Unionists pin hopes on Dianne Feinstein

When nearly 400 trade union delegates gathered for the California AFL-CIO Biennial Convention this summer, their sights were firmly fixed on winning the governor's seat in November general elections.

"I am here to ask labor to be my partner," Democratic candidate for governor Dianne Feinstein told the delegates. "There will be a labor liaison in the top ranks of my staff. I will consult with labor about appointments to the Department of Industrial Relations and other key posts crucial to worker welfare."

Although labor backed Feinstein's opponent—Attorney General John Van de Kamp—in the June primary election, union delegates received Feinstein's message enthusiastically. Van de Kamp himself led the charge in calling for working people to unite behind Feinstein's candidacy.

As governor, Feinstein would have sweeping appointment powers, not simply to the courts but to important state agencies that wield great power over the lives of working people. Feinstein promised to restore Cal-OSHA "to full authority" in protecting the health and safety of workers and vowed to reinvigorate the Agricultural Labor Relations Board.

She also said she would "work with the Legislature to expand health insurance to the millions of working Californians, most of them low-wage earners, who have no protection today against catastrophic illness."

Feinstein pledged support for the "expansion of day care and parental leave for work-
See PAGE THREE


"My friends, you are exploited, you are robbed, you are plundered. You have submitted to it, you haven't protested. You grunt but you don't fight as you ought to do. You don't have to kill the guards. All you have to do is to go to the ballot box and vote them out of business."

Labor organizer Mary "Mother" Jones, at age of 82, in a speech to striking coal miners, Montgomery, W. Virginia, August 4, 1912
Rolling the union on: workers here and abroad

- Sample this opinion: The Canadian Association of Labour Media reports that as part of a campaign to fight drug testing, transportation workers are distributing urine specimen bottles. They're inviting everyone to "send a sample of your opinion" to Canadian transport minister Doug Lewis.

- Oops, it won't happen again: Pacific Gas and Electric Co. is having its own problems with drug testing. At one location recently the wrong employee was singled out for a random drug test. The employee's name was similar to the employee who had actually been randomly selected for the test. But naturally no mistakes will be made when it comes to the security of the storage method or the accuracy of the test results.

- Bargaining with the Ayatollah: Although Iran is usually only in the news when the subject is hostages, the country does have a labor movement. In January, 13,000 workers at 22 factories struck for a 30 percent pay increase and the implementation of a job classification scheme. Labor legislation recently enacted by the Iranian parliament does not give workers the right to organize and strike. It legitimizes compulsory overtime and deprives workers of basic insurance and safety at work.

- Naked before the law: Workers at the Ford plant near Mexico City have pioneered a tactic that workers further north might try, at least in summer. Wearing only their shoes, the workers picketed the Federal Board of Arbitration and Concession to protest the firing of more than 700 union members, according to the publication Labor Notes. The picketers said they were left naked before the law by collusion between the government, Ford management, and the government-affiliated labor federation.

- Folgers boycott: The US labor movement has begun to throw its support to a boycott of Folgers Coffee to express solidarity with coffee workers in El Salvador. The boycott is aimed at pressuring El Salvador's wealthy coffee-growing oligarchy to negotiate an end to the decade-long civil war, in which labor organizers have been a prime victim. The Longshoreman's union has pledged not to unload Salvadoran coffee and the Folger's boycott has been joined by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, United Farm Workers, and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, as well as the Longshoremen. In June the Oregon State AFL-CIO asked the AFL-CIO to put Folgers on the federation's national boycott list.

- A bozo on the bus: Said another bus passenger, "Then we get down the highway and we almost ran us into one of those. We get to the big trucks. He hadn't trained him how to drive its buses. This summer a bus passenger had to take the wheel of the bus after a scab driver told riders he didn't know how to drive. Bus drivers are distributing urine specimen bottles. They're inviting everyone to "send a sample of your opinion" to Canadian transport minister Doug Lewis.

Seminars on retirement planning

Don't forget to sign up for the Local 1245 Retirement Planning Seminars, which will cover all aspects of pre-retirement preparations, including financial and tax planning. Seminars are open to Local 1245 members and their spouses. Seminars are open to Local 1245 members aged 45 years and older and their spouses. IBEW members were notified of the seminars by mail and must return the reply card in order to attend.

- Sept. 15, Saturday, 1:00 p.m.: Holiday Inn-Chico
- Sept. 22, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.: Red Lion
- Sept. 29, Saturday, 2:30 p.m.: Embassy Suites
- Sept. 13, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.: Discovery Inn
- Sept. 15, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.: Best Western Hilltop Inn
- Sept. 17, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.: Monterey Sheraton Hotel
- Sept. 22, Saturday, 2:30 p.m.: Fresno Hilton
- Sept. 29, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.: Embassy Suites
- Oct. 3, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.: Discovery Inn

Published monthly at 3063 Citrus Circle, Walnut Creek, California 94598. Official publication of Local Union 1245. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO. P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Second Class postage paid at Walnut Creek and at additional mailing offices. USPS No. 654640, ISSN No. 0190-4965.

POSTMASTER: Please send Form 3579, Change of Address, and all correspondence to Utility Reporter, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Single copies 10 cents, subscription $1.20 annually.

Have you moved lately? If so, please send your complete new address and your social security number to the Utility Reporter, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.
Labor pins hopes on Feinstein

from PAGE ONE

While welcoming her support on important labor and family issues, trade unionists have another reason for backing Feinstein's candidacy. The next governor will have a very large role to play in the redistricting process that will result from the 1990 census. A Republican governor could easily use that process to help shift the balance of power in the state to large corporate interests at the expense of working people.

Feinstein gave trade unionists a pretty good idea of where Pete Wilson—her Republican opponent—gets his backing. "Since he's been in the Senate, Pete Wilson has taken more money from political action committees of the chemical industry than any other senator but one. "And then there are the oil companies and corporate agribusiness; nearly half a million dollars in contributions from these interests alone," Feinstein noted. "Additionally, Pete Wilson received more contributions from the scandal-ridden savings and loan industry than anyone in the entire Congress. He took $243,000," she continued.

"When asked why Wilson took that kind of savings and loan money, his press secretary could only say that Wilson 'takes a lot of money from everybody.' " The corporate interests who backed Wilson's campaigns for the US Senate certainly got their money's worth. Wilson voted against efforts to resolve the Eastern Air Lines strike; voted against the recent modest hike in the minimum wage, and voted to repeal important federal prevailing wage protections.

California AFL-CIO Executive Secretary Jack Henning told the convention: "In Dianne Feinstein we have the candidate to win in November."

IN MEMORIAM

Al McGregor

On Thursday, August 16, 1990, at approximately 10:00 a.m., Al McGregor, foreman for Herzog Electric working in Santa Monica, Ca., fell to his death from the top of a switch pole. Brother McGregor was a 40-year-old lineman from Local 213, Vancouver. Local 1245 extends its sincere condolences.

Nat Lomax

On Monday, August 13, 1990, at approximately 9:30 a.m., Nat Lomax, age 42, 1st step apprentice lineman, PG&E, was fatality electrocuted when he came in contact with an energized aluminum conductor. The conductor had been pushed through moulding on a newly set pole, and inadvertently contacted an energized 12KV phase. The four man crew was working on Pedrick Rd., one-half mile north of Binghamton Rd. in Dixon, Ca., when the accident occurred. Local 1245 extends its sincere condolences.

These Strong Hands Helped To Build A Great America!
here are times when a power company must deliver more than just power.
The power business puts a company like Sierra Pacific Power in touch with nearly everyone in the community. Sometimes that means power company employees are the first to discover that an individual in that community needs help, according to Marna Browne, a collector and union steward at Sierra Pacific’s South Lake Tahoe office.

“We find there’s a real need for us to keep an eye on the older folks and the people who can’t get around,” says Browne.

That’s why the company keeps medical records on file for certain customers. The company also attaches green cards to the meters of customers with special medical conditions “to alert the crews or any of the service personnel not to turn service off without checking with the office first,” Browne says.

Sometimes a customer may use special medical equipment at home, or may need to keep medical records on file at the office first,” Browne says.

A new “gatekeeping” program is designed to keep employees on the lookout for early warning signs of a problem. An unkempt yard or a disoriented occupant may indicate that some sort of intervention is needed.

“We try to decipher who to recommend,” says Browne. That may mean referring an elderly person to a senior service center, or putting a woman in touch with a rape crisis center.

The company also provides a safety net for ordinary customers having trouble paying their bill on time by establishing a deferred payment plan.

In all of these situations, the employees are the ones who make the critical difference. They are on the front lines, identifying the problems and figuring out the solutions.

It is demanding work under any circumstances. Unfortunately, corporate policy sometimes gets in the way of the work the employees are trying to do.

A key problem at Sierra Pacific, in Browne’s view, is that the company is not replacing employees who leave. Not long ago, she notes, when someone quit in the warehouse, the job was transferred to meter reading.

“They’re robbing Peter to pay Paul,” says Browne. As people leave or retire, they’re moving people around. We’ve all had to do extra work... We’re never running with a full crew.”

The policies have contributed to growing dissatisfaction among employees, many of whom Browne has worked with for 10 years.

“They’re bidding out for other jobs,” she says. “They’re unhappy.”

“They’re trying to drill customer service into our heads. But you can’t have good customer service if there’s unrest among the troops. You get so frustrated.”

Browne believes the union provides employees with some means of defense in difficult times.

“I think management tries to get away with things. The union has to step in periodically and remind them they can’t treat their employees that way,” Browne says.

In January the union gained important new leverage in its defense of workers’ rights in the workplace when it picked up a union security clause in the union contract for company employees in California. Now all bargaining unit members who benefit from the services the union provides—such as improved wages and benefits and grievance procedures—will be required to pay their fair share for those services.

Browne believes having a union security clause contributes to the overall morale of the workforce.

“It makes it easier to know when you come to work each morning that you’re all in the same boat—that you’re going to hang together, fight for each other.”

Having a strong union does something more. It helps ensure that the company that treats its customers right also treats its employees right.
Outside Line apprentices head for Lineman's Rodeo

It will be more than a question of raw power when apprentice linemen from the IBEW Garden Grove Training Center test their skills in the Seventh Annual Lineman's Rodeo this month in Kansas City.

As a matter of fact, it will be a question of raw egg.

In one of two events designed to test the lineman's skills, he or she climbs the pole with the egg in a bucket, but on the way down the egg must be carried in the mouth.

You're finished with the event when your first foot hits the ground. But you don't want to hit too hard: there's a 10-point deduction if the egg is cracked.

Apprentices in Local 1245's joint apprenticeship program for Outside Line Construction will join journeymen and apprentice linemen from around the United States and Canada at the rodeo, to be held Sept. 15. In addition to the Pole Climb with Egg, apprentices will perform a "hurtman rescue."

Journeymen will perform five additional events during the contest: insulator changeout with hot sticks, jumper installation on double dead-end crossarms with hot sticks, crossarm changeout, rope splicing, and underground dip termination.

The Lineman's Rodeo was founded in 1984 to promote safe working procedures and to honor the men and women who supply the electrical power used by all of us. It has grown from a two-state event to a national competition. Last year 50 teams representing 23 utilities participated.

The California-Nevada apprentices were slated to practice for the rodeo on Aug. 18, according to Instructor Fred Barker.

SMUD's new general manager attends Local 1245 shop steward conference

David Freeman faces some formidable problems as he assumes his new responsibilities as general manager of the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District, but some of the people who work for him think he's off to a pretty good start.

Freeman recently won high praise from Local 1245 members when he attended a union-sponsored shop stewards' conference for SMUD employees. According to Local 1245 Business Rep. Perry Zimmerman, Freeman engaged the union stewards in a free exchange of ideas and opinions during the Aug. 4 conference.

"He exhibited a responsiveness we haven't seen recently," Zimmerman said. "The stewards really appreciated his willingness to sit down and discuss problems. He really seemed to understand labor's concerns."

Freeman, a former official in the US Energy Department under President Jimmy Carter's administration, assumes the helm during an especially difficult period for SMUD.

Escalating rates provoked enough public anger to spark a petition drive earlier this year to put SMUD, a municipally-owned utility, up for sale.

At about the same time, Assemblyman Norm Waters threatened to introduce legislation to take control of SMUD away from the independent board that currently runs the utility and turn it over to the Sacramento County board of supervisors.

In addition to the rate issue, Freeman faces continuing fallout from a voter-mandated shutdown of the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant.

As operations at the plant wind down, Freeman must determine what steps can be taken to find new jobs for displaced Rancho Seco workers.

"It's hardly a formula for walking into a job and being an instant success," Freeman said. "But Freeman seems to be getting off on the right foot."

In June Assemblyman Waters shelved the legislation he had planned to introduce, stating he had confidence in Freeman's ability to put the district back on an even keel. The local press has given Freeman generally favorable coverage, an important accomplishment for the head of any major public agency. And Freeman seems to have committed himself to reversing the low morale that has recently plagued the SMUD workforce.

A big test for Freeman will come on Sept. 11, when negotiations are slated to begin on a new union contract to replace the current two-year agreement which expires at the end of the year.

The talks should shed some light on how Freeman plans to balance the need to control rates and the need to restore employee confidence in management.

In addition to his work at the US Energy Department, Freeman has worked for the Tennessee Valley Administration and for a power company in Austin, Texas.

Layoffs rise

There were more mass layoffs in 1989 than in 1988 according to the U.S. Dept. of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In the 44 states that compiled 1989 data, 2,341 establishments reported 2,762 layoff actions that resulted in the separation of 672,143 workers. Thirteen percent of the layoff events reflected the closure of the establishment.

Compared with 1988, the number of mass layoffs in 1989 increased 14.2 percent, the number of separations rose by 22.9 percent, and initial claims for unemployment insurance increased 22.1 percent.
1990 ELECTIONS

Bush 'honeymoon' at an end?

Fall elections give voters chance to judge politicians


These are some of the issues confronting voters when they go to the ballot box in national elections on Nov. 6. The levers they pull will, in a very real way, be a referendum on Bush's first two years in office. President Bush has enjoyed a long honeymoon, but time could be running out as Americans increasingly yearn for active leadership to cope with the nation's accumulating problems.

The 1990 elections will be particularly important because political power will follow the population shift to the South and West as state legislatures redraw House district lines on the basis of the 1990 Census. Those who control state legislatures and governors' chairs will control those lines.

California, which will gain several new congressional seats, is a major battleground between Democrats and Republicans in 1990. Leading the charge for the Democrats is gubernatorial candidate Dianne Feinstein, who won the endorsement of the California Labor Federation in July. Unions believe a victory by Feinstein will help prevent Big Business from hijacking the redistricting process and using it to gain greater influence for the wealthy at the expense of working people.

On Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., Democrats control the Senate 55-45, with 34 seats being contested this year. In the House, Democrats have a 257-176 edge.

In terms of effective control, however, Bush has been ruling the Senate with the veto, with Democrats finding themselves several votes short of the two-thirds necessary to override. In the House, the conservative coalition of Republicans and southern Democrats can frustrate the majority will.

The larger story of the Reagan-Bush decade, however, is that the rich have gotten a lot richer while everyone else became poorer.

A report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities said the richest 2.5 million Americans now have nearly as much after-tax income as the 100 million Americans with the lowest incomes.

While the government officially counts 32 million people in poverty, a new survey argues the count should be 45 million Americans living in "real life poverty." A Gallup Poll sponsored by the Families USA Foundation and the Center asked a scientific national sample how much they believed it took to stay above the poverty line in their community. The national average was $15,017 a year, compared to the government's poverty line of $12,002 for a family of four.

Despite the growing poverty problem, Bush's Democratic Policy Council in July decided against any new initiatives. One official said, "Keep playing with the same toys. But let's paint them a little shinier." Another said they wanted to do something but "we didn't have any cash." He added, "It was fun to think about these things" but the decision was to stick to Reagan-type demonstration projects.

American workers already know how it is to live with a pro-business Administration. They can count the ways: A decline in real wages during the Reagan-Bush decade; strikers losing their jobs to permanent replacements; a Bush veto of a minimum wage hike, a Bush veto of an Eastern Airlines fact-finding panel, a Bush veto of unpaid family leave and a threatened veto of child care. Business pressured Bush and Congress on all the vetoes.

In mid-July, the New York Times reported a survey by Sindlinger & Co. which revealed "a rising level of frustration." In interviews with nearly 800 households, the survey found that nine out of ten people said their incomes were being squeezed because insurance premiums, taxes and other fixed costs had risen faster than wages or the chance to work more hours.

The owner of the research firm was quoted as saying, "This is not a recession, people by the unemployed ...This is the employed becoming ever more squeezed."

(Press Associates contributed to this report)

Register to vote!

If you have changed your name or have moved since you last voted (or if you have never voted before), you must register before you can vote. In California, you may register by mail. It's easy. To get a registration form, simply call (toll-free) 1-800-345-VOTE and a form will be mailed to you. The Spanish-language number is 1-800-232-VOTA.

Registration deadline is October 9.
Resurgent trade union movement regains initiative during past year

A s trade unionists prepare to celebrate the first Labor Day of the 1990s, there is plenty for organized labor to cheer about... for a change.

After nearly a decade of fending off Republican-led assaults, the labor movement entered the new decade with victories in several strike battles, approaching victory in fighting companies out to break unions came in the bankruptcy court. When the bankruptcy court judge appointed Martin Shugrue as trustee of the United Mine Workers' estate in 1988, the union ratified a contract that preserved health care coverage, kept Pittston in the 1974 multi-employer pension plan and expanded the UMW into Pittston's non-union operations.

And 42 years after leaving the former AFL, the UMW affiliated with the 14.2 million member AFL-CIO. Other successful strikes included the Communications Workers' and the Electrical Workers' walkout at regional Bell operating companies, the nationwide over inadequate wages and attempts to shift health care costs to workers. CWA and IBEW ultimately achieved favorable contracts, as did the Machinists who struck Boeing for 48 days over wages and mandatory overtime.

The latest test of labor's solidarity is the fight at Greyhound, where more than 9,000 Amalgamated Transit Union members struck over the company's demands to continue cutting wages and benefits. The union charged that Greyhound refused to bargain in good faith—an allegation given added weight when the National Labor Relations Board raised unfair labor practice complaints against Greyhound. The firm filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in June, and the union proposed an employee buyout plan.

Since last Labor Day, the AFL-CIO launched a major campaign for national health care reform. The federation's Executive Council called on Congress to enact comprehensive legislation based on 10 principles dealing with cost, access and quality. The goal is to protect health care benefits for workers and address the needs of some 37 million Americans who lack any health care coverage.

Other legislation receiving labor's attention included the Family and Medical Leave Act, passed in both houses of Congress but vetoed by President Bush; Hatch Act reform for federal workers, also vetoed by Bush; and a child care package facing yet another Bush veto. In addition, labor backed bills to protect workers' pensions from corporate raiders, legislation to provide "economic conversion" to deal with anticipated job losses from the reduction in military spending, and legislation to ban the hiring of permanent strike-breakers.

Labor successfully backed a bill, now law, that expands the rights of 43 million disabled persons. Another victory came when labor's long-sought increase in the minimum wage finally went into effect, although it contained a subminimum "training wage" for teenagers at the insistence of President Bush. Labor vehemently opposed Bush's proposed capital gains tax cut for the wealthy, calling it "cake for the rich, but crumbs for the rest of us."

Bargaining gains

In bargaining, major agreements in private industry in 1989 provided wage increases averaging 4.0 percent in the first year and 3.3 percent annually over the life of the contract. These gains showed dramatic improvement over 1988 contract settlements, which provided 2.5 percent in the first year and 2.4 percent over the life of the contract.

The major issues at the bargaining table continued to be preserving health benefits and fighting attempts by employers to shift health care costs to employees.

Unions played a strong supporting role in helping workers in eastern and central Europe in their struggle for democracy and the right to form free trade unions. Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa received a hero's welcome at the AFL-CIO's 18th biennial convention.

Labor raised a strong voice against the repression of workers in China and South Korea. And AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland and UMW President Richard Trumka hosted a delegation of Soviet coal miners who had led a strike in the USSR last year. The AFL-CIO reiterated its stand on continued sanctions against the government of South Africa until the system of apartheid is abolished and democracy is established. Nelson Mandela's tour of the US in June helped further cement ties between US and South African trade unionists.
Organized labor is America's lifeblood

By Richard J. Perry

It no doubt will come as a surprise to some that organized labor is still around to celebrate Labor Day and Union Label Week (September 3-8) this year. They were sure that Ronald Reagan, union busters and unfair trade policies had killed it.

To be sure, as decades go, the 1980s left a lot to be desired for working people. It was the decade that invented the "replacement worker" and the leveraged buyout. It gave us Frank Lorenzo and Pittston, plus 37 million Americans without health insurance.

The new CEOs aren't operating people proud of their product, but fast-buck pirates who allowed American factories to deteriorate.

The end result has cost union workers hundreds of thousands of jobs, and sapped America's ability to be competitive in the world marketplace.

You can almost hear the anti-union forces gloating as they revel in labor's so-called "decline." Unions will survive and rebound—tough times only strengthen labor's resolve. But our critics are shortsighted if they truly believe a diminished labor movement would be good for America. There is a serious message here that labor's enemies need to consider.

Organized labor is not only America's social conscience, but the sweat and lifeblood of our strength as a nation. What our critics see as labor's decline is, in grim reality, America's decline. The trade deficit and the rusting away of our industrial base has long-term implications for all our people.

Unions give working people pride in their skills and a commitment to outstanding performance. America can't be competitive in the world market-place with unmotivated, unskilled, low-paid, nonunion workers.

Government statistics show that American workers' productivity is falling. Have any of the anti-union "gloaters" noted the parallel between the proliferation of nonunion jobs and the decline in productivity? Has anyone ever measured the productivity of "replacement" workers scabbing on jobs they aren't qualified to perform?

Union workers, with decent employers who pay fair wages and good benefits, are still the most productive in the world. The only guarantee the consumer has of quality products and services is the Union Label.

Labor Day and Union Label Week always elicit nice comments from mayors and governors and other elected officials. But this year, we suggest they really put their hearts in it.

If America is to turn a corner, to once again be the proud producer of the world's best goods and services, it will be the union worker who leads the way.

(Richard J. Perry is secretary-treasurer, Union Label and Service Trades Dept., AFL-CIO.)

Sweeping up the 1980s' mess

By Lane Kirkland

The trade union movement enters the 1990s fully invigorated and determined to tackle the painful consequences of a decade marked by excess, avarice and illusion.

The Reagan legacy of rampant deregulation, speculation and social neglect is excising its cost in all walks of life. From the soaring rise in poverty and homelessness to the proliferation of scandals that plague our government agencies and financial institutions—each shocking revelation is further evidence that America has been sold out by an army of corporate raiders, fixers and other parasites whose activities have laid waste to our productive capacity and left us awash in debt.

Trade unionism will continue to assert itself as a vehicle for working people to address these and other issues that affect their families and communities.

Along the way, we are sure to be deluged with hypocrisy from the erstwhile cheerleaders of the Reagan era, like those who doubled the national debt in ten years and now lead the hue and cry for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, or the sunshine patriots who wrap themselves in Old Glory as their flag-burning corporate allies trample American values in their global expedition for the cheapest and most oppressed labor.

And let's not forget the self-proclaimed guardians of "family values" who killed legislation to provide unpaid leave for the birth of a child or the care of a sick relative. While giving lip-service to the collective bargaining process as the proper forum for such issues, they applauded the scab-hiring employers who "permanently replace" workers striking to win such benefits.

The right to collective action and to withhold one's labor is paramount among the freedoms that inspired the recent wave of democratic revolution in Eastern and Central Europe and throughout the world. Those who praise the accomplishments of Walesa and Havel must also recognize that this right is necessary under any political and economic system, including our own.

In the coming months, the labor movement will petition the Congress to close the loophole in the law that has allowed corporate renegades like Eastern Air Lines and Greyhound to fire strikers by permanently replacing them.

In doing so, we would restore a collective bargaining system based on justice and fair play that is so essential to maintaining our high standard of living.

In addition, we will work with those who share our interests in crafting a solution to America's health care crisis, which has bankrupted millions of our fellow citizens and left a third of the country without adequate medical coverage. And we will continue our efforts to ensure that any solutions to the soaring federal budget deficit do not unfairly burden working and low-income Americans.

During the past year, American trade unionists have watched with pride as their brothers and sisters in both left-and-right-wing dictatorships rose to their feet and demanded liberty, social and economic justice, and the dignity of every individual.

Here in America and throughout the world, the labor movement is firmly committed to the fulfillment of these historic ideals.

(Lane Kirkland is president of the AFL-CIO.)

"America has been sold out by an army of corporate raiders, fixers and other parasites whose activities have laid waste to our productive capacity and left us awash in debt."

Lane Kirkland

“A PROPER VACATION

Tom Conrad, former Outside Line Construction business representative, shows the proper way to spend a summer vacation. He caught this pike in Colorado.”
Rejuvenating national economy requires new spending priorities

T
he idea goes back to Biblical times when the prophet Isaiah envisioned a time when the nations of the world would "beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks" and would "learn war no more."

The ending of the Cold War affords an historic opportunity to bring that vision closer to reality. While the current crisis in the Middle East may fuel the hopes of military contractors that they can continue feeding lavishness at the public trough, the nation's real security interests rest not in another military build-up but in working for energy independence.

American trade unions have long urged national planning and action to convert the nation's huge war-making industrial capacity into a peace economy geared to serving the needs of society. Clearly one of the most pressing needs today is a crash program to develop renewable sources of energy, which are available right here in the US. Unfortunately, renewable energy is just one of the many important civilian needs that went begging during the Reagan/Bush era.

During the Reagan-Bush military buildup, money was lavished upon the Pentagon with dubious results in terms of genuine national security. The fraud, waste and abuse which the Administration pledged to root out of government was rampant in the Pentagon procurement process, as exemplified by $640 billion, which could be shifted to employments needed for economic conversion, as exemplified by $640 billion, which could be shifted to public investments, to provide child care, infant nutrition and other programs for children.

While US leads world in military spending, its investments have lagged behind other nations in terms of education, child care, infant nutrition and other programs for children.

The benefits of a successful conversion effort could be enormous in terms of future prosperity and living standards. The success of the nation's European and Japanese trading competitors is due in part to their low level of military spending, which has allowed them to focus on their domestic industries.

"The price of building colossal military power, and endlessly adding to it, has been the depletion of American society," a process now well advanced in industry, civilian technology, management, education, medical care, and the quality of life," said retired Columbia University professor Seymour Melman, the academic pioneer of economic conversion.

As the defense budget doubled in the 1980s, federal spending on the public investments needed for economic growth--civilian research and development, education, job training, transportation and other public infrastructure--fell by almost a third.

An Economic Policy Institute report titled "Investing the Peace Dividend" shows how the military budget could be reduced by half over the next five years, providing cumulative savings of $450 billion, which could be shifted to public investments to rebuild America, raise productivity and create jobs.

Defense industry jobs not only are unstable due to their temporary nature, but military production creates relatively few jobs since it is highly-automated and capital-intensive.

According to government data assembled by House Armed Services Committee Chairman Les Aspin (D-WI), every $1 billion spent by the Defense Dept. creates 46,000 jobs; $1 billion spent on public housing creates 78,000 jobs; on nurses, 77,000 jobs; on teachers, 100,000 jobs; on sewer construction, 76,000 jobs, on the Job Corp, 151,000 jobs.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower spoke in 1953 of the cost of the escalating arms race between the US and the Soviet Union: "The cost of one heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities. It is two electric power plants. It is two fully-equipped hospitals. We pay for a single fighter with a half-million bushels of wheat. We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8,000 people."

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired--signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world, in arms, is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. It is a humanity hanging on a cross of iron."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE
CHILD CARE

US falls short of other countries in caring for kids

One of the primary differences between the way the United States sees child care in contrast to other democratic nations is the US view that child care is strictly a family concern rather than something in which the larger society has an interest.

But society does have an interest in how children are cared for. Children are by far the nation's most valuable resource: children are the future.

Unfortunately, despite their rhetoric about family values, providing for the well-cared-for children. With CHILD CARE the nation's most valuable resource: children are the future.

As more and more families need two incomes to make ends meet, Congress finally passed a $27 billion child care package to help meet the growing child care gap. President Bush has threatened a veto.

Lease policy aids parents in Sacramento

Employees of Sacramento County are eligible for four weeks' paid parental leave following the birth or adoption of a child.

The policy, adopted May 1 by the county Board of Supervisors, makes Sacramento County the first California county to offer its workers paid parental leave. The policy will apply to all of the county's nearly 9,000 employees, both women and men.

To be eligible for paid leave, employees must apply in writing in advance and must have worked for the county for at least one year. The leave must be taken within four months of the child's birth, or within four months after an adopted child has come to live with the employee.

The leave will apply to part-time employees on a pro-rated basis. The leave is separate and distinct from the use of sick leave for pregnancy.

Register to Vote!

Just call:

1-800-345-VOTE

As more and more families need two incomes to make ends meet, Congress finally passed a $27 billion child care package to help meet the growing child care gap. President Bush has threatened a veto.

(Photograph: Rick Reinhard for PAI Photo Service)
Several PG&E gas crews were busy installing two-inch gas mains at the Laguna Vista development (sites six through nine) in the Sacramento area this summer. Sacramento's rapid population growth has kept demand high for utility services of all types.

Crew members on site the day the Utility Reporter came to visit included (as pictured bottom right and on Page 1, from left to right): Ray Hicks, gas crew foreman and a 24-year-union member, Robert Hessee, gas crew foreman, 25 years, Jim Mays, fieldman, 20 years, Gerald Ayers, a summer worker aged 19, Mike Benuzzi, temporary addition with 10 years in the union, Debbie Mierke, helper, five years, Roy Martinez, gas crew foreman, 21 years, and Ron Dillen, helper, two years. (Photos: Eric Wolfe)
Becky Brown, D-clerk, at the backup desk.

Working in the records department at PG&E's Sacramento Service Center are (from left) Mary Corwin, a 12-year union member, Nancy Davis, 13 years, Jean Cabrillas, (non-union), Marty Fisk, 18 years, and Craig Fiess, 18 years.

Lou Moore (left) points to Bud Newberry in a company photograph taken in the early 1960s. Newberry (right), a union member since 1956, says everyone else in the picture has since died or retired. During his long career with PG&E, Newberry has worked in Bakersfield, Sacramento, Fresno and Selma. Moore, a 21-year union member, has worked for PG&E in San Rafael, Mill Valley, Pacifica, San Bruno, South San Francisco and Daly City.

ACDS Clerk Johnny O. Murphy, a 19-year union member and former shop steward.

Working at PG&E's Sacramento Service Center are (from left) Cynthia Clark-Belcher, 23 years in the union, Judy McElwee, 13 years, Jill Stewart (supervisor), and Jim Angelo, 22 years in the union.
Unions outlast Frank Lorenzo in historic fight over airline

By Eric Wolfe

Frank Lorenzo announced on Aug. 9 that he was resigning as chairman of Continental Airline Holding Co., bringing to a close the bitterest labor battle of the decade.

Without question it was a magnificent victory for the airline's unions, especially the Machinists, whose spirit of solidarity on the picketline ultimately proved stronger than Lorenzo's almost pathological hatred for organized labor.

But the victory was bittersweet. Lorenzo, the man AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland called the Typhoid Mary of union busters, wiggled away from the economically devastated airline with $30.5 million in his pocket. Left behind was a scene of economic and human wreckage that included displaced workers, mountains of junkbond debt, cheated creditors, and felony charges against management personnel for unsafe maintenance practices.

But the biggest flaw in his character was his inability to realize that the company could exist for any reason other than his own personal enrichment. Workers who had invested their entire careers in the company rightfully believed they had a stake in its survival. When they saw Lorenzo systematically tearing down the company they had spent years building up, they simply vowed they would not take it anymore.

And they brought Lorenzo down.

Management regarded by workers as obstacle to meeting quality standards

The biggest obstacle to meeting quality standards is management, according to a recent survey of workers and middle management personnel at 12 major American companies.

A survey reported in the Wall Street Journal found that workers claim in overwhelming numbers to be committed to meeting quality standards. But the workers don't believe that management shares their commitment.

Two-thirds of the workers reported a belief that management does not consider the quality of their work to be an important measure of performance. Only one-quarter of the workers believe that management does an "excellent job" of rewarding work groups for recommending quality improvements.

Middle management is also disillusioned with the top brass. Only 32 percent of middle managers and 46 percent of first-line supervisors believe that management is committed to achieving and maintaining "the highest quality levels possible."

A spokesman for Brooks International, which did the survey, said that while top managers may talk quality, "their behavior is different from their words."

The spokesman cited one company that pressed employees for quality improvements but based rewards solely on the number of units produced.

Lorenzo wriggled away with $30.5 million. Left behind was a scene of economic and human wreckage that included displaced workers, mountains of junkbond debt, cheated creditors, and felony charges against management personnel for unsafe maintenance practices.
Freedom steps forward with Disabilities Act

We think of America as a country, but it is also a journey. Along the road we Americans have labored long and hard at figuring out what it means to be a free people. We've discarded slavery, we've grappled with racial and religious intolerance, we've begun in recent decades to cast off rigid stereotypes of sex roles.

In 1990, America took another important step forward in the journey toward freedom when the US Congress passed The Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Disabilities Act, signed into law by President George Bush on July 26, prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodations, activities of state and local government and telecommunication.

Under the terms of the Disabilities Act, employers, employment agencies, labor organizations and join labor-management committees must have non-discriminatory application procedures, qualification standards, and selection criteria. They must make reasonable accommodation to the known limitations of an applicant or employee unless to do so would cause undue hardship.
Local 1245 members in Pacific Gas & Electric's East Bay region were honored by the union for their years of service during a recent Pin Dinner at the Blue Dolphin in San Leandro, Ca.

Preparimg to meet with PG&E to discuss mileage and DMA reimbursement rates are (from left) Oscar Lee, meter reader; Dorothy Fortier, assistant business manager, and Barbara Cook, senior meter reader. (Photo: Kua Patten)

National Boycotts Sanctioned by the AFL-CIO

Please Don't Buy

ACE DRILL CORPORATION
Wire, jobber & letter drills, routers and steel bars
United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America International Union

BROWN & SHARPE MFG. CO.
Tools and pumps
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

BRUCE CHURCH, INC.
Measuring, cutting and machine tools and pumps
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

BURWOOD PRODUCTS
Manufacturers of plaques, clocks, and other decorative wall accessories
United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America International Union

CALIFORNIA TABLE GRAPE
Table grapes that do not bear the UFW union label on the carton or crate
United Farm Workers of America

CLARK GRAVE VAULT COMPANY
Copper and steel burial vaults
United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America International Union

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES
Continental airline carrier
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, Transport Workers Union of America

EASTERN AIRLINES
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, Transport Workers Union of America

GARMENT CORPORATION OF AMERICA
Work clothes and uniforms
Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers Union

HOLLY FARMS
Chickens and processed poultry products
International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen & Helpers of America

INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY
Producer International and Hamermill bond, offset and writing paper and related products
United Paperworkers International Union

JOHN MORRELL & COMPANY
Meat products: John Morrell, Rath Blackhawk, Nathan's Famous, Tobin's First Prize, Hunter, Tom Sawyer, Krey, Partridge, Roder, Scott Petersen, Bob Ostrow, E-Z Cut, Table Trim, Golden Smoked, Carson Ribs
United Food & Commercial Workers International Union

LA MODE DU GOLF CO. OF LOS ANGELES
La Mode and Lady La Mode men's and women's golf apparel
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORP.
Brand name wood products: L-P Wolmanized, Cedartone, Waferwood, Fibrepine, Ore-Bond, Redex, Sidex, Ketchikan, Pabco, Xenolite
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, International Woodworkers of America

MOHAWK LIQUEUR CORPORATION
Mohawk labeled gin, rum, peppermint schnapps, and cordials
Distillery, Wine and Allied Workers International Union

MOTHAWK LIQUEUR CORPORATION
Subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell (parent company of Shell South Africa); gasoline, petroleum and natural gas products
AFL-CIO

SILO, INC.
National retailers of electronic equipment and appliances
International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen & Helpers of America

SHELL OIL COMPANY
National retaiers of electronic equipment and appliances
United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America

SPARKPLUGS CORPORATION
Sparkplugs
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

STEEL-WORKERS LOCAL 810
Support the workers who have called for these boycotts. Their backs are against the wall and they need your help. Don't buy boycotted products and services.

Boycott List provided by:
Union Label and Service Trade Department, AFL-CIO

Please Don't Buy