CA
261-9571

Health Care For All

PO Box 515
Auberry, CA 93602
255-6473

Fresno Metro Ministry

1055 N. Van Ness, Ste. H
Fresno, CA 93728
485-1416

Fresno Center for Nonviolence

985 N. Van Ness
Fresno, CA 93728
237-3225

Service Employees Internat'l Union

3485 W. Shaw, Ste. 103
Fresno, CA 93711

Fresno Free College Foundation

PO Box 4364
Fresno, CA 93744
233-2221

California School Employees Association

2501 W. Shaw, Ste. 107
Fresno, CA 93711
226-4200

WILPF

PO Box 5114
Fresno, CA 93755
229-9661

Fresno City Employees Association

268-7767

Central Labor Council

3485 W. Shaw Ave.
Fresno, CA 93711
275-1151

Valley Labor Forum (TV)

221-5338

Join the Labor Party Today!

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (Day or Evening? - please indicate) _____

Union affiliation (if applicable) _____

Chapter affiliation _____

Frank Little Chapter



Sign me up as a member of the Labor Party
and send me a membership card and
bimonthly newspaper. I am enclosing:

- ☐ \$20 regular membership/renewal
- ☐ \$10 unemployed/retired/low-income
- ☐ \$50 sustaining member
- ☐ \$100 Five Score Club
(includes brass membership card).

Make checks payable to Labor Party. Contributions are not tax-deductible.

Labor Party • P.O. Box 5077 • Fresno, CA 93755

APRIL SPECIAL

Order 2,000 Letterhead or Envelopes at
regular price and receive an additional

500 FREE!!!

Please mention this ad when placing your order.

**Complete Offset and
Letterpress Facility**

2115 Mono • Fresno, CA 93721

Ph. 233-6174

Fax 233-6175

Offer Expires April 30, 1997

