

GET A HANDLE ON THESE BAGS!

When Jay Reinke asked the rest of the labor community to lend him a hand, he may not have known what he was in for. Only five of Jay's digits are visible in the photo at right after union members answered his call for suitcases to help foster children. Not only was Jay's office in the AFL-CIO Community Service department at 633 S. Hawley Rd. stuffed to the ceiling, this was also much like the old circus trick of the midget car decamping dozens of clowns. Most of those suitcases had other suitcases stuffed inside. And yet another entire office was stacked with bags and so were two more rooms at the Milwaukee labor council.

The bags have now departed car by car to the Legal Aid Society -- but the field liaisons are collecting even more since there are still hundreds of children with the need. Reinke's campaign was inspired by the work of the LAS representing children in foster care, who often have very little as they are moved from place to place. He was particularly moved by the remark of one child that stuffing what little was owned into garbage bags made the children feel like pieces of disposable trash. The luggage campaign is one way to donate property and restore dignity to these children. To help, call Reinke at (414) 771-9828 to arrange a pick-up or email him at jayafclcio@sbcglobal.net.



AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE

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MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

Vol. 69, No. 10



MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Thursday, October 29, 2009



(USPS 350-360)



Sheila Cochran, serving as host for the Milwaukee Area Labor Council, welcomed more than 40 guests to a labor-faith luncheon and discussion Sept. 29 at the Milwaukee Hilton.

Opening remarks were added by Jonathan Currie (right), national organizer for the Chicago-based Interfaith Worker Justice. **See Page 11** for more photos and story.



A jobless recovery? Find the blame by looking in the mirror

By Dominique Paul Noth, Editor, Labor Press

Last June, in a report on the difficult work being done by the HIRE Center in finding jobs for Milwaukee's dislocated workers, I threw in a casual observation -- an offhand remark that I thought was self-evident and hoped many readers would.

Today, while that observation may be a simple economic fact, it seems to have escalated into a national debate. No, it's not about health care, yet may actually emerge as a key issue in the 2010 elections.

It's somehow become the heart of the conflict between those who think government will help to some degree in our economic crisis and those who are convinced it will not.

All I pointed out was one "sad reality of the downturn":

"EVEN AS THE ECONOMY CLIMBS BACK, THE LAST THING TO RETURN ARE JOBS."

The comment remains totally defensible -- if

Analysis

anything, stronger than ever. It was obviously not unfeeling - the observation came in a story radiating anxiety over lost jobs and the struggles to find work. But factually, the slowness of jobs coming back -- even as credit card use returns and banks record profits - is causing teeth to grind in all quarters and political spectrums.

It seemed evident to me that the United States had dug itself into an enormous hole over two decades. Until confidence is restored, it is hard to see jobs doing anything but sliding away. I didn't expect how stubbornly some would believe that the hole was never there -- not in America, they say.

But I wasn't naïve last June. I worried about this in the same article -- and about media coverage and news reports that "decide too fast what wasn't working, without explaining to the public how long

Jobless continued Page 10

Truth drowned in tale of Mercury Marine

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

For 15 years, the Institute for Wisconsin's Future (IWF) has focused its fact-finding research on debunking fiscal myths and moving toward a common-sense equitable state tax policy.

So it was unusual -- as even research director Jack Norman conceded at an October 13 press

conference -- that its newest report details a headline-making drama (Brunswick Corp. and its Mercury Marine plant in Fond du Lac) that had absolutely nothing -- zilch, nada, zip -- to do with Wisconsin's tax climate.

Which may be the point. Because the public was made to think quite differently and most of the media never questioned the corporate press releases, PR

twists and FAX machinery. Even though the facts waiting to be dug out tell quite a different story.

In the public's mind, the media painted a tale of a repressive Wisconsin tax policy and a stubborn union refusing to accept difficult economic times to keep a key recreational industry from maintaining a thousand jobs here.

In reality, a long swooning company (boats along with gym and billiard equipment) that had eliminated 5,300 jobs elsewhere and closed or mothballed boating plants in five other states was trying to shore up its executive

Report continued Page 7



Jack Norman, research director for the Institute for Wisconsin's Future and an accomplished business journalist, at the October 13 press conference about Mercury Marine.

Agnes Zeidler

She was the full individual partner, neither the "better half" and certainly not the "lesser half," terms she would have despised. Because this was an era when couples were just intrinsic elements of each other, and the Zeidlers were the first couple of Milwaukee citizenship for five decades.

This was an era when family and "family values" were not a commodity that existed as a sales pitch for politicians. They just existed as nature itself - and how rare and wonderful when two people could be part of the public domain and still just be who were they are from the start.

Agnes R. Zeidler, was actually a peace activist when Frank Zeidler met her in the 1930s, helping bring him to that cause even as she was exploring his Socialist Party. He was the one who made the Zeidler name as a self-taught thinker, doer and public vote-getter, but she was the family anchor whose own integrity made his possible.

The large brood at the modest family home turf on N. 2nd St. knew quite well who was the powerhouse. But when interviewers such as myself showed up to chat with her husband, who remained a legendary raconteur and pointed historians for decades after serving the city as mayor in the 1950s, Agnes made a point not be around.



Anita and Agnes Zeidler (at right in wheelchair) attending last May's Bay View Tragedy remembrance with friends of her and her late husband at the ceremony he helped create.

She was the quiet one whose influence was never exposed, whose cheerfulness was never diminished and who suffered quietly through her own physical difficulties even after her husband's death. That she stood with him in death as she had in life was represented every spring at a labor event that Frank had helped create and lead --- the Bay View Tragedy remembrance of 19th century workers killed while marching for an eight-hour day. Surrounded by family and friends, she was there in her wheelchair just last May.

At age 90, after hospice care

at the home the Zeidlers had shared since the 1940s, where he also had died in 2006, Agnes passed away in late September of congestive heart disease.

A lifelong Milwaukeean, a graduate of the old Milwaukee Girls Tech whose Lithuanian immigrant family couldn't afford the college she had won a scholarship for, she devoted herself to social causes and issues of justice - work that continued by Frank's side after their marriage in the late 1930s. She served with him as founder of the Lutheran Social Action Conference and their neighborhood's community council. And

In Memorium

REMEMBRANCES BY DOMINIQUE PAUL NOTH FOR LABOR PRESS

they were also active members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and its Coffee House, which she helped found.

As Frank became more involved in the mayoral race in the 1940s she organized his office and managed his fledgling Milwaukee campaign. This was an era when the Zeidlers would have been the last to think of their quiet family life as a plus for voters.

So it was largely inadvertent -- a result of media photographs in the 1940s when she and Frank were taking their large family out on walks -- that family values became a counterpoint to the early McCarthy antics and attempts to deride as outsiders to American values anyone who believed in practical government services such as clean water and civil defense.

Historians now note that inadvertency emerged mighty powerful. The Zeidlers' modest domestic lifestyle proved the unspoken antidote to the demonization. For five decades after that, no one questioned that they were part of the people and the embodiment of integrity and ethnic, racial and religious acceptance that Milwaukeean all wished for ourselves.

If Agnes had some trepidation about the demand on her husband's time and health from his national reputation as a speaker, a thinker, a peace advocate for the United Nations and a candidate for the Socialist Party, she never gave a hint in public, just a cheerful supportive presence. On her own and unnoticed she also became a force in community groups such as the Girl Scouts, the Children's Outing Association and religious groups.

Frank never learned to drive,

so from the 1950s on she became the family chauffeur as well as chief launderer, gardener and cook, all the while supporting his activities and reputation while quietly expanding her own circle of friends and influences.

The surviving children include Anita, primary family spokesperson; other daughters Clara Scolare, Dorothy, Mary and Jeanne, as well as son Michael, plus a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family has suggested memorials to the Coffee House at the Zeidlers' church or to the Frank P. Zeidler Humanities Room at the Milwaukee Public Library.

George R. Urban

For 27 years, ending in 1995, George R. Urban was widely known in the labor community as business representative for District 10 of the machinists (IAMAW). But he is probably even better known as president of the Waukesha County Labor Council until 2004 and lifelong champion of United Way causes.

Urban, 77, died Sept. 16 at his home in the Town of Lisbon. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, and a large family including six children and four step-children.

Born in Milwaukee, an Army veteran who became a machinist in 1953, Urban was also an avid hunter and fisherman as well as devoting tireless hours to community causes and speaking out for labor issues in Waukesha.

Memorials are being suggested to United Way of Waukesha County or to the Salvation Army, where Urban served as a bell-ringer.

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Rudy Kuzel

When Rudy Kuzel died Oct. 1 in Racine at age 73 after a long battle with cancer, the tributes that flowed in from labor leaders and journalists who had covered his tempestuous days fighting Chrysler's Lee Iacocca reflect two lingering truths.

One was that physically with his bristling crewcut, black T-shirt, UAW jacket, jeans and hardened face of a reformed alcoholic and street-fighter, in style he looked like, as one journalist noted, the sort of labor leader who would be sent over from central casting.

The other was that it was dangerous for corporate and political leaders to think of him like that - and Kuzel welcomed that underestimation. He was both intuitive and intellectual in his ferocity for workers and for social justice. He could expose and lance corporate greed and tactics with instant skill and rhetoric, and his insights became legendary examples and sources of strength for those who worked with him or knew him.

Roger Bybee, long an editor for the Racine labor newspaper, recalls Kuzel as "a chess-master strategist at the negotiating table and uplifting orator" - who exasperated Iacocca in person and in speeches by comparing him to Jesse James and exposing in a heartbeat the tricks and tactics in his financial offers.

Kuzel had started his UAW work as a lathe operator at American Motors in 1958 before Chrysler took the facility over -- and when Iacocca attempted to eliminate 5,500 jobs in the community (with the support of both federal, state and even Democratic leaders in the 1980s) Kuzel openly declared war.

Outguessed and out-maneuvered at many a turn despite his national support and prominence, Iacocca paid an enormous political and financial price as a result.

John Drew, who succeeded Kuzel as president of UAW Local 72 in Kenosha in the 1990s and remains a UAW leader today as well as a member of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, recalls there was no one better at being two steps ahead in bargaining -- "very tough but always thinking" of what was best for the workers.

Given his ability to confront, fight and then make the best deal, given his fearlessness in taking on other labor leaders as well as corporate leaders and conservative Democrats if they took positions he regarded as immoral on race, Latin American affairs or support of workers, Kuzel became known statewide and nationally as a union leader.

He was deeply read in the classics and while his Milwaukee childhood included tenure at an orphanage his devotion to education was enduring. His bouts of drinking in the 1950s ended and he fought for unions to demand

innovative addiction programs.

Journalist Bybee believes Kuzel always thought of himself as something of an outsider fighting for the underclass and the least privileged.

"While too many of Rudy's contemporaries saw the labor movement as narrowly working for 'just us,' Rudy always saw labor's responsibility as 'justice for all,'" Bybee wrote in a tribute.

The clarity and analysis he brought to leadership issues nevertheless made him an inspiration to the union movement. As Drew told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "Sometimes we talked about Rudy as our godfather."

In the Kenosha battle, Kuzel made Chrysler keep 1,200 jobs at home and he forced a landmark benefit package for the victimized US workers, including a trust fund to help educate the workers' children.

Kuzel led the UAW local for 12 years. He refused to shy away from social and politically progressive causes, though other labor leaders were more silent or evasive. That, more than his battles with Chrysler, struck many of today's labor leaders in interviews as his real legacy.

Surviving Kuzel are his wife, Connie; sons Kraig and Brian Kuzel, and a daughter, Colleen Kernan. They and family friends hope to create a memorial to Kuzel at Devils Lake in the near future.



Rudy Kuzel

The Veterans' Corner

Milwaukee unions, many of whose members are veterans of the Armed Services and military action, are taking an active role in efforts to help our veterans.

The construction and trades unions are working to help save and restore Milwaukee's historic veterans' grounds.

The local that is an active member of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council and a growing part of the Zablocki Center, AFGE Local 0003, is serving as clearinghouse of information on veterans affairs.

Anyone who attended the Laborfest parade saw the prominent color guard of Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans and the accompanying DryHootch truck with the paintings of returning veterans on its side-panels.

DryHootch is the name given to the veteran community's own nonprofit organization to help in so many ways as veterans return to private life. They steer the way for health counseling,



As MALC delegate for the growing AFGE Local 0003 at the Zablocki Center, Richard Alles is a spokesman and source on veterans' issues.

get-togethers, special veteran projects, coffee chats and community events.

Several DryHootch activities are currently unfolding, including an unusual art exhibit in cooperation with the Milwaukee Art Museum and the National Veterans Art Museum

The main event will be a November 5 reception at the lakefront museum, 700 Art

Museum Dr., for the "Art, War & the Veteran" exhibit, saluting the veterans of Wisconsin and DryHootch volunteers.

It is the first Veterans Art Show in this world class museum and it will also help launch this community's "I helped build a DryHootch" campaign, creating a special place for veterans and their families.

The exhibit itself will be at the Art Museum through Nov. 15. It will have been on display since Oct. 22 when the organization helped support the Wisconsin Warrior Summit, an ongoing effort dedicated to coordinating a comprehensive community response to the mental health needs of veterans and their families.

For more information on these activities visit www.WIWarriorProject.org

For information on the exhibit and its opening, sign up at www.DryHootch.org.

DryHootch is a veterans 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



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LERA's big conference

With notable speakers including the executive secretary of the National Labor Relations Board and the president of the national Labor and Employment Relations Association, the Wisconsin chapter of LERA will hold its third annual all-day workshop Tuesday, November 3, at Milwaukee's downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel, 333 W. Kilbourn Ave. Unions, management and teachers are a regular part of the activities, which include monthly informational luncheons.

Opening at 7:30 a.m. with registration and breakfast, the conference will offer welcomes from such participants as Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett; Irv Gottschalk, president of LERA Wisconsin and also executive director of NLRB Region 30, and moderator Ron Sweet.

Scheduled workshops and presentations feature Ron Hudson, business representative for SEIU Local 1199 discussing rights and benefits for domestic partners; OSHA's Kim Stille

explaining whistleblower laws, Department of Labor investigator Helen Hollerich exploring disclosure laws, and a battery of experts leading discussions on bargaining in tough economic times, developments in immigration law, gender-related issues in negotiations, compensation concerns and new family maternity leave rules.

Chicago lawyers David Radelet and Scott Cruz will open the conference with a timely discussion in the current labor environment: "What We Predicted in 2008 and What Actually Happened in 2009."

Much of LERA's work focuses on helping management, labor, academics, attorneys and officials understand what is happening in the complexity of employment relations and laws, which are of particular significance in the current economic situation.

The views of the NLRB through its executive secretary, Lester Heltzer, will lead the luncheon presentation and "The

Future of Labor Relations" will dominate the afternoon session in a talk by LERA's national president, Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld.

The range of talent assembled for this annual conference makes the pricing model, including lunch

and dinner, a bargain, note the sponsors. Registration for members is \$140, for non-members \$155 but for students it is \$55. Annual membership in Wisconsin LERA is now set at \$35 regular and \$10 for student or retiree, plus breaks for organizational membership. While LERA annual dues are not deductible for federal charity purposes, checks to the organization can be treated as dues business expense since LERA is a 501(c)(3).

For more information on LERA and on this conference, which for counting purposes requests advance reservations, contact Suzanne.clement@nlrb.org or (414) 297-3883 or visit www.uwm.edu/Org/LERA.



Veteran mediator Ron Sweet will moderate the LERA conference

Contract back in tune for Skylight musicians

In all the fury last summer about whether the Skylight company could be saved, even as the board of directors seemed to panic over the financial crisis, even as resignations abounded and artists refused to work in protest, even before a rescue team slid in to turn attitudes around, there was a little noticed element.

The musicians had months before the crisis put a freeze offer on the table, which the board of directors decided to reject.

Now the Skylight ship has righted itself, the new season is underway and a trusted veteran team, Colin Cabot and Joan Lounsbury, are in charge - and it seems they saw that the musicians were attempting to help and assured the union, Local 9 of the American

Federation of Musicians, that the concept was appreciated.

Now they've come through as they indicated last August. David Lussier, the well-known delegate for the local to the Milwaukee labor council, speculates that once Lounsbury came aboard she agreed with Cabot and "recognized the reasonableness and generosity" of the long-standing

offer. The new leaders soon rejected the effort of a contingent on the board and the resigned management to force a so-called "final" management proposal to slash wages to 2006 rates; strip measures of job security from certain musicians, and exclude certain management decisions from eligibility for grievance and arbitration.

Instead, Skylight has now accepted -- and the local ratified September 28 -- that contract offer the musicians made before the controversy erupted. Now approved, months later, is a contract reaching back to July 1, 2008, and extending through June 30, 2012.

It freezes wages at 2008 rates until July 1, 2011, but then an across the board increase of 2.5% takes effect. In terms of the orchestra roster, four musicians were added to the roster, increasing the size of the bargaining unit from 25 to 29 members. There was acceptance of union efforts on working conditions with the Skylight agreeing to provide sound shields at the request of the musicians.

All other terms and conditions of the previous agreement remain unchanged as the new season goes into full orchestral swing.



Dave Lussier, shown preparing to play in last September's parade, is an officer, delegate and spokesman for Milwaukee's professional musicians.

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AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS
 THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO
 633 S. HAWLEY ROAD MILWAUKEE, WI 53214

Published Monthly by the Milwaukee Area Labor Council AFL-CIO
www.milwaukeeelabor.org

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 Telephone (414) 771-7070 FAX (414) 771-0509
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THE MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS (USPS 350-360) is published once a month by the Milwaukee Area Labor Council AFL-CIO, 633 S. Hawley Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53214, and is also available by subscription for \$12 a year. Periodical postage paid at Milwaukee, WI.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS, 633 S. Hawley Rd., Suite 110, Milwaukee, WI 53214.
 The Publisher reserves the right to refuse or discontinue any advertisement which is deemed objectionable. Publication of advertisements is not to be construed as a personal endorsement nor are all ads necessarily from unionized companies or services of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council or any of its affiliates.
COPY DEADLINE: Usually by noon 3rd Monday of each month except December (2nd Monday).

Verify your benefits before winter chill

By Karyl Richson

Special to the Labor Press

It's that time when people in many parts of the country feel a new chill in the air each morning, and put an extra quilt or blanket on the bed.

But it's also the time of year when many states offer energy assistance to people who have low income and resources. Under the energy assistance program, your state may help with the cost of heating your home during the winter. But to get it, in most cases, you'll need to provide proof of your income.

If you get Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, you can get proof of the amount of your benefit quickly and easily by going online. Just visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

There are a number of reasons you may need written verification of your benefit amount, besides energy assistance programs. Perhaps you're ready to make a major purchase and you're trying to get a loan from a bank or financial institution. Or maybe you're applying for state



benefits or moving into a new apartment or home.

Whatever your reason, Social Security makes it easy for you to get the written verification you need at www.socialsecurity.gov. Just look in the left column under "What you can do online," expand the "If you get benefits" section, and select the "Request a Proof of Income letter" link.

The letter can be used for any reason that someone requires proof of your income.

In addition to offering proof of your income, the letter is an official document that verifies your Medicare coverage, retirement or disability status, and age. The letter does not include your Social Security number.

From the time that you complete the online request, it will take about 10 days for you to receive the proof of income letter in the mail. If you need one sooner, you'll want to call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit your local Social Security office.

But for most people, simply requesting the proof of income online is the most convenient way to get what you need. Get your benefit verification by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov

The author is the Social Security public affairs specialist in Milwaukee

Labor updates online!

Whenever the Milwaukee labor council can between monthly print editions, we use WWW.MILWAUKEELABOR.ORG to create both original stories and update news.

For instance, the county budget is far from settled as we go to press, but did you see AFSCME's Patty Yunk get pushed on TV by a Scott Walker supporter? Did you see her defender bounced into the bushes at Serb Hall? The story behind that moment and the fight to keep county jobs are told in our online-only story.

There's much more, including our new search engine and expanded archives.

Calendar

For updated master list of events, visit www.milwaukeeelabor.org

Wednesday, October 28
MALC Executive Board Meeting
2 p.m., 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Tuesday, November 3
Wisconsin LERA Conference
7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Hyatt Regency Hotel
See story Page 4

Wednesday, November 4
MALC Delegate Meeting
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Thursday, November 5
DryHootch Veterans' Art Exhibit
Reception, Milwaukee Art Museum
See Page 3 for details

Wednesday, November 25
MALC Executive Board Meeting
2 p.m., 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving Holiday
Happy Turkey! Office Closed Until Monday

Wednesday, December 2
MALC Delegate Meeting
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Bowling

MALC MIXED SENIOR BOWLING LEAGUE

SEPTEMBER 2009 RESULTS

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
8 BALLS	19	2
SLAMMERS	12	9
CRAZY 8's	11	10
PIN PALS	9	12
GUTTER RATS	8	13
ONE BOARD OVER	4	17

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 175

DAN LAACK	228
BOB WAGNER	213
DEL GROSS	191
JOHN PADRON	181
DON WIEDMANN	180
GENE HERRICK	178

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 400

JOYCE KNIPPEL	478
EILEEN WESTERFIELD	448
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	412
RAE MATOWSKI	411

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 475

DAN LAACK	610
DEL GROSS	521
GENE HERRICK	498
BOB WAGNER	496
DON WIEDMANN	492

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 150

JOYCE KNIPPEL	174
EILEEN WESTERFIELD	169
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	162
MARLENE CORTEZ	143
RAE MATOWSKI	152

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- Mr. Bennie McGrew Jr., Ladish Mfg.
- Mr. Walter Royal, Ladish Mfg.
- Mr. Bobby Felder, Milwaukee County Transit System

Insurance industry discovers how a boomerang works

Trying to scare the public can backfire big-time. That seems the early returns from the private health insurance industry's effort to torpedo reform with a hasty report, while actually demonstrating to anyone who believed in its doomsday consequences that a public option was more vital than ever to lower costs for the public. The ruse hasn't slowed the march toward consolidating health reform bills. It may have even spurred the efforts.

The insurance industry trade lobby, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), timed its report to try to wreak dismay the Oct. 10 weekend over the Senate Finance Committee version, which has garnered support from one Republican and opposition from most liberals. But clearly this bill was a middle step to encourage further resolutions by negotiators.

The AHIP barrage claimed that health care reform would raise average family premiums to \$21,300 - neglecting to emphasize that the industry controls the cost of premiums and stirring Congress to consider eliminating the exemption from monopoly regulation the industry had long enjoyed.

Economists leaped quickly to debunk the analysis as "shoddy and self-serving" (since it outlined how the health insurance industry itself would fight back with higher premiums to offset any fees it faced under the legislation).

Rose Ann DeMoro, executive director of the California Nurses Association and the National Nurses Organizing Committee, called it an "outrageous threat by one of the richest industries in America."

Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), a member of the Finance Committee and outspoken advocate of universal coverage, told Politico: "The misleading and harmful claims made by the profit-driven insurance companies are politicking for corporate gain at

its worst," but also "highlight that our focus must be on the inclusion of a public health insurance option in the marketplace to protect families and put more money back in their wallets by creating greater competition and driving down costs."

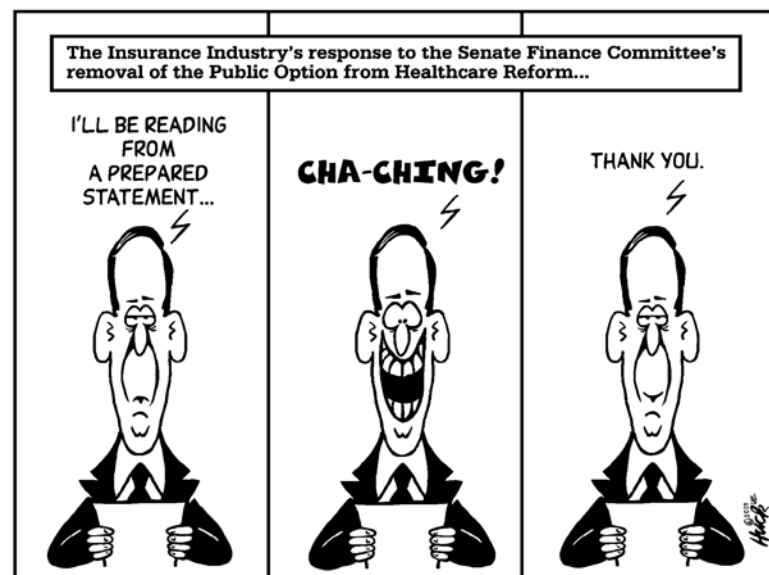
Washington Post economics columnist Ezra Klein says the so-called "analysis" follows in the "hallowed" tradition of the tobacco and energy industries, "a report projecting doom and despair for those who seek to reform its business practices."

For months, AHIP had "played nice" with the Obama administration, claiming it was willing to work with the White House and Congress to achieve health care reform. The new attack targets what most health care reform advocates consider the weaker and less comprehensive version of health care reform and shows, as Klein put it, "the insurance industry is getting scared: After many months of quiet constructiveness, they're launching a broadside . . . a political document" that assails policies "they don't like under the guise of concerning themselves with consumer premiums."

DeMoro was blunter. She called on Congress to "respond to this bullying and stop coddling a useless industry whose sole function is to make enormous profits from the pain and suffering of patients while providing little in return."

The results are uncertain as we went to press, but the initial response indicates that the AHIP actually stiffened the resolve of health care reformists.

Meanwhile in Wisconsin, powerful support of health care reform was emphasized Oct. 20 when Citizen Action of Wisconsin and its coalition partners delivered the signatures from more than 64,000 Wisconsin health care supporters to Sen. Russ Feingold's Milwaukee office.



Voces asks newspaper to play fair

The Racine Journal-Times allowed Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) to deny in print his close connection to a conservative front group on immigration policy, but refused to allow the group making the connection to print a rebuttal.

So complains Voces de la Frontera, pointing to the newspaper's printed commentary from Ryan in which he said the workers right center, in a protest, had exaggerated his involvement with the strangely named FAIR.

Ryan told readers that he had participated in a discussion on TV just as a friend of the host. "My name was subsequently removed from FAIR's web site," the congressman told the supportive newspaper's readers, "where it had been incorrectly listed."

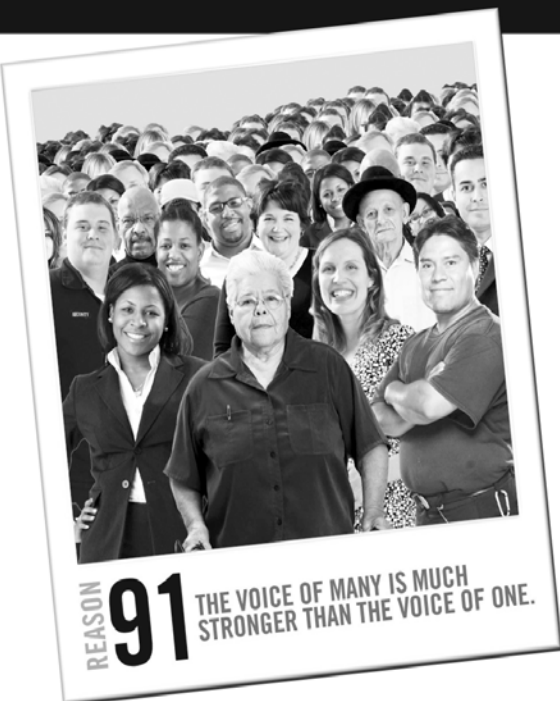
Actually, it was not removed, as Voces had to investigate on its own and tell the newspaper. Ryan's name was still there, prominent in a list of a dozen members of Congress such as Senators Grassley, Sessions and Bunning, as one of the immigration group's established "experts of fair immigration policy."

When Voces pointed out to the newspaper's Steve Lovejoy that the paper had allowed Ryan to make a false claim to its readers, the response according to Voces was that "it's just words on a page" at the FAIR website. The newspaper said any rebuttal that mentioned Ryan's connection to FAIR would not be printed.

FAIR, an acronym for Federation for American Immigration Reform, has been making news as the source for inaccurate descriptions of current immigration laws and policies (which are confusing enough on their own). While stating that it speaks for a better policy, the D.C.-based FAIR opposes immigration, legal and illegal, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, which has designated the organization as a hate group.

Its conservative funders have denied the accusation, but given the policies and protests the group has been involved in, being linked to FAIR can be a toxic situation for a politician.

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100 YEARS

Report

From Page 1

missteps by playing two states against each other for tax benefits and cheap labor -- and by demanding draconian wage and benefit cuts with no promises a few years out and no long-term economic plans for the communities involved.

The purpose of the IWF report was certainly not to defend the machinists at Mercury Marine, IAMAW Local 1947, which has long kept its own internal debates under wraps as union workers moved from outright rejection of the Mercury Marine offer to a final third-vote accepting the company's cuts.

But the evidence that they were right to be skeptical of the company's intentions is certainly in the report. So are reasons for anger at the way the company painted the union, whose members were by any factual diagnosis not the villains but among the victims of a corporate shell game.

The upshot of the company's maneuvers was the state stepping in with millions of dollars in incentives, and Fond du Lac's government fathers giving the company a \$55 million package including a special sales tax on all its citizens.

Unless the community immediately starts seeking manufacturing alternatives, the jury is out and increasingly skeptical about whether the blandishments will keep Fond du Lac alive for more than a few more years.

By digging into the public record and corporate history in "The Twisted Saga of Mercury Marine," the IWF uncovered facts most of Wisconsin media ignored:

Despite what was intimidated, Brunswick (Mercury Marine) has not paid a penny in Wisconsin corporate taxes for the last nine years.

Its current losses are staggering but it has also successfully sheltered a billion dollars in profits from Wisconsin tax collectors.

It is unlikely to pay any

state taxes under any formula for the foreseeable future, so massive are its current losses - and so dependent is its current policy not on changing a losing corporate culture but on wringing concessions from its workers and state governments.

Pity the stockholder. The company has been on a Titanic downturn even in a difficult economy. While its peer group of stocks suffered a 17% loss in value over the last few years, Brunswick stock nosedived 71%.

Pity the workers, and not just the blue collar variety that has endured the majority of 5,300 job losses at all Brunswick operations. Brunswick is also facing lawsuits from its white-collar employees in Fond du Lac for renegeing on promised incentives for their cost saving measures.

Don't pity the execs. Over three fiscal years, Brunswick CEO Dustan McCoy has received more than \$10 million in total compensation. In roughly the same time frame, five long-term members of the board of directors of the Illinois-based corporation each received more than half a million in compensation. Two have strong Wisconsin ties - retired Harley Davidson CEO Jeffrey Bleustein and Johnsonville Sausage CEO Ralph C. Stayer.

None of the above offered any financial sacrifice in sympathy with what the workers were giving back.

Norman, a prize-winning business journalist at the state's largest newspaper before providing such public policy analysis, was asked at the press conference whether financial givebacks from these executives would have made a speck of difference in the concessions being asked of the workers or the demands made on government for financial help.

While he paused and looked rather amazed, journalists in the room did some notepad math to figure out what a penny an hour might mean, maybe just a month's worth of heart medication for grandma.

The larger issue, Norman pointed out, was some sense of responsibility by Brunswick leaders for what they had wrought or some shared pain with the workers. Instead, and the news reports of the last few months made his observation indisputable, the company has been blaming the problems on the union workers or the state tax climate.

Brunswick has never paid Wisconsin income taxes, but its workers always have. And now because of corporate welfare the taxpayers are on the hook for a lot more.

When the half-cent sales tax goes into effect, Fond du Lac residents will be giving a lot to keep Mercury Marine afloat. And all state taxpayers will pay for the still evolving statewide incentive package that was partly made possible by Wisconsin's failed effort to keep the General Motors plant in Janesville.

This, as Norman pointed out, is a story of corporate mismanagement, and apparent devotion to executive luxuries, that had nothing to do with the state tax climate.

In fact, the report demonstrates how Mercury Marine successfully played Oklahoma against Wisconsin. This is the two or three-state billiard shot that so many companies have executed in the past.

In this case, the Mercury plant in Stillwater thought it had won and wound up with nothing except potential closure. That supposedly cheaper workforce was a pawn in finding out which state would bend over furthest and quickest. This time it was Wisconsin, perhaps because Oklahoma assumed its cheaper wages and non-union status were the answer, though it had more to do with tax benefits and productivity.

But no state has proved immune to this national pattern of communities fighting each other to keep or attract jobs. The games often extend beyond fiscal policy to such things as cheaper housing and health care.



Executive director Karen Royster at the computer helps Jack Norman set up the slideshow for the IWF press conference revealing the financial realities behind Mercury Marine's maneuvers.

Note, too, how for years Fond du Lac had the right but resisted imposing a sales tax to help its citizens' health or safety - yet elected officials lined up within weeks to vote in a tax to bail out Mercury Marine and keep the jobs in place.

Many of the incentives come in low-cost loans, but even given that there are surprisingly few hooks to keep Mercury Marine in Fond du Lac. Economists are already warning that unless Brunswick turns its own behavior around, rather than patting itself on the back for getting the states and the workers to submit, and unless communities speed into long-term recovery plans, there are no guarantees. After all, how long will lower wages and higher tax help once you've established a policy that corporations can

bribe communities?

The IWF report -- available at the non-profit's www.wisconsinsfuture.org -- certainly clarifies that Wisconsin's tax climate did not scare Brunswick away. Rather it seems Brunswick was able to panic the state and its workers into concessions while trusting that the media would not expose the corporation's own difficulties.

Certainly, corporations can use the current partisan divide about taxes and the fears about unions to disguise the realities of their behavior.

But Norman concludes with a larger truth in the Mercury Marine saga -- "a sad documentary on how large corporations can reward executives for failure while damaging the manufacturing structures that generate real values."

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**Sure it's hot,
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Self-interest meets cap and trade

Comment

By William A. Collins
Special to Labor Press

One nice aspect of global warming for Americans is that even though we cause it, other folks pay for it. Sure, we have some farmers in California and Texas who may have to pack it in from the drought, but they probably shouldn't have started business there in the first place. Same for those Florida homes built too close to the shore.

But on a global scale, our problems are peanuts.

The real sufferers, as usual, live in Africa, Asia, and some ill-fated Pacific islands. They're already dying of starvation and flooding. Unfortunately this does not make convenient TV footage, so we're not yet very aware. Besides, they're typically also caught up in some violent conflict, which tends to get the blame. Plainly none of that is our fault.

Why, then, should we sacrifice any of our saintly lifestyle? We earned it. Everyone knows that those proposed cap-and-trade rules on energy will surely filter down to our wallets, and that corporations will just as surely find a way to make a buck on the deal. That already seems to be what has happened in

Europe, although those countries have succeeded very well indeed with gas taxes. Everyone drives small cars over there. In this country we feverishly avoid those higher taxes. Instead, we allow high market prices to tamp down gas usage and then stand aside as oil companies sop up the gravy.

Of course we all truly do lament the demise of polar bears, beluga whales, and emperor penguins, but hey, no one said life was a picnic.

We want to believe that the problem can be licked by each of us personally getting a smaller car and buying Rainforest Crunch.

No need to raise taxes, turn off the A/C, dry the clothes outside, withdraw from wars, have fewer kids, eat less meat, take the bus, stick windmills along the shore, put solar panels on the roof, or all those other little inconveniences that do-gooders keep asking us to accept.

And so far those requests for modest personal sacrifice have had little effect. Dick Cheney demeaned them, and despite heartwarming exceptions in magazine feature stories, most citizens, developers, corporations, fuel companies, governments,

and manufacturers agree with him. Thus we continue to follow our normal bent -- comfort and profit. That's the way our nation and our lives are organized and we're not likely to change without a cataclysm. After all, even the Department of Energy doesn't use setback thermostats.

This obsession with personal comfort and profit is also mimicked abroad. Those nations with sufficient wherewithal do their best to imitate us, especially in their use of energy. Worldwide the bike is now giving way to the scooter, the scooter to the motorcycle, and the motorcycle to the car. If you think our highways are crowded, try India.

A similar obsession is in play for meat - We Americans love it and others are following suit. Thus methane multiplies. It's not as lasting as it doesn't stay in the atmosphere as long as CO2, but it's much more potent. Further, our animal feed requirements lead to an insatiable appetite for soybeans, which in turn leads to the clearing of forests and small farms for plantations and huge pastures.

That's just the way humans work. We'll sacrifice in a crisis as long as everyone else does too, but we tend to ignore the leak in the pipe until the water is up around our ankles. And we

don't really care whether it's up around someone else's ankles, Al Gore notwithstanding. We already sacrificed a lot of freedom after 9/11 and we're not likely to do that again for something as intangible as global warming.

Want to try a simple experi-

ment? Ask your supermarket or movie house or office building to back off on the A/C for the sake of the world. See how far that gets you.

The columnist is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Connecticut.

MinuteManMedia



CWA here set standard

Even before they marched at Laborfest (photo above), the Communications Workers of America had cause to celebrate -- another tentative agreement with AT&T. And much of it was a national echo after many protests of a deal by the five-state Midwest AT&T, which contains the large Milwaukee-based CWA Local 4603.

Though thought of as a national brand, AT&T evolved out a number of regional "baby Bells." So in effect, "each by region is a separate agreement," noted CWA Local 4603 President George Walls. The Midwest workers have several contracts with the company and ratified an agreement after months of what many described as stalling tactics at the bargaining table. In Milwaukee, the agreement affects some 1,800 members in traditional and new technology services.

The tentative agreements announced by CWA national leaders in many ways modeled the gains reached by AT&T Midwest and AT&T West. The Midwest service was acquired by SBC Communications in 2006. SBC subsequently changed its name to AT&T.

The workers' main goal in the bargaining was job security. The tentative agreement offers the same 8.75 % hourly wage increases and benefit provisions over three years achieved by AT&T Midwest. CWA Vice President Ralph Maly said, along with job security and safeguards, the agreement "maintains workers' standard of living and safeguards quality health care -- tremendous achievements."

The settlement guarantees no layoffs before April 1, 2010, and limits the number of involuntary layoffs. New language sets out employee recall rights if a business unit is changed or eliminated. Also the tentative agreement mandates discussion of the impact that new technologies would have on jobs and training. The current contract expired April 4 of 2008.



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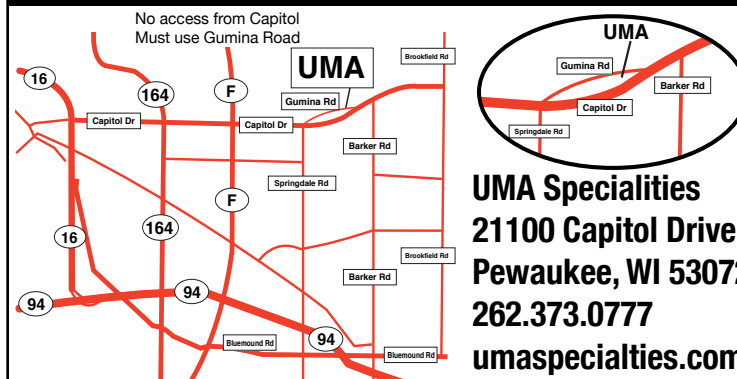
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Fair Trade markets crowd Downtown

It would be fun to believe it was the clever and accurate slogan in the advertising:

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Nice, but it got little pickup.

In fact, a farmer's market surrounding the Milwaukee Public Market got far more publicity.

It would be nice to think people are suddenly health and fairness conscious.

But it may also have been the chance to pick up a bargain. The room abounded with giveaways, demos and fair trade treats.

In any case, at the top photos at right indicate, this free event drew a Saturday rush. Some were just shoppers. Others were union members long supportive of the Milwaukee fair trade movement.

The event was created by the Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition as part of International Fair Trade Month.

It included a fashion show, booths and freebies from such vendors as Argan D'Or Oil, Chartreuse (clothing), Fair Trade For All, Four Corners of the World, Minga Fair Trade Imports, Rishi Tea, Stone Creek Coffee, Solidarity Clothing, Sven's European Café, and Trails to Bridges.

Among those offering information and presentations were Sachin Chheda of the Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition, and Jen Moran from Solidarity Clothing.



Official notice

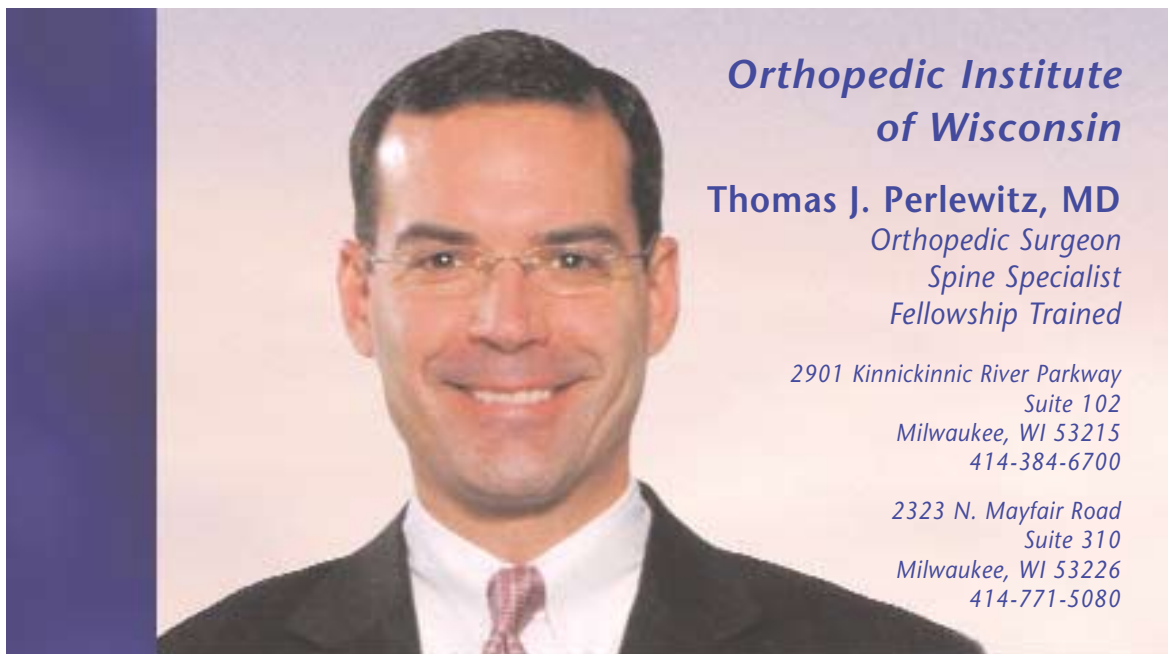
Nominations for three-year terms as officers of Tool & Die Makers Lodge 78 will be held for members at the regular meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, November 12, 2009, at IAMAW District 10, 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee.

Positions open for nominations are president, vice-president, recording secretary and secretary-treasurer, along with conductor-sentinel, trustees, auditors and delegates to District 10, the Milwaukee Area Labor Council, Wisconsin State Council of Machinists, State AFL-CIO, Midwest State Council of Machinists and the By-Laws Committee.

Elections will be conducted at the 8 p.m. December 10 meeting at District 10 after two poll periods, 1-5 p.m. that day and from 7 p.m. until the close of the meeting.

*Philip J. Bauza
Recording Secretary*

AT RIGHT: Ald. Tony Zielinski (left), a leader in city of Milwaukee fair trade legislation, toured the floor and greeted the sponsors. He was also promoting his candidacy for lieutenant governor of the state in the Democratic primary. Here he checked with veteran fair trade activists Jim Carpenter and Steve Watrous (right) at one of the special tables set up to run this busy Saturday event at the Milwaukee Public Market. Shoppers kept sneaking upstairs to join the festivities and sample the 10 tables of vendors and free treats.



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Jobless

From Page 1

it would take before anything worked."

Five months later, that's what we're still going through with remarkable fury, though even the opposition is divided if you listen to them carefully.

There are some people who will oppose anything the Obama presidency attempts, but that's upbringing or anger at losing, more than thinking.

Another crowd of naysayers suggests that the problems have been exaggerated from the start, that an economy like ours should be back in the saddle right now despite eight years of neglect and disaster at home and abroad.

Yet another school -- and some folks keep electing them -- argues a related ideology, that nothing is working (and by inference, nothing will) because government can't succeed.

This inanity was repeated Oct. 17 in the Republican's regular response to the president's weekly address. Baldly misstating every lesson of American history from Teddy Roosevelt's restraining monopolies to regulatory reforms working through Congress, the GOP spokesman stuck with the myth: "Americans inherently know government interference drives costs up, not down."

Yet by ever objective measure, the economy is coming back thanks to reluctant government interference, the financial David among the private sector Goliath.

Problem is, jobs are not. Many economists actually say the recession is over. The much maligned TARP is (all too slowly) restoring confidence in mortgages and credits, as well as causing an understandable disgust at how executives keep looking for the profit angle and edge to line their own pockets



with taxpayer money.

with taxpayer money.

News reports this month indicate how the recovery act is creating (but mainly salvaging) thousands of jobs. American manufacturing is picking up. Cash for clunkers sold cars. Foreclosures have slowed. And while federal funds can't keep pace with the demand, there is more attention to the need to train new workers and re-train veteran ones than ever before.

The rate of unemployment claims keep dropping - which doesn't mean that unemployment hasn't doubled in the last year. It certainly doesn't excuse the government statistics that continue to underestimate the lingering disaster for low-income women and people of color, and it is no comfort at all that more whites are now part of that roster.

For many this is too much a snail's pace, perhaps because we didn't understand the creep of the problem over decades and the hard-core cliffs of the brink that resulted. Same still hope that unemployment will drop below 10%, but the cautious predictions are this won't happen at least until 2011.

Still, why is it so damn tough? And why don't we believe even the administration's caution flags and why do we insist that every number must be positive? Partly it's because we don't fully understand how different this economy and free market are from the time of our

grandparents or even our parents. Partly we don't understand what we've done to ourselves to create this "jobless recovery."

Leave aside the issue of confidence. Most of us understand that businesses worry about hiring if they can't maintain an expansion. Deeper than that, America's workers have not yet grasped the inevitable result of living on credit cards, stagnant wages, increased productivity and accepting a rampant free market mentality that allowed over 30 years for CEO pay to grow from 30 times as much as a company's line worker to 400 times a much.

All that has combined to delay job expansion as we move forward. It translates, according to Department of Labor studies, into 6.3 unemployed workers seeking every job available.

To give you an idea of what happened in the last Bush years, in December of 2007 it was 1.7 workers for every job opening.

But the losses of the last years are not the only change. So is an entirely different culture where we embrace the values of savings and home ownership without have lived through - until now - the hard times and lessons that made such concepts so basic to earlier generations.

It's not just that two-income families are the norm. At least one of those incomes was often part time. Both providers wanted more time to raise families. To do the right thing for the community, they cut back hours over the years when they could afford to. They lessened the burden on one and equalized the load among men and women at home and at work.

Necessity of both the economy and society brought about the changes, as did the lure of better money, better health coverage and better lives.

When the recession hit and jobs were lost, multiple earners tended to keep the one job with good health benefits when they could. But most tried to hang together in any event.

Several families even

brought their adult children home to survive the hard times - less money but a stable unit with many members willing to return to work, and often willing to work for less. As companies enforced two-tier pay systems and forced concessions on older workers, again families gave back income to keep together and keep working.

The result today: The average American workweek has dropped to 33 hours. Most workers may want more but we are in effect a part time workforce. That doesn't mean, as in Europe, that a 35-hour week is paid as if full time. It means a loss of living standards so that a recession, an illness, a leaky roof, a child in college could impose an impossible burden.

The reduction of hours means wages don't keep up with the cost of living. Many businesses can expand hours without expanding their number of workers. The options they have increase without goading them into new hires.

And they surely don't worry about demand. Employers have cut a net 7.2 million jobs during this downturn - 50,000 alone in the Milwaukee area. While layoffs are slowing today, that is an enormous pool looking to go back to work or add hours before companies even think about expanding.

This is just one factor in the continuing increase in bankruptcies nationwide (some 1 million average consumers in the first quarter of 2009, and these are the people most disbelieving, understandably, that the economy has turned around).

Financial consultants see many middle aged and older workers who had never previously been in trouble, yet their families have lost one income, if not both - and the inability to keep up has put their families in financial crisis and even despair for the first time in decades. It is the flip side of the determined effort to keep families together.

Even getting all those workers who had jobs and have long been looking for jobs back in the

saddle will take years. Just this month, several road construction companies in Wisconsin discussed how the government stimulus money would indeed help them survive for the next two years. But none of these companies expect new workers to be part of that equation, given 20% unemployment among existing skilled workers, plus many current proven employees stuck in part time and eager to take on more work.

Society has given business a cushion to grow without hiring new people. Only professions with a shortage are under pressure. And so many once productive workers are willing to retrain into employment that the newcomers will have a harder time than ever. No wonder even colleges are warning of a dangerous job market for seniors.

This is one reason the Obama administration has laid so much emphasis on new technology, green jobs, refurbishing infrastructures, higher education or, as so many educators now point out, mid-level jobs requiring emerging skills.

This is why there is something of a trick built into the constant harping on how small businesses and entrepreneurs create the most jobs in this country. True, but the hidden reverse is that they also cause the most failures and job loss. That requires workers of flexibility and perseverance. Jobs are not falling into anyone's lap. And they aren't staying in the lap.

Education and adaptability are avenues for real growth because it's largely our own fault that we have such limited tools to fight back through traditional expansion of existing companies and hiring methods. We helped create not just a market but an environment that allows businesses to get healthy without making them expand the health of the workforce.

This is the jobless recovery. So yes, we need to put America to work, but that means fixing the balance in America as well as creating more jobs. Until we do, as much as we would like job growth to be the engine, right now we've let it become the caboose.

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Faith, labor intersect

A happy product of a Christian faith that believed in tithing wages, Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Cochran drew both knowing laughter and media attention when she asked faith leaders at a special September 29 luncheon what they would rather have:

A parishioner who gives 10% of his wages or a parishioner who gave 10% of his or her UNION wages?

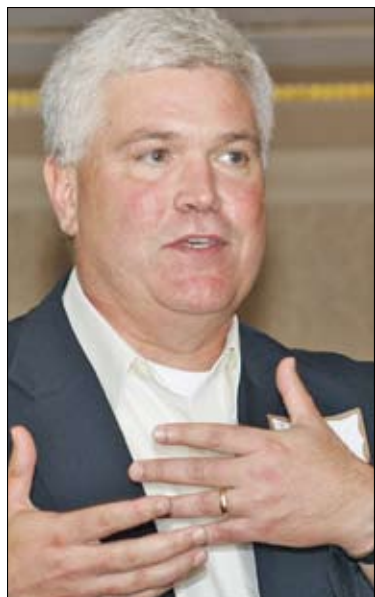
Cochran's sly joke was part of a welcome by the Milwaukee Area Labor Council to more than 40 guests it was treating to a probing discussion as well as a sumptuous luncheon in one of the pleasant dining rooms at the Hilton Hotel downtown.

They were being served, as Cochran also pointed out, by union members (Workers United Local 122) who in experience and in race actually reflected the makeup of the community, as too few Milwaukee businesses did.

This was a broader message from the chief operating office of the council and other organizers seeking more open exchange and activism with faith leaders.

Cochran made it clear that the labor council will always champion the issues that raise living standards and respect for workers, from better health care to the employee free choice act.

But she also emphasized and detailed how the unions fight to advance the entire community, to help those in need where they stand. It is, she said, one of the realms where religion and unions are tied together in attitude, through charities, moral codes



Among speakers from the floor were David Liners, state director for WISDOM (above), and state Sen. Spencer Coggs (below).



and political effort.

Much of the discussion at this luncheon focused not on unions but on what needed to be done for everyone, and what unions were doing from rampant poverty and unemployment in the inner city to the sort of human pain and family breakup that faith leaders are dealing

with every day.

The depth of union involvement is such community services clearly surprised some in attendance.

In the open discussion period, faith leaders and unions shared a deep involvement in finding and creating jobs. Unions were asked and clearly threaded the line on public education -- explaining why, as Cochran pointed out, they do want more involvement by municipal leaders and businesses but opposed a mayoral takeover of the public schools. Many ministers and public leaders in attendance also agreed that the tactic could disenfranchise the voters who have long cried for some sort of help from City Hall.

Many spoke of more mutual support and united action to fight for young people and against violence.



The luncheon was dominated by union and faith figures, including at the above table Tom Heinen, new executive director for the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, seated with CWA retiree and APRI leader Mary Jo Avery. But public officials or their representatives are visible at upper left, as are community leaders and the media. Shown below right is Heinen's successor as religion reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Annysa Johnson. At her table (left) is Pamela Fendt, whose Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Coalition recently presented an award for distinguished service to John Jorgensen, business manager and secretary-treasurer of District Council 7, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, AFL-CIO.



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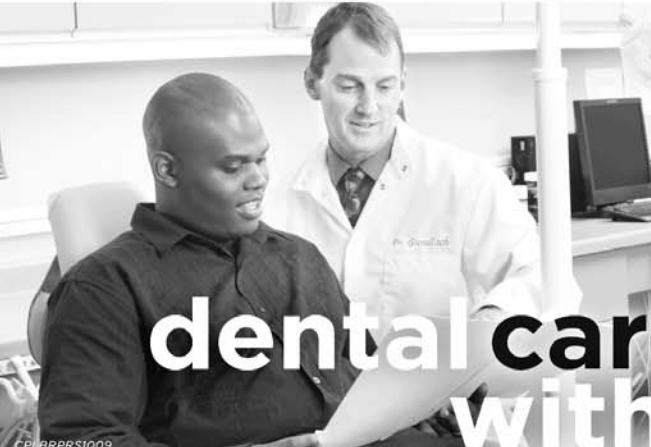
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A big attraction at the Milwaukee conference was the Obama appointment of a new acting head of OSHA (the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and as assistant secretary of labor. The return of Jordan Barab, a veteran safety expert and former official in the Clinton administration, after eight years of cutbacks in OSHA's activities and influence, has been greeted by huzzahs from workers and many managerial quarters.



Safety issues draw unions to confab

More than 70 attendees marked the range of workshops and talks September 24-25 at the Wyndham Hotel when the State AFL-CIO held its Health and Safety Conference.

Organizer Jose Bucio pointed out that the interest in safety and health has grown so much that many visitors wanted a third day of sessions next year.

Safety experts from Wisconsin listened attentively (top) as the new acting head of OSHA, Jordan Barab, talked candidly about the troubled near future and as presentations were made by many experts from the public, private and academic sectors, including Sharon Simon,



the director of safety and health training at the National Labor College, Neil DeClercq, director of the UW-Extension School for Workers, and James Schultz (at far right in photo), executive director of WisCOSH.

But Barab warned of tough times largely because money will be tight in the new administration. Nevertheless he outlined a series of initiatives underway or in the works for better and more inspection, modernized rules and closer scrutiny.

An information gauntlet with details of OSHA's efforts, as well as presentation of safety help and safety tools from other organizations, greeted departees

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