



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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1996 Propositions

Take Our Government Back – Vote!

Proposition 212

Do you ever feel as if your government isn't looking out for your best interests? That's because it isn't.

Our current political system has been bought by fat cats. Their special interests have priority over your interests. It's time for a change. It's time to get special interest money out of politics. That's why Proposition 212 is on the ballot. It is the only initiative that cracks down on special interests.

- Proposition 212 requires politicians to raise 75% of their funds from within their districts so that they are accountable to you, not the special interests.
- Proposition 212 bans direct corporate and union contributions, limits the power of PACs and eliminates tax deductions for lobbying.
- Proposition 212 sets strict \$100 contribution limits (and \$200 for gubernatorial and other statewide races), keeping politics at a level that ordinary citizens can afford.
- Proposition 212 requires strict, mandatory campaign spending limits that will prevent rich candidates from buying their way into office.
- Finally, Proposition 212 encourages ordinary citizens to participate in our political system by enabling them to form Citizen Contribution Committees of 25-100 people who each put in a maximum contribution of \$25. This pooled money can then be given to candidates, thereby allowing ordinary people to compete with special interests on an equal footing.

Another well-intentioned measure, Proposition 208, contains none of these tough provisions. Proposition 212 is real reform, endorsed by over 500 grassroots groups and individuals across the state who are fed up with the status quo. This election day, vote for a change. Vote to give our democracy back to those to whom it rightly belongs—the people of California. Vote "Yes" on Proposition 212!

If you would like more information, or would like to get involved with campaign, please contact Tom Fendley at 209-291-4740.

Proposition 209

Women's rights and civil rights are under attack. This November, voters in California will decide whether to pass a deceptive "Civil Rights Initiative," placed on the ballot by opponents of women's and civil rights.

The initiative, if passed, will ban affirmative action programs for women and minorities

Welcome to the first issue of the **LABOR/COMMUNITY ALLIANCE** newsletter. This is a project of the Frank Little Chapter of the Labor Party (and friends). The chapter includes members of the Service Employees International Union, the Carpenters Union, California School Employees Association, California Nurses Association, United Electrical Workers, as well as many community groups. We all feel a need to build an organization to defend the interests of working people. Through this newsletter, we hope to provide a basis for groups committed to this effort, to support each other and strengthen our work.

It is our goal to link the labor movement with community and social justice groups in the Fresno area by providing a monthly newsletter and calendar of events. Your support and participation in this project will help make it a success. Send us your group's activities to be included in the calendar — and use the information in this calendar in *your* groups newsletter. By working together we *will* build a strong progressive community in the Fresno area. ♦



A Little About Frank Little – Courageous Fighter for Constitutional Rights

Frank Little was born in 1880 and died a martyr to labor's causes in 1917. He had been sent to help in the Anaconda mine copper strike in Butte, Montana and was assassinated by what was generally believed to be copper trust thugs. They broke into his hotel room, captured him, dragged him several miles behind a car to the nearest railroad bridge, hanged him from the railroad trestle with a sign pinned to his body that read "First and last warning."

Before his death, Frank Little, "half Indian and half white and 100 percent Wobbly," had been active in organizing lumber workers, metal miners, oil field workers and harvest bindlestiffs all over the West and Southwest. He was the force behind the formation of the Agricultural Workers Organization, set up to organize those who work in the agricultural fields.

Active in several free-speech fights, he led the fight in Fresno in 1910-1911. Arrested by the hundreds, put on bread and water, and given the "water cure," (being knocked down in their jail cells by fire hoses until their jailers thought they had had enough,) didn't deter them. The police chief in Fresno, Chief Shaw, (who

had an avenue in Fresno named after him) was particularly incensed when the Industrial Workers of the World tried to organize the arresting officers and lead them out on strike for the eight hour day!

An uncompromising fighter for worker's rights and free speech, Frank Little is characterized by Patrick Renshaw in his book, *The Wobblies*, as the toughest and most courageous leader the IWW ever had.

Certainly all of us who cherish the constitutional rights of

free speech will be forever indebted to Frank Little for his leadership in the free speech fights in Spokane, Washington; Missoula, Montana; Denver, Colorado; and Fresno, California.

If labor ever develops a Hall of Fame for those who have been major forces in the American Labor movement, Frank Little should be a leading candidate. (Hal Sadler) ♦

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Employee groups contend, though, that decision-making is tightly controlled and almost always "top-down."

How to Get People Involved

From CSEA's quarterly newsletter "THE STEWARD" —

Whether it is for contract negotiations, political involvement or leadership roles, our greatest asset is our members. Here are some simple tips to get people involved.

1. **Ask them.** Members appreciate being asked. Lots of members don't read newsletter, leaflets, or bulletin boards. So ask them! If you don't ask, they won't come.
2. **What's in it for them.** Let your volunteer know what we hope to achieve and how it will benefit them.
3. **Use the personal touch.** Let the potential volunteer know that they won't be alone. Tell them you or another member will also be there.
4. **Be positive.** Make them feel good about volunteering for the event or project. If you let them know how it will be a positive experience, you'll get a lot more volunteers than if you talk about it as a necessary but burdensome task.
5. **Keep it simple.** Don't ask for too much from your volunteer. Get them to volunteer and get involved for the first task. If you've planned it right, they'll volunteer again.
6. **Be specific.** "Join me Wednesday the 12th, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the..."
7. **Give clear instructions.** Nothing discourages a volunteer more than confusing instructions. If they have any fears about participating, they will use the confusing instructions as an easy out.
8. **Give them proper support.** Do they have transportation? Will there be food and drink provided? What alternative tasks may be available for them to do at the event?
9. **Publicize and thank them.** This not only rewards them for helping, it also lets others know that other members volunteer. Make sure they know how much you and CSEA appreciate their involvement and commitment. ♦



Frank Little

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