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Oregon AFL-CIO backs Kulongoski for re-election

The Oregon AFL-CIO wasted little time endorsing Gov. Ted Kulongoski for re-election at its meeting July 25 in Portland.

During President Tom Chamberlain's report to the Committee On Political Education (COPE), he was interrupted and a motion was made to endorse the Democratic incumbent. A vote was taken and Kulongoski won unanimous support, with two unions — the Oregon Nurses Association and Springfield Fire Fighters — abstaining.

A political endorsement requires a two-thirds majority vote.

Support by the AFL-CIO is a huge relief for Kulongoski, who failed to get its backing in the May primary when he faced two labor-friendly Democratic opponents. At the time, public employee unions were still upset with Kulongoski because of his work in the 2005 Legislature to scale back public employees' pensions through massive reforms.

Kulongoski won the primary. He now faces a well-financed anti-union conservative Republican.

"I think Ted Kulongoski is the best labor governor in the United States in terms of what he says and what he does. His actions follow his talk," said Ken Allen, executive director of Oregon AF-

SCME Council 75. It was Allen who moved to endorse Kulongoski.

"Job creation. Capital construction. Minimum wage. Organizing. Health care. He's with us right down the line," said AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain, who formerly served as the governor's labor liaison.

"He just gets it," added Bob Petroff, directing business representative of Machinists District Lodge 24. "He knows what's right for workers...he's one of us."

Kulongoski, a former member of the Teamsters and Steelworkers unions, refers to himself in speeches as a "labor Democrat." He was one of the first governors in the nation to sign the pledge for the Employee Free Choice Act, a legislative proposal pending in Congress that calls for card-check elections and employer neutrality during organizing campaigns.

During his first term, Kulongoski signed executive orders designating AF-SCME Council 75 as the exclusive representative for some 5,000 registered child care providers throughout the state, and the Service Employees International Union as the exclusive agent for approximately 6,000 state-listed family child care providers.

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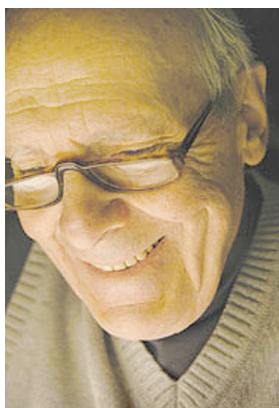
Machinists strike at Cummins NW continues

Steve Capsey, Ward Andring and Rick Brandt, members of Machinists Lodge 1005, walk picket line July 31 at Cummins NW on Swan Island in Portland. The unfair labor practice strike, which is getting virtually no attention by the Portland media, started July 7 after the company's new owner voided contracts with Machinists and Teamsters unions at facilities in Portland, Pendleton, Renton, Wash. and Spokane, Wash., and quit paying into the pension fund. The sides are negotiating on new contracts with a federal mediator, but talks are moving slowly. The new owner wants open shop language in any new pacts. "We're in for the long haul, said Andring, who has been with Cummins NW for 31 years. More than 100 workers are on strike, including 23 in Portland. The ULP strike is sanctioned by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council and Teamsters Joint Council 37.

Former Labor Press editor 'Jimbo' Goodsell dies at 86

James Warren Goodsell, editor of the Oregon Labor Press in the 1950s and '60s, died in his sleep on July 15, 2006 at his home in Twisp, Washington, at the age of 86, his family reported. Twisp, which is not far from the Canadian border, is situated in the Methow Valley in the North Cascade Mountains.

In 1982, Goodsell and his second wife, Dorothy (Dee) Compton Goodsell, moved to Twisp, which they had earlier selected as their retirement site because of its proximity to mountains, which they both enjoyed climbing. He took early retirement from a federal executive post because she had suddenly gone nearly blind in 1981. Doctors said the cause of her sight loss



JAMES GOODSSELL

was temporal arteritis. At that time they were living in Italy where he was the director of the United States Trade Center in Milan. Dee Goodsell died at their Twisp home in 2003 at age 86.

Jim, also known as Jimbo, became the editor and manager of the then-weekly Oregon Labor Press on June 1, 1951 and held the job until Oct. 8, 1965. (This labor-owned non-profit newspaper was started as the Portland Labor Press on Labor Day 1900, became the Oregon Labor Press in 1914 and changed its name to Northwest Labor Press in 1987 to reflect its expanded scope.) Under Goodsell's editorship the Labor Press won 24 national awards in the annual journalism competition sponsored by the International Labor Press Association. In those years the ILPA journalism contests

were mostly judged by Nieman Fellows at Harvard University. Those are professional journalists studying at Harvard while on a school year's sabbatical from their jobs.

A highlight of Goodsell's tenure at the Labor Press was attending and covering the historic 1955 national merger of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations at a convention in New York City. The next year he attended and covered the AFL-CIO state-level merger convention in Portland.

The circulation of the Labor Press was 18,900 when Goodsell became its editor and manager in 1951. He increased it to 40,000 over a period of years.

Goodsell's reporting on the long, bitter November 1959 to April 1965 strike against the Oregonian and Oregon Journal and his support for the striking unions and their members earned him a special

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Let me say this about that

—By Gene Klare

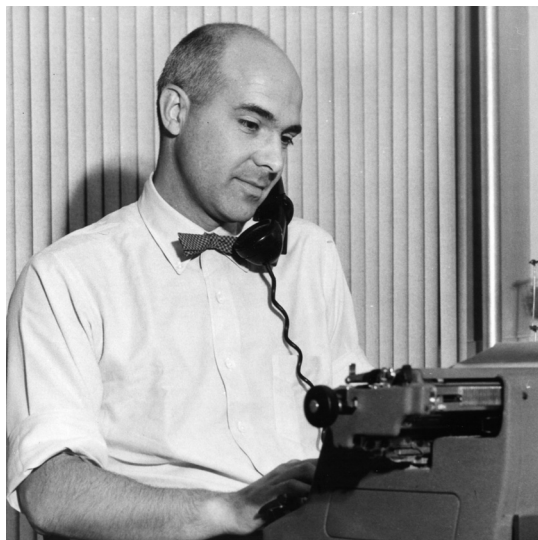


...Goodsell's career

(From Page 1)

award from the ILPA. He published a number of special editions of the Labor Press devoted entirely to the strike and printed hundreds of thousands of copies which were delivered door-to-door by teams of strikers. This helped the striking unions to persuade tens of thousands of people to cancel their subscriptions to the struck-but-still-publishing newspapers which were produced by strikebreakers.

JIM SERVED as an ILPA vice president and executive council member from



JIM GOODSSELL

1958 to 1965. He was a member of Portland Newspaper Guild Local 165 and Portland Machinists Lodge 63.

In his years in Portland, Goodsell served on the governing boards of the mayor-appointed Commission on Public Docks, the City Club, the Urban League, the Oregon chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Junior Symphony Association and the Press Club of Oregon. He also was a member of a blue-ribbon citizens

committee that produced a change-making report on racial policies in the Portland Public Schools.

JAMES W. GOODSSELL was born on March 7, 1920 in Madison, Wisconsin. His father was the Reverend Henry Guy Goodsell, a Methodist pastor; his mother was Anna Catherine (Tyler) Goodsell.

Jim spent his early years in Denver and Colorado Springs, Colorado, places where his father's career took the family. In 1934, the Rev. Guy Goodsell moved his family to Portland when he accepted the pulpit of the First Methodist Church where he stayed until retiring in 1946.

JIM ATTENDED Lincoln High School when it was in a building that later became part of Portland State University and is called Lincoln Hall. He served as editor of the student newspaper and president of the student body. After graduating in 1937, he studied for a year at Willamette University in Salem, which was connected with the Methodist Church. He won a scholarship to Columbia College in New York City and studied there for three years. At Columbia he was elected editor of the campus literary magazine, the Columbia Review.

BEFORE PEARL HARBOR, Goodsell worked at a plant in Pasadena, Calif., that made parts for the B-24 bomber. After the Japanese attack that brought the U.S. into World War II, Jim joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and saw duty as a sergeant with the Air Transport Command in India and China.

After the war, Goodsell took a job as a reporter for the Astorian-Budget daily newspaper in Astoria on the North Oregon Coast and next became news editor of radio station KAST in Astoria. He was elected chairman of the Clatsop County Democratic Party in 1948. That quickly led to him being hired as the Portland-based executive secretary of the Democratic Party of Oregon. During his tenure, the Democrats became Oregon's majority party in voter registration for the first time. This led to the victories of Democratic candidates for state and federal offices in the elections later in the 1950s after Jim had moved to the Labor Press. One of those winning Democrats was Richard Neuberger, Jim's brother-in-law,

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Labor, greens come together

By **DON McINTOSH**
Associate Editor

If unions could join forces politically with environmental groups, what could they achieve together? Maybe good jobs and a clean environment?

Neither camp has close ties to the majority party in Congress right now, but state by state, such an alliance has potential, leaders in both movements say.

In June, the 850,000-member union United Steelworkers and the 750,000-member environmental group Sierra Club announced the formation of a "Blue-Green Alliance" to work on a joint political agenda.

"Good jobs and a clean environment are important to American workers," said Steelworkers President Leo Gerard in a statement accompanying the announcement. "We cannot have one without the other."

The Steelworkers have a history of working with environmentalists dating back to the 1970 passage of the Clean Air Act, and are a part of several other such alliances.

One that shows potential is the Apollo Alliance, founded in 2003, which has been endorsed by 20 environmental groups, 19 international unions, and 10 state federations and central labor councils of the AFL-CIO. Apollo brings together business and community groups as well, who are interested in its focus on public investment in energy conservation and alternative energy.

Apollo takes no position on nuclear energy, which green groups oppose, or action to limit global warming, which

some labor groups have yet to endorse. Instead, it sticks to a unifying agenda all sides can agree with: energy independence, energy efficiency, clean energy, and good jobs.

Rich Feldman, Apollo coordinator for the state of Washington, says people who are concerned about global warming are already on board with Apollo's proposals, while those who aren't still see the value of weaning the U.S. from dependence on foreign fuel supplies.

Apollo takes its name from the Apollo project, the challenge laid down by John F. Kennedy that America could send a manned vessel to the moon within a decade if it put its mind to the task. Similarly, say Apollo Alliance founders, America can find a new era of high efficiency and renewable energy if it's willing to invest in it. Apollo says developing bio-fuels, wind, solar and other new technologies could create 3 million new jobs in the agricultural economy, construction and industry.

In Washington, an active Apollo chapter helped pass legislation this March to require that diesel and gasoline sold in the state contain minimum percentages of biodiesel and ethanol. The bill was fought hard by petroleum companies, but passed with bipartisan support. The law took effect July 1, and the goal is for gas to contain at least 2 percent ethanol and diesel to contain 2 percent biodiesel, within two-and-a-half years. Those requirements would rise to 10 percent and 5 percent respectively when the state Department of Agriculture determines that there's enough seed-crushing and feedstock capacity in

Washington to meet demand. Biodiesel is diesel fuel produced from renewable resources, including recycled cooking oils, animal fats, and soybean and canola oils.

Thanks to the demand created by the law, Seattle-based Imperium Renewables expects to break ground in early September in Grays Harbor on one of the largest biofuels plants in America. The work will be done by a union-signatory general contractor, JH Kelly, and construction will take about a year. The \$40 million plant is slated to create 250 to 350 jobs during construction and 50 permanent jobs once it's running. The plant will manufacture biodiesel using palm oil from Malaysia and soybean oil from the United States.

The Portland City Council passed a local ordinance July 12, without any prompting from the Apollo Alliance or other groups. Commissioner Randy Leonard, a former Fire Fighters Union leader, authored the ordinance. The ordinance requires that within a year all gas stations within the city limits offer gasoline that includes 10 percent ethanol. In addition, all diesel sold will have to include 5 percent biodiesel.

The Apollo Alliance is looking to build momentum in Oregon, and is assigning a full-time organizer, Jeremy Hays, to the task. Oregon AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Byrd says discussions are under way about whether to start a formal chapter of the Apollo Alliance in Oregon. Backers would hope to develop a legislative agenda in the next few months.

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...Democrats, Republicans are endorsed

(From Page 1)

As the COPE meeting, was winding down, Kulongoski stopped by to thank the political committee for its support.

Despite difference on certain issues, Kulongoski said, "I've never forgotten where I came from. I've never, ever lost sight of who I represent. And that's you."

He said all workers — union and nonunion — are tied to the labor movement. "You carry them. Your success is their success," he said.

Kulongoski said the November election will be a barometer for the 2008 presidential election. "What happens in America and in Oregon (this November) sets the stage for 2008."

In other political action, COPE endorsed incumbent U.S. Reps. Earl Blumenauer, David Wu, Peter DeFazio, and Darlene Hooley. They also backed Democrat Carol Voisin, who is challenging Republican Greg Walden in the Second District. Delegates representing construction unions opposed the endorsement, citing Walden's support for prevailing wage laws.

In legislative races, the AFL-CIO endorsed the following candidates:

Senate Democrats Alan Bates, Dist. 3; Paul Evans, Dist. 10; Peter Courtney, Dist. 11; Elizabeth "Betsy" Johnson, Dist. 16; and Rod Monroe, Dist. 24.



Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski is congratulated by Bob Shiprack, executive secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council, and Ken Allen, executive director of Oregon AFSCME Council 75, after he was endorsed for re-election by the Oregon AFL-CIO — an endorsement that eluded him in the May primary.

Delegates also endorsed Senate Republican Frank Morse in Dist. 8.

In the House, COPE backed Democrats Howard Owens, Dist. 3; Nancy Nathanson, Dist. 13; Sara Gelsler, Dist. 16; Dan Thackaberry, Dist. 17; Brian Grisham, Dist. 19; Jason Brown, Dist. 23; Sal Peralta, Dist. 24; Charles "Chuck" Lee, Dist. 25; Tobias Read, Dist. 27; Mitch Greenlick, Dist. 33; Greg MacPherson; Dist. 38; and Ben Cannon, Dist. 46.

In roll-call voting, COPE endorsed incumbent Republicans Vicki Berger in Dist. 20 and Scott Bruun in Dist. 37. Republican Bob Jenson, Dist. 59, was

endorsed on a standing vote of 21-2.

A recommendation by the Oregon AFL-CIO to endorse Republican Rep. Debi Farr in Dist. 14 (Eugene) failed on a standing vote. A motion by the Lane County Labor Council to endorse her Democratic opponent, Chris Edwards, was approved 18-9. That was followed by a motion for a roll-call vote, in which Edwards failed to garner a two-thirds' majority, resulting in no action.

Before the May primary, COPE endorsed several incumbents in the Senate and House. For a complete list of endorsements go to the labor federation's Web site at www.oraflcio.org.

Sizemore files anti-union initiatives for 2008 ballot

Despite unpaid judgments, Bill Sizemore is still trying to hurt unions at the polls.

Labor foe and convicted racketeer Bill Sizemore has filed initiative petitions with the Oregon secretary of state's office calling for the repeal of the state's prevailing wage law and making Oregon a so-called right-to-work state in which the union shop is banned.

They are just two of 29 initiatives Sizemore has filed for the 2008 election cycle. Most of the initiatives attack public employee unions and teachers.

One of Sizemore's initiatives will appear on the November 2006 ballot. He had filed nearly a dozen.

Sizemore still owes the Oregon Education Association and the Oregon Federation of Teachers-Oregon nearly \$2.5 million after they successfully sued him and his organization, Oregon Taxpayers United (OTU), in December 2000, charging a pattern of fraud and racketeering activities that caused the unions to have to spend heavily to defeat them. The jury agreed that Sizemore's organizations submitted forged signatures on the initial statements of sponsorship for the future ballot measures; they submitted forged signatures on initiative petitions used to qualify measures for the

ballot; and they lied on state and federal tax returns and state Contribution & Expenditure (C&E) reports.

He was ordered to pay \$842,000 in damages to the two teachers unions. Under state anti-racketeering statutes, that amount was tripled by the judge to \$2.52 million. Sizemore has filed appeals and has refused to pay the fine. In 2004, a Multnomah County judge held him in contempt of court.

Sizemore's initiatives for 2008 include more measures that would prohibit unions from collecting dues from members' checks; an initiative that would prevent public employee unions from making campaign contributions to elected public officials that would make decisions at the workplace. Unions caught contributing would be "guilty of bribery or attempting to bribe an elected official," the initiative reads. Another initiative would subject teacher pay raises and job security to classroom performance.

Some of Sizemore initiatives on file don't attack unions, but they would affect the initiative process. One would repeal 2002's Ballot Measure 26, the union-backed initiative banning the buying and selling of signatures. Signature-gatherers now must be paid by the hour. A co-sponsor of the newly-filed initiative is Tim Trickey, who owns a signature-gathering business.

Another Sizemore initiative would allow initiatives to contain a provision stating that the courts cannot overturn a ballot measure if passed by voters. Still another initiative would require the secretary of state to "scrutinize every signature" that is turned in on a petition.

None of the 38 initiatives on file at the secretary of state's office as of July 31 had been approved for circulation.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Thompson wins fifth term at Roofers Local 49

Michael Thompson has been re-elected by acclamation as business manager of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers Local 49 in Portland.

He was sworn in to his fifth term of the 450-member local on July 13.

In a three-way race for president, Darrell Hopkins Sr. unseated incumbent Russ Garnett. Candidate Jim Newsom finished third.

Russ Nicolai defeated Bruce Wynne for an open seat as vice president, while John Havens was re-elected Warden, defeating Jim Breneman.

Paul Corbin ran unopposed for recording secretary. He succeeds Howard Nave, who is retiring.

Elected to Local 49's Executive Board were Hopkins Sr., Nicolai, Garnett, Ray Carpenter and Emily Blatchford.

Elected delegates to the international convention were Carpenter, Garnett, Hopkins Sr., Nicolai and Nave.

SEIU endorses Gov. Kulongoski for re-election

The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) announced July 31 that it has endorsed Gov. Ted Kulongoski's re-election effort.

SEIU Locals 503 and 49, which represent 45,000 workers in Oregon, endorsed Democratic challenger Jim Hill in the three-man primary in May.

"In this (general) election, Kulongoski is clearly the right candidate for Oregon," said Kurt Kessler, an SEIU Local 503 member who provides services to senior citizens in Medford. "There is no question in our minds that working families will be better off (if Kulongoski is re-elected)."

Joe DiNicola, a corporate tax auditor who serves as president of SEIU Local 503, says Kulongoski's Republican opponent Ron Saxton is too extreme for Oregon.

"If elected, Saxton will dismantle the services Oregonians rely on. When it comes to affordable health care, education for our children economic fairness and workers' rights, Ron Saxton plans to send Oregon backwards," DiNicola said.

SEIU's endorsement follows hundreds of conversations among union members, as well as votes by union members elected to its political action committees and boards of both locals.

'Union Yes' racer qualifies 16th at Woodburn event

WOODBURN, Ore. — The "Union Yes" race car driven by Plumbers and Fitters Local 290 member Greg Hindman qualified 16th at the Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series event July 6-9 at Woodburn Dragstrip.

Sixty-four cars attempted to lock-in one of the 48 available positions in the Top Comp qualifying field.

Hindman secured his top finish with a 7.11-second pass during his third run. He then went on to win three rounds, making it to the remaining four drivers in the Top Sportsman race.

The Woodburn race was Hindman's third event in the 2006 season.

Earlier this year, the "Union Yes" race car competed in divisional races in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona.

Hindman has been able to compete with the help of sponsorships by labor unions, councils and businesses.

"With all these locals, councils and vendors working together towards one message, 'Union Yes,' this program is such a powerful advertising campaign. We are able to reach many more people than any one of us could do alone," said Hindman. "I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to represent organized labor. I am inspired by each union member, and of course, by the brothers and sisters of the labor movement that came before us."

Sponsors of the "Union Yes" race car include the Columbia-Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council; Roofers Local 49; Cement Masons Local 555; the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Locals 280 and 640; Iron Workers Local



Motorcycle Poker Run delivers winning hand

Ashley Keels and Iris Smith of Doerbecher Children's Hospital Foundation accept a check for \$25,000 from the "Unions for Kids" Motorcycle Poker Run held June 10 in Portland. Presenting the check is Unions for Kids co-chair Lee Duncan (center), a business representative of Electrical Workers Local 48, and Dave Tully of Teamsters Joint Council 37. The fourth annual Motorcycle event raised more than three times the \$7,500 total last year. Nearly 300 riders, mostly union members and their friends, participated. "In four years we have jumped from the initial \$2,500 raised to this year's \$25,000," said Duncan. "This event has become a tremendous success. It is great to be able to do something like this for the kids who desperately need our help." For the second year in a row, the raffle included a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle, which IBEW Local 48 member Bob Borman won. "Everyone wants that motorcycle," said Duncan. "The raffle adds excitement to the event and considerably increases participation." Standing in the background are union volunteers who helped staff the day-long event and members of unions that donated money. The check was presented at the Northwest Oregon Labor Council delegates' meeting July 24.

29; the Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters, Plumbers and Fitters Locals 290 and Oregon AFSCME Council 75. Corporate sponsors are Gresham Transmission, AutoMax USA, Nitrous Express and Wheelz.

For more information about the race car, contact Brandi Hindman at 503-740-8806 or go to their Website at www.unionyesracing.com.

Labor Day picnics on tap in Portland and Bend, Ore.

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council once again will host a Labor Day picnic.

Oaks Park in Southeast Portland has been booked for Monday, Sept. 4. Unions are reserving space for what is the largest Labor Day bash in Oregon.

Bill Lucy, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, will be the keynote speaker.

The Labor Council will sell food scrip for 25 cents each. Three scrip will get you a hot dog and chips, two scrip a soda pop, and four scrip a beer.

A deluxe ride bracelet costs \$8.25 and is good from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year the roller rink will be open for those with ride bracelets.

For more information, or to purchase scrip, call 503-235-9444.

Union members in Central Oregon will host a "Labor Day Unity Picnic" starting at noon Monday, Sept. 4, at Pioneer Park.

Union members and family and friends of labor are invited to enjoy free hamburgers, hot dogs, vegetarian choices, raw veggies, chips, dips, soft drinks and more. Participants are asked to bring a potluck dessert to share. Entertainment will include live music and games for kids.

For more information, call Kathryn Wood at 541-385-8471.

350 janitors at ServiceMaster win back pay settlement

Janitors ordered to arrive early for work shifts at the Rose Garden arena will get back pay as part of the settlement of a court case. In July, ServiceMaster Swan Island agreed to pay \$84,125 to settle a class action lawsuit filed in May 2005 in Multnomah County Circuit Court over violations of Oregon's wage and hour laws.

The suit alleged that ServiceMaster directed employees to arrive at a certain time and then wait up to an hour until the end of an event like a Blazers basketball game, before clocking in. That would run afoul of Oregon law.

The settlement was declared a victory by Portland-based Service Employees Local 49, which paid the attorneys fees. Local 49 has watchdogged abuses by ServiceMaster Swan Island, a nonunion cleaning firm that competes with unionized companies. ServiceMaster Swan Island janitors typically work part time, make just above minimum wage and do not receive health benefits. ServiceMaster Swan Island is a local franchise of a national company; some ServiceMaster franchises are union-represented.

The damages will be split among over 350 janitors who cleaned the Rose Garden between 1999 and 2005, depending on hours worked.



Sheet Metal Workers 'cruise-in'

Oregon Congresswoman Darlene Hooley calls out a winning ticket at the Summer Blast and Cruise-In July 30 at West Linn Willamette Park hosted by Sheet Metal Workers Local 16, SMACNA and the HVAC & Metals Institute. The day included a barbecue, live band, kids' games and a display of hot rods, trucks and motorcycles. All proceeds from the event went to Local 16's Food Bank. Helping with the prizes are Local 16 President Ric Olander (center), and Business Representative Del Brown. About 600 people attended.

Portland school custodians' return murky

Eight months after the Oregon Supreme Court ruled that privatizing Portland Public Schools custodial department was illegal, details about the custodians' return to work are still murky.

Just over a month before the school year begins, it wasn't clear how many of the roughly 330 custodians the district fired in August 2002 would choose to return.

On July 6, the district sent a letter to the attorneys representing the custodians. The letter announced an offer to "recall" them to their former positions, and imposed a deadline of July 20 for individuals to accept the offer.

That deadline was extended to July 28, and again to Aug. 4.

Attorneys representing custodians maintain the district had no authority to impose a deadline for the acceptance of reinstatement offer. But they and the steering committee elected by the terminated custodians to oversee their return plan to cooperate and try to meet the deadline. They think over half may agree to return; a better number will be available Aug. 4.

Some details emerged when steering committee chair Steve Armony had his first meeting July 26 with his district counterparts — Jim Christensen, hired to manage the transition, and Randy Thomas, custodial service manager. The district has signed a contract with PHC, the current janitorial contractor, to use its supervisors until December. Once the district has determined how many custodians want to return, it will fill positions in order of seniority, and then hire to fill any still-vacant positions. New hires will have to pass a civil service exam. The goal is to get everyone on the job before school begins Sept. 6. Once all positions are filled, the workers will choose a contract bargaining team, which will be joined by a staffperson from their union, Service Employees International Union Local 503.

The chief hurdle to returning, Armony says, is that it's tough for custodians to make a decision when they don't know what they'll be returning to.

"It ain't gonna be like the old days," Armony said. "They'll have to be more of a united union than ever to go back to work for the school district."

The district said it would pay them their old salaries, plus the same percentage increases that were given to the district's cafeteria workers over the last four years. Armony and the attorneys reject the idea that raises negotiated for one group can apply to the other, but agreed to settle that dispute once custo-

dians are back to work.

In any case, that pay will last only until a new union contract is negotiated. And the district shows every sign of returning to the hardball bargaining stances it had in the past.

This time, the district may bargain in a hurry. In recent bargaining with cafeteria workers and office support staff, the district dragged its feet and held off for six months before giving its wage and benefit proposal. The custodians, on the other hand, have been given a de facto proposal before they return to work, and before their bargaining team has been selected. The custodians won't be district employees — or union members — until they formally accept reinstatement and return to work.

The district is proposing to pay custodians what the employees of PHC, the private contractor, were paid — \$10.55 an hour for "day custodians" and \$10.35 an hour for "night janitors." In other words, the district will pay custodians \$14.56 to \$22.71 upon return (presumably because it's legally obligated to) and then propose to cut that salary a third to a half.

Four years ago, the district proposed a cut of nearly as much, asking custodians to absorb \$4.5 million in wage and benefit concessions out of a total of \$15.6 million. PPS didn't budge from that offer in six months of negotiations. Faced with the threat of privatization, the union bargaining team agreed to accept \$2.4 million of that cut, but the district decided to pursue the whole \$4.5 million cut by outsourcing the department.

Armony said he expects bargaining will again be hard-fought when custodians return.

This time, it's clear the district can't legally privatize. But it *can* declare impasse and impose its offer, if and when bargaining breaks down. Then the

union would be faced with the choice to strike or take concessions.

The PPS Board has asked district management to keep the custodial department budget to \$16 or \$17 million. Four years ago it was \$18 million. In all likelihood, there will be fewer custodians to do the same work.

That's the future the custodians would return to. It's no wonder many are hesitant to return.



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PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Aug. 19 & 29, 2006
Benson High School Cafeteria
546 NE 12th Ave. Portland
Sign in at 9:00 AM**

The PPS Custodians Civil Service Board (CCSB) will conduct a Custodian Civil Service examination on each of the above dates for the purpose of qualifying a pool of candidates for potential employment as custodians within the Portland Public School system.

Preregister for an exam via the Portland Schools Human Resources Web site (www.hr.pps.k12.or.us). Go to the Employment Opportunities section and scroll to the Civil Service Exam link. Or, if preferred, register upon arrival at Benson on the day of the test. All applicants are required to provide photo ID verification on the day of testing.

Additional information is available via the Human Resources Web site.

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OFFICIAL NOTICES

Asbestos Workers 36

Executive Board meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9. Members meet 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11. Meetings are at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers 114

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, in the meeting room at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland.

Boilermakers 500

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at 2515 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland.

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers 1

The Aug. 15 meeting has been canceled. PLEASE NOTE: The BAC Local 1 annual picnic will be held from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at Blue Lake Park. Reservations are required, please call 503 232-0358.

Carpenters 1715

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15, preceded by a 5 p.m. Executive Board meeting at 612 E. McLoughlin, Vancouver, Wash.

Cement Masons 555

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

Clark, Skamania & W. Klickitat Counties Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, preceded by an Executive Board meeting, at the ILWU Local 4 Hall, 1205 Ingalls St., Vancouver, Wash.

Columbia-Pacific Building Trades

Delegates meet 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 8 and Aug. 15, at Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

Electrical Workers 48

Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28. Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, in the Executive Boardroom.

Residential Unit meets 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9, in the Dispatch Lobby.

General Membership meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. pre-meeting buffet.

Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9, at the Wasco PUD, 2345 River Rd., The Dalles.

Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Coast Unit Picnic will be held 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday Aug. 12, at Cullaby Lake Park between Seaside & Astoria.

EWMC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9, in the Executive Boardroom.

Sound & Communication Unit meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16.

Electrical Women of Local 48 meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15, at NIETC, 16021 NE Airport Way.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Aug. 16 and Sept. 6.

Meetings are at 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland, unless otherwise noted.

DEATH ASSESSMENTS: The following death assessments have been declared for Aug. and are payable at 50 cents: No. 2113, Glenn W. Jenkins; No. 2114, Milo L. Greene, and No. 2115, John M. Herceg.

Electrical Workers 280

Bend Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, at the IBEW/UA Training Center, 2161 SW First St., Redmond.

Joint Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Central Electrical Training Center, 33309 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.

Executive Board meets 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent.

Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 12779 NE Whitaker Way, Portland.

Exterior & Interior Specialists 2154

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 1125 SE Madison, Suite 207, Portland.

Glass Workers 740

Eugene area members meet 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7, at Best Western Grand Manor Inn, 971 Kruse Way, Springfield.

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

Iron Workers 29

PLEASE NOTE: The Aug. 17 meeting has been canceled.

Iron Workers Shopmen 516

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir., #300, Portland. PLEASE NOTE: The 38th annual golf tournament will be held Sunday, Aug. 27, at Glendoveer West Golf Course. The format is 4-person, best ball. Please call the local for entry forms. 503 257-4743

Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington

Delegates meet 8 a.m. Friday, Aug. 18, at Hometown Buffet, 7809-B Vancouver Plaza Dr., Vancouver, Wash.

Laborers 483

Municipal Employees

Members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15, at the Musicians Hall, 325 NE 20th Ave., Portland.

Laborers/Vancouver 335

Members meet 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7, preceded by a 6:15 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the Vancouver Labor Center, 2212 NE Andresen Rd., Vanc., Wash.

Linoleum Layers 1236

PLEASE NOTE: The Aug. meeting is "Special Call" to vote on adjusting the hourly pension fund contribution.

Executive Board meets 5:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7, at the Union Office 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland Area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, at the Union Office, 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Marion-Polk-Yamhill Labor Council

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, followed by a 7 p.m. general meeting at SEIU #503, 1730 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

Metal Trades Council

Executive Board meets 8 a.m. Monday, Aug. 14, at NOLC board room, 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Mid-Columbia Labor Council

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, at 3313 W. 2nd, The Dalles.

Molders 139

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

Multnomah County Employees 88

General Membership meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, preceded by a 6 p.m. stewards meeting.

Executive Board meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5. Meetings are at the Council 75 office, 6025 E Burnside, Portland.

Northwest Oregon Labor Council

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28, at the IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Operating Engineers 701

District 1 members meet 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, at Gladstone Union Hall, 555 E. First St., Gladstone.

District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, at North Bend/Coos Bay Labor Center, 3427 Ash St., North Bend.

District 5 members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9, at Gladstone Union Hall, 555 E. First St., Gladstone.

District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, at Courtyard Marriott, 600 Airport Rd., Medford.

District 3 members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, at The Riverhouse, 3075 N. Hwy. 97, Bend.

District 2 members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Marriott Residence Inn, 25 Club Rd., Eugene.

Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Pile Drivers, Divers & Shipwrights 2416

Members meet 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 2205 N Lombard, Portland.

Portland City & Metropolitan Employees 189

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, at 6025 E Burnside, Portland.

General membership meets 6:15 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, 6025 E Burnside, Portland.

Roofers & Waterproofers 49

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10.

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7. Meetings are at 5032 SE 26th Ave, Portland. (Phone: 503 232-4807)

Sheet Metal Workers 16

Portland meeting canceled for August. Medford meeting canceled for August.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, at UA #290 Hall, 3861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield, preceded by a 5 p.m. VOC meeting.

Coos Bay area meetings have been canceled for August. Meetings resume in September.

NOTICE: Check out our new Web site at www.smw16.org.

Sign Painters & Paint Makers 1094

Members meet 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21, in the District Office, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Southern Oregon Central Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, at the Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7, at the Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash, North Bend.

United Association 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Astoria area members meet 6:00 pm Wednesday, Aug. 23, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 417 Railroad St., Brookings.

Coos Bay area members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

Eugene area members meet 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21, at the Eugene #290 Hall.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, at the Moose Lodge, 1577 Oak Ave., Klamath Falls.

Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, at 650A Industrial Cir., White City.

Roseburg area meetings will resume in Oct.

Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 21, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.

The Dalles area members meeting has been canceled for Aug.

Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23, at the Eureka Training Center, 832 E St., Eureka, Calif.

USW 1097

Members meet 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16, preceded by a 3 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the union office, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

Aug. 24 is Building Trades Night at the Portland Beavers

The Columbia-Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council will have a labor night at the Portland Beavers AAA Baseball game on Thursday, Aug. 24, at PGE Park.

Gates open at 6:05 p.m. and the first pitch will be thrown at 7:05 p.m. The Beavers take on Las Vegas.

Aug. 24 is also Miller Lite Thursday, with discounted prices for beer.

Affiliates of the CPBCTC have purchased a block of tickets along the first base/right field line at \$9 each.

Contact your local union for information about how to obtain a ticket.

16th annual Labor Award Banquet slated Sept. 8

VANCOUVER, Wash. — The 16th annual Labor Award Banquet will be held Friday, Sept. 8 at the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay. The event is sponsored by the Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington.

Tickets are \$45 per person. A no-host bar opens at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. The tentative keynote speaker is Congressman Brian Baird.

For more information, call 360-687-5611.

RETIREE MEETING NOTICES

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

Retirees meet 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave., Portland. All retirees are welcome to attend.

BAKERS 114

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, at North Clackamas Park for the annual potluck picnic. For more information, please call Diane at 503 762-6924.

CARPENTERS

Retired Carpenters meet for lunch 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 14, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retired Electricians of Local 48, wives and friends meet Tuesday, Aug. 8, and travel on a FREE 48-seat luxury bus to Lucky Eagle Casino in Rochester, WA. The bus will leave at 8:30 a.m. from Westminster Presbyterian Church, NE 16th and Hancock, and will also pick-up additional passengers at Russellville Plaza, 20 SE 103rd Ave, at 8:45 a.m. and will return at 4:30 p.m. Receive casino coupons, enjoy lunch plus raffle gifts and snacks for the drive home. Let's fill the bus! For reservations, please call Vera Larson (503) 252-2296.

GLASS WORKERS 740

Retirees meet 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

LINOLEUM LAYERS 1236

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 11, at JJ North's Grand Buffet,

10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 14, at 1125 SE Madison #100G, Portland.

OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 503-239-9858, ext. 124.

SHEET METAL WORKERS 16

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, at The Old Spaghetti Factory, 18925 NW Tanasbourne Dr. (Exit 64 off Hwy.26). All Sheet Metal Workers and spouses welcome.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Portland/Eugene area retiree meetings will resume in September.



(ABOVE) MDA North Metro and Vancouver Goodwill Ambassador Carson Jones, 12, and his counselor Bobby Heiney, 24, from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue. (RIGHT) Water Ball, organized by Springfield Local 1395 and Hoodland Local 1660, was a camp favorite for more than 100 MDA campers. Some 70 union firefighters took part.



Fire Fighters play with MDA kids at summer camp

WELCHES, Ore. — Over 100 firefighters from Hood River, Hoodland, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, Clackamas, Lake Oswego, Hillsboro, Albany, Estacada and Portland took part in “Fire-fighter’s Day” July 12 at the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s annual summer camp at Camp Arrah Wanna.

Over 90 youths from Oregon and Southwest Washington attended the camp July 8-15. The camp allows children ages 6 to 21 with neuromuscular diseases who are in wheelchairs or have limited mobility to enjoy a fun-filled week of activities in a physically and emotionally-safe environment.

“The camp experience gives participants the unique opportunity to make friends and participate in outdoor events alongside youth with similar diseases,” said Jessica Pollack, public affairs coordinator for the MDA Portland region.

More than 30 firefighters donated a week of their personal time by serving as camp counselors for the entire week.

On Firefighter’s Day, the kids played a few games of water ball and had Fire-fighter Fear Factor where they had to dig gummy worms out of tins of pudding with their face. They also had blindfolded wheelchair maze races.

“The kids had a great time with them (firefighters) while they were there,” Pollock said.

The International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO, is one of MDA’s oldest and largest sponsors. Fire Fighters have contributed over \$230 million to MDA since 1954. Not only do they volunteer at camp every year, fire departments across Oregon and the U.S. participate in Fill-the-Boot drives, whereby firefighters ask passing motorists to fill their fire boots with cash for MDA.

MDA sent out a special “thank-you” to the following locals for attending this year’s MDA camp: Albany 845, Canby 1660, Clackamas County 1159, Corvallis 2240, Forest Grove 1660, Gresham 1062, Hillsboro 2210, Hood River 3256, Hoodland 1660, Newberg 1660, Portland 43, Sandy 1660, Springfield 1395, Tualatin Valley 1660, and Vancouver, Wash. 452.



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organization is looking for new members. The group meets the 4th Tuesday each month (Aug. 22), at noon at Milwaukie Elks Lodge, 13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd. For more information, call Max Loucks at 503-286-1464

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CWA embarks on program to boost organizing activity

LAS VEGAS (PAI) — In a move to boost its organizing and political drives, the Communications Workers of America created a new \$24 million-per-year Strategic Industry Fund.

The fund is part of the 700,000-plus member union's "Ready for the Future" revamp plan adopted by the CWA convention, which met here July 10-11. The plan came after a year of work and consultation with rank-and-file members and locals.

The fund will be used for a wide range of industries and issues, reflecting the fact that CWA, once an union of telecommunications workers, is now

split virtually 50-50 between telecom workers and other workers. The others include The Newspaper Guild, broadcast workers, the former International Union of Electronic Workers, the Association of Flight Attendants, some government workers and others.

"Offense, not defense, is the point of the Strategic Industry Fund. It will give us the means for major, long-range action programs to change the terms of engagement with our employers and reshape the economic landscape in which we bargain. This proposal lets us take charge of our future and build our bargaining power in every major industry

group," said CWA President Larry Cohen.

CWA said the new fund would "support campaigns to change employers' anti-union behavior and changes in public policy on issues such as trade and health care that affect working families."

It will be spent on campaigns in different industries, "based on the percentage of member contributions." Those contributions now go to CWA's strike fund, which has \$380 million and will continue to grow through investments.

The "Ready for the Future" plan also endorsed a key Cohen goal, which he took to the entire AFL-CIO as its new Organizing Committee chairman, of making union stewards "soldiers for democracy." At CWA, that means creating "a trained, motivated army of 50,000 stewards and activists ... to defend workers' workplace interests and join with activists in other unions to build a movement for fundamental change."

CWA also wants to build a new political program to take on local community fights for good jobs, health care, and the right to organize, among other causes. And it said it would "increase resources for political campaigns through stepped-up, voluntary contributions from members," and set a \$5 million fundraising goal.

"We face economic trends that pose greater threats ... including far more globalization, a more belligerent private sector that has relentlessly eroded government's power to regulate it, levels of greed that make the 1980s look like an

era of altruism, and rampant outsourcing in industries once considered immune to this pandemic," said CWA Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Easterling.

That landscape, combined with shrinking union density in many industries, and what she called the "wrong-headed" split between the AFL-CIO and Change to Win's unions produces "a threat to our very survival," Easterling added.

The good news, she stated, is that the country is finally awakening to the ex-

cesses and incompetence of the Republican-controlled Senate, House and White House. But, she warned, that "anyone who sits back and waits for the Democrats to run a dynamic, competent campaign would be making a huge mistake."

That leaves the fight up to the union movement, Easterling declared.

"We have no choice but to fight. Politics is not a spectator sport. Whether we like it or not, we are all participants in our democracy."

Federal judge kills Maryland's Fair Share Health Care plan

BALTIMORE (PAI) — In a ruling that left business chortling and workers and their allies determined to fight on, a federal district judge in Maryland tossed out the state's new Fair Share Health Care Act on July 19, saying it violated federal law.

Fair Share said private for-profit Maryland employers who hit that 10,000-worker figure had to spend the equivalent of 8 percent of their payroll costs in the state on health care for their workers there, or contribute an equivalent amount to a state fund for the uninsured.

U.S. District Judge J. Frederick Motz, a Reagan appointee, said the Maryland law, which the Democratic-run Legislature passed this year over Republican Gov. Robert Ehrlich's veto, was invalid under the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

Motz explained that ERISA's "pre-emption clause" trumped the Fair Share law because otherwise companies would be subject to many different state and local laws on health care coverage.

"The main objective of ERISA's pre-emption clause is 'to avoid a multiplicity

of regulation in order to permit the nationally uniform administration of employee benefit plans,'" Motz wrote. "Uniformity is impossible if plans are subject to different legal obligations in different states."

Maryland's law was to start Jan. 1, 2007 and apply to all employers in the state with more than 10,000 workers. But the Retail Industry Leaders Association, a Wal-Mart-established front group, sued.

"The reason for the suit against the Fair Share law wasn't legal, but political," said Mark Frederici of UFCW Local 400. "This decision was to spike the political momentum that Fair Share was gaining around the country. I'm disappointed the other side is crowing, because the decision still doesn't solve the problem of the uninsured in Maryland or elsewhere."

The Maryland law was the first in a national movement, pushed by the AFL-CIO and its allies, to get large corporations, with Wal-Mart in the lead, who do not pay for their workers' health care costs to do so.

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Bill Sizemore's born-again accountability

At first glance, it looked like a case of born-again accountability. Or jailhouse redemption. Or just plain chutzpah.

Here was Bill Sizemore, the guy whose organization was convicted of racketeering for using forged and falsely-obtained signatures on initiative petitions, complaining that we haven't done enough to clean up the initiative process.

Sizemore's complaint, highlighted in an opinion piece in the Oregonian last month, challenged the effects of Measure 26, the Initiative Integrity Act, which was sponsored by Oregon's unions and approved by Oregon voters in 2002. I was a chief petitioner for that measure, along with community activists Ellen Lowe and Bob Davis.

We filed Measure 26 largely in response to what Sizemore and his Initiatives-R-Us signature gathering business was doing to the initiative process.

Sizemore's initiative business plan was very much in keeping with his free market philosophy — use contractors and subcontractors to ply your petitions and pay what it takes to exchange dollars for signatures, no questions asked. As business plans go, it was cost-effective. But it was also corrupting.

Out-of-state mercenaries, who were experienced in high-volume petitioning, swarmed here. Slick operators used bait-and-switch tactics to trick voters into signing petitions for initiatives they did not support. And forgers were rewarded with cash on the table. Our signatures became street-corner commodities.

We had to thread a legal needle to rein in these practices, since paying for signature gathering had been determined by the courts to be a constitutionally-protected exercise of

free speech rights. If Measure 26 had been written to ban all forms of paid signature gathering, it would never have passed muster with the courts. But by focusing on the method of payment and the corrupting effects of that method, Measure 26 struck the right balance. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled earlier this year that Measure 26's prohibition on per-signature payments "serves the important regulatory interest in preventing fraud and forgery in the initiative process."

Sizemore ignored that important distinction in his Oregonian piece, characterizing Measure 26 as a ban on all forms of paid signature gathering.

And he ignored his own recent history as well.

During the 2002 election cycle, Sizemore told a TV reporter that he was not responsible for the practices of the individuals who were carrying his initiative petitions, because they were independent contractors over whom he had no control. No questions asked, no responsibility.

Sizemore continued to deny any responsibility for his signature gatherers, even when two of them went to jail for forgery and election law violations. It took a lengthy racketeering case, brought by the Oregon Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers-Oregon, to prove otherwise.

Sizemore mentioned none of this in his Oregonian piece, of course. Instead, he tried to promote himself as a defender of the initiative process and disparaged Measure 26 as a tool to make petitioning more difficult for those who promote conservative causes.

He even tried to argue that there were fewer problems with petitioning back in the good old days before Measure 26, citing the higher num-

ber of signature gatherers caught committing forgery and fraud this year compared to four years ago.

But now that Measure 26 is in effect, all sponsors of initiatives must attest that they are not paying bounties or commissions for signatures. And this is why Sizemore is paying more attention to the practices of those who carry his petitions.

A signature collected by a volunteer still costs the same, no matter what your political leanings. And those who pay for signatures now have to be responsible for how they're collected, even if it costs more to finance a responsible campaign operation than to put money on the street to troll for signatures.

So if Sizemore and his colleagues are now presenting themselves as defenders of the initiative process and bragging that they "caught and turned in nearly 20 people for forging signatures" this year, I'd say that's pretty good evidence that Measure 26 is doing its job.

★★★

Clarification: In my July 7 column on higher education, I wrote that the state used to contribute \$3 in operating funds for our public universities for every \$1 that resident students paid in tuition, and that the state's contribution has since declined to 60 cents on the dollar. I have since discovered that the data on tuition revenue did not distinguish between in-state and out-of-state tuition. So my description of the decline is state support from \$3 to 60 cents on the dollar should have referred to all tuition collected, not just tuition collected from resident students.

Tim Nesbitt is a former president of the Oregon AFL-CIO.

Senator Smith heeds call of 2,300 union members in 'Kentucky River' cases

U.S. Senator Gordon Smith, (R-Oregon), ended his silence July 31 by asking that the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) hold oral arguments before issuing any rulings on three pending cases known collectively as "Kentucky River."

The AFL-CIO held national protests the week of July 7, in which it called on Congress to allow oral arguments in the cases. At issue is whether the NLRB will broaden the definition of supervisors to potentially deny millions of workers the right to belong to a union by re-classifying them as supervisors.

The Oregon AFL-CIO and its affiliates collected 2,300 signatures, hosted two rallies, and convinced lawmakers to join their fight to preserve union rights for workers. Oregon's Democratic congressional delegation signed a letter to the NLRB asking for oral arguments, as did Gov. Ted Kulongoski and a host of statewide and local elected officials.

The only holdouts were Smith and U.S. Rep. Greg Walden.

Smith's letter to the NLRB asks the Board to hold oral arguments on the three Kentucky River cases. "These cases are too important to our nation's workers to disregard oral arguments," he wrote, adding that the federal government should ensure "safer workplaces, improved training, family wages, family health care, retirement security and a voice at work."

Over the past five years, President Bush's appointees to the NLRB (three of them recess appointments to avoid Senate confirmation hearings) have taken away or "severely restricted" the rights of millions of workers to organize into unions and enjoy the benefits of collective bargaining, according to a July 13 report issued by U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

The 25-page report cites cases by which the Labor Board excluded large categories of workers from being represented by a union by ruling they are not employees, but rank as supervisors. It decided that disabled workers in rehabilitation programs do not constitute

employees, depriving 45,000 disabled workers of the right to join a union.

The Board also found that graduate research and teaching assistants are not employees because their primary relationship with the university is educational rather than economic. This decision, the report said, has denied more than 51,000 graduate teaching and research assistants at 1,561 private universities the right to organize.

The NLRB also decided that temporary employees at nursing homes could not join a union with permanent employees unless the temporary agency and the employer agreed to the arrangement. The decision severely restricts the basic rights of more than two million temporary and contract workers.

"President Bush has filled the NLRB with anti-union members who have made it more difficult for workers to organize a labor union," Miller said in a statement releasing the report. The NLRB has "used double standards, rationales and unfair, inconsistent rulings to give employers more power over workers," he said.

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Rep. DeFazio co-sponsors bill to urge companies to keep jobs, money in U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio, (D-Springfield), has co-sponsored a bill that would fight against outsourcing and plant closings by encouraging companies to keep their money and jobs in America.

The Patriot Corporations of America Act (H.R. 5699) was introduced just before the Fourth of July recess by Rep. Jan Schakowsky, (D-Ill.). The bill would provide tax breaks and preferences in federal contracting for corporations that meet a number of standards, including providing adequate benefits for their workers and producing at least 90 percent of their goods and services in the United States.

"It is time to rekindle the spirit of patriotism and encourage corporations that commit to America and American workers. The Patriot Corporations of America Act would do so by rewarding companies which invest in our nation's economic future. And, it would do so in a revenue neutral way," Schakowsky said.

At a press conference in June, Schakowsky talked about the billions of dollars in subsidies and tax breaks the U.S. government gives to companies that outsource jobs and relocate to avoid paying taxes.

Accenture, for example, advises companies on how to outsource jobs overseas and avoid taxes by incorporating offshore in Bermuda.

"Like many other U.S. corporations, Accenture continues to qualify for tax breaks, and it currently has more than \$500 million in government contracts — paid for by taxpayers," Schakowsky said.

Meanwhile, urban communities and small towns are devastated by plant closings. A recent poll in Foreign Affairs magazine reported that nearly 90 percent of Americans worry about losing their jobs to corporate outsourcing, Schakowsky said.

The Patriot Corporations of America Act would stop rewarding outsourcers and tax dodgers, and make corporations earn their tax incentives by investing in America and American workers.

Companies that choose to participate in the Patriot Corporation program would be provided with preferential treatment in government contracting and a 5 percent tax rate reduction for pledging their allegiance to the U.S.

To qualify, Patriot Corporations would need to:

- Produce at least 90 percent of their goods and services in the U.S. and do

at least 50 percent of their research and development in the U.S.

- Limit top management's compensation to no greater than 100 times — or 10,000 percent — of that of their lowest-paid full-time workers.

Patriot Corporations would commit to their workers by:

- Contributing at least 5 percent of payroll to a portable pension fund and by paying for at least 70 percent of the cost of health insurance plans.

Finally, Patriot Corporations would:

- Comply with federal regulations regarding the environment, workplace safety, consumer protections and labor relations, including maintaining neutrality in employee organizing drives.

The incentives, Schakowsky said, would be paid for by closing corporate offshoring loopholes and reining in some of the new tax breaks for millionaires.

In addition to DeFazio, co-sponsors of the legislation include John Conyers of Michigan, Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Tom Lantos, Barbara Lee, Hilda Solis and Lynn Woolsey of California, Maurice Hinchey and Major Owens of New York, and David Obey of Wisconsin.

HR 5699 has been referred to the House Government Reform Committee.

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Let me say this about that

...He traveled the world

(From Page 2)

who was elected to the U. S. Senate, defeating an incumbent Republican in a vote count that took days to complete. Jim's first wife was Portland writer Jane Neuberger Goodsell. Their marriage, which produced three daughters, ended in divorce in 1971.

GOODSELL LEFT the Democratic job to work as a reporter at the Oregonian, but departed from there when the Labor Press editorship became available. Fourteen years later, he moved from the Labor Press to become director of the Portland regional office of the U.S. Department of Commerce. After five years, he was transferred to Washington, D.C., to work in Commerce's office of export promotion. Subsequent foreign assignments took him to countries in Europe, Latin America and Asia.

In 1972, Goodsell's governmental career moved him into the American Foreign Service. His first posting was to Australia where he served as director of the U.S. Trade Center in Sydney from 1972 to '77. His next assignment took him to Milan, Italy, as director of the U.S. Trade Center from 1978 to '81. While working at Milan in Northern Italy, Goodsell and wife Dee lived in a villa on Lake Como, an area where Pliny the Elder, an ancient Roman scholar, had lived. After Dee became almost blind, Jim transferred from Milan to run the U.S. Commerce Department office in Cleveland, Ohio, so that his wife could receive medical treatment at various facilities and also learn to use a guide dog. Their move to Twisp followed.

FOR MANY YEARS, Goodsell was an active mountaineer and backpacker. He made his first climb of Oregon's Mount Hood in 1936 while attending Lincoln High School. He made his last climb of Hood — 58 years later in 1994 at age 74. He became a member of the Mazamas, an Oregon mountaineering club, in 1963. He climbed all of the mountains ranked by the Mazamas as "the 16 major Northwest peaks," scaling some of them by a variety of routes. He edited three editions of the Mazamas yearbook in the late 1960s and also edited "We Climb High" a chronology of the club's first 75 years. The club awarded him its Parker Cup for his "exceptional service." Jim and his wife Dee met each other at the Mazamas. At the time she was the Portland-based executive secretary of the American Academy of Dermatology. She edited the Mazamas' yearbook for three years in the early 1970s.

Jim's major expedition in backpacking was a long trek in 1964 along the Pacific Crest Trail from Lost Lake near Mount Hood northward through Washington State to the Canadian border. With him was his longtime friend, Judge Herbert M. Schwab. (I wished them well after driving them from Portland to their daybreak starting point. Someone else picked them up at the end of their journey.)

Goodsell was a member of the Labor Hall of Fame, voted in several years ago by the sponsoring Northwest Oregon Labor Retirees Council, which is affiliated with the Portland-based Northwest Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

AT TWISP, Goodsell continued to be an editor. He edited several editions of the local school district's "Imprints" publication, an annual magazine of the best student writing at all grade levels.

At age 82 he began working as a copy editor and proofreader at the weekly Methow Valley News in Twisp. He was offered a part-time job after complaining about grammatical and typographical errors in the paper. Some years back, Jim wrote a humorous essay which appeared in several newspapers in which he discussed "the apostrophe catastrophe." His essay cited examples of how the apostrophe is misused by writers who should know better, and are not caught by their editors, who should know even more so.

GOODSELL made crossword puzzles and board games. Two year ago he sold a crossword puzzle to the New York Times, which ran it on a Wednesday, the day of the week when the paper's crossword puzzles begin to get more difficult. He daughter, Ann Goodsell, told the Labor Press that he "concocted locally-themed crossword puzzles" for the Methow Valley News and that he wrote feature stories for the Twisp paper, in addition to his proofreading and copy editing. At the request of the publisher, he also wrote a monthly in-house critique of the weekly newspaper.

GOODSELL IS SURVIVED by three daughters, Ann Goodsell of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Kate Marquez of Klamath Falls, and Molly Goodsell of Boulder, Colorado, and a sister, Gnan Wheelock of Wilsonville. He is also survived by three grandchildren, Jessie Marquez of Eugene, Michael Lebowitz of New York City, and Ariel Johnson of Boulder; and two great-grandchildren, Samuel and Jackson DiChiara of Eugene. His late sister Helen Baldwin's granddaughter, Tammy Baldwin, is a member of Congress representing Madison, Wisconsin.

Goodsell was cremated and his ashes were to be scattered on mountain trails and perhaps in the Pacific Ocean at Astoria. There was no funeral, but family and friends were to gather in the backyard of the Goodsell home in Twisp on Aug. 3. The event was to include live jazz by musicians who were friends of Jim's.

NLRB poised to 'promote' many of us to supervisor

By RICK S. BENDER
President
Washington State Labor Council,
AFL-CIO

In the United States, you don't have the freedom to form a union if you are in management, or are considered a supervisor.

For decades, employers have been trying to drive truckloads of American workers through that cavernous loophole by swelling their ranks of "assistant managers" and the like. The simple goal is to prevent them from banding together and negotiating for better wages and working conditions.

Well, the Bush-appointed National Labor Relations Board is poised to expand that loophole, making it big enough for tractor-trailers.

NLRB rulings are expected this summer in three cases known as the "Kentucky River decisions" that involve charge nurses in a hospital and nursing home and lead workers in a manufacturing plant. But they represent just the tip of the iceberg.

The NLRB will redefine who can be considered "supervisors." Until now, supervisors were generally those who had the power to hire and fire. But many anticipate a new broader interpretation that will include any skilled or experienced worker who occasionally or incidentally oversees or assigns the work of those less skilled.

The decisions will affect construction workers, painters, welders, electricians — workers in nearly every industry. A new Economic Policy Institute analysis estimates the rulings could strip as many as 8 million Americans of their union protection or block them from ever joining one.

In other words, many of us will wake up one morning this summer with the same job and responsibilities we had the day before, but we will have lost our freedom of association with our co-workers.

If you don't think this threat to your fundamental rights is real, talk to a nurse at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle. The hospital recently attempted in court to reclassify all 600 of its registered nurses — every single one — as supervisors, and therefore not eligible to speak with a united voice about their working conditions and patient care issues through the Washington State Nurses Association.

Hundreds of nurses and their supporters rallied outside Virginia Mason's front door, and the hospital ended up backing off its legal strategy — for now. But a hospital administrator told one reporter they were "waiting and watching" for the NLRB decisions before deciding whether to pursue re-classification again.

Virginia Mason's reprehensible actions should serve as a wake-up call to all of us. Some employers are watching these decisions and prepared to pounce.

In fact, there are at least 135 other NLRB cases being held pending rulings on the Kentucky River decisions, 60 of which are union election cases.

It's a breathtaking assault on union rights and you've probably never even heard about it. One reason is that, unlike previous labor boards, the Bush NLRB has refused to allow oral arguments in any of its cases. Even the Kentucky River cases have not been opened up for oral arguments, despite the extraordinary importance these decisions hold for the future of America's workers.

Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, along with most of Washington's congressional delegation, have written the chairman of the NLRB and urged him at least to allow the affected people this opportunity to make their case.

For American workers, the stakes could not be higher. The right to collective bargaining plays a critical role in

lifting wages, benefits and working conditions not just for union members, but for all workers.

"Our nation has long recognized the rights of workers to organize and collectively bargain," said Rep. Brian Baird, who has urged the NLRB to hear oral arguments in the cases. "Much of what we take for granted today — the five-day work week, overtime pay, retirement benefits, health insurance, paid vacation, and more — came about as a direct result of long and difficult negotiations by organized workers. Because these cases have the potential to reshape fundamental worker rights and erode the freedom to unionize, workers deserve to be heard on the 'supervisory' issue."

We're still waiting to see if the NLRB will allow working people to be heard, or if we will simply read about the loss of our freedoms in the morning paper.

OPEN
FORUM

Oregon retirees invited to join Alliance for Retired Americans

By VERNA PORTER

The more time I spend talking to people as the president of the Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans (ORARA), the more I realize that most people know little about us. Those who do, and have joined or were signed up, are also justifiably confused about whether and how they got to be members. So let's get a few things straight.

The national Alliance for Retired Americans identifies its mission as "ensur(ing) social and economic justice and full civil rights for all citizens so that they may enjoy lives of dignity, personal and family fulfillment and security."

To do this, ARA urges all older and retired people to work toward a world that allows them the security to pursue new and expanded activities with their families, unions, civic organizations and communities after they stop working.

Sounds good, right? Also sounds a bit vague, so let's try everyday language.

ORARA is one of 27 chartered state alliances working to enroll and mobilize anyone who's retired, plans on retiring, or knows there's no way they'll ever be able to retire, into a nationwide grass-roots movement advocating a progressive political and social agenda that respects work and strengthens families.

We in the Alliance intend to become the voice for older Americans by engaging in important political battles to preserve programs vital to the health and economic security of all older Americans, no matter the generation, the tax bracket, or the color of the collar.

You can become a member of the ARA by retiring as a member of one of a number of international unions, or by filling out a form and paying 15 bucks a year. Either way, you join over three million others. But what can you do to help the mission succeed in Oregon?

ORARA needs your tangible participation in and support for what we're doing locally. Therefore, we want you to become a member of ORARA. If you're part of a group that cares about what matters, you can get the group to formally affiliate with ORARA, but we still need your individual support.

OK, let's get down to basics: We need money to pay for the things we do, which usually means educating people on the issues that affect the quality of your life after the age of 50. There's more to that than Medicare and Social Security. If you think about it, you'll be surprised at how the list will grow. There's the instability of pensions and other investment schemes; taxes; livable wages; the disappearance of good jobs;well, you get the picture.

Let's face it. We can get these things done, but we need everyone who cares about their future to join us and support us before their future becomes their present. If you just do what you can, ORARA can be the way you'll be heard by the organizations and institutions that affect your interests.

(Editor's Note: ORARA President Verna Porter is a retired RN who advocates and lobbies for good health care. She can be reached at vvjporter@aol.com.)

NAFTA-style trade deals proliferating around the globe

By **DON McINTOSH**
Associate Editor

In June and July, Congress approved yet another NAFTA-style trade agreement, this time with a sultanate.

The U.S.-Oman Free Trade Agreement (OFTA) pairs the United States with Oman, a hereditary monarchy on the southeast border of Saudi Arabia. Sultan Qabus ibn Said as-Said is the country's absolute ruler, though 10 years ago he decreed the formation of an elected advisory council.

The treaty is part of the Bush Administration's strategy to expand the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to the Middle East by creating a Middle East Free Trade Area. OFTA is the ninth trade agreement modeled on NAFTA to be ratified by the United States. Since NAFTA passed in 1993, Congress has yet to reject any trade deal, and has agreed to restrict itself by voting each of them up or down without amendment.

The national AFL-CIO opposed OFTA on the grounds that it would do nothing to protect workers' rights, and likely will cost jobs in the United States — and lower living standards for workers in Oman.

OFTA passed the U.S. Senate June 29 by 60 to 34. Oregon Republican Gordon Smith and Washington Democrat Maria Cantwell voted for it, while Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden and Washington Democrat Patty Murray voted against. Besides Cantwell, 10 other Democratic senators voted for the agreement, including Hillary Rodham Clinton (N.Y.), John Kerry (Mass.), Joseph Lieberman (Conn.), and Barack Obama (Ill.).

Next, OFTA passed the House July 20 by a 221-205 vote. It was supported by 88 percent of Republicans and 11 percent of Democrats.

Oregon's Republican Congressman

Greg Walden voted for it, while Oregon's Democrats — Earl Blumenauer, Darlene Hooley, Peter DeFazio and David Wu — voted against it.

Southwest Washington Congressman Brian Baird was one of the 22 Democrats in the House to vote for the treaty, despite appeals from local and national labor groups and a phone call from Richard Trumka, secretary-treasurer of the national AFL-CIO. In a press statement after the vote, Baird said the agreement will create jobs in Washington. Oman has 3 million inhabitants; 90 percent of its exports are oil.

"We must ensure that future trade agreements adequately address labor and environmental concerns," Baird said in the statement.

OFTA, which lacks protection for workers' rights or the environment, still got Baird's vote.

"This is the country with the worst labor laws of any country with whom we have a free-trade agreement," said Thea Lee, chief international economist for the national AFL-CIO. "It should have been an embarrassment to any member of Congress who voted for it."

"The State Department has identified Oman as a destination country for men and women who become victims of trafficking and forced labor," said national AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, reacting to the House vote. "Yet the Republican leadership and the Administration refused to include an amendment passed by the Senate Finance Committee that would have ensured that no goods made with forced labor benefited from this agreement."

OFTA could help Oman become a low-wage producer of clothing and manufactured goods, like so many other countries. A trade agreement with Jordan was negotiated by the Clinton Administration and ratified in 2000; since then, Jordan has exploded as a haven for

export processing, using foreign workers from south and southeast Asia.

Oman has 3 million inhabitants, and already, most of its private-sector workforce is made up of foreign guest workers from Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

Prior to the votes in Congress, the AFL-CIO's Lee traveled to Kuwait and Jordan and met with trade union advocates from Oman, as well as Yemen, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Lee said workers in the region see such trade treaties as capitulation to the United States.

Like other NAFTA-style treaties, OFTA basically eliminates import tariffs on both sides, commits Oman to enforce legal monopolies like patents, copyrights and use of trademarks, and sets up a body of laws and procedures to protect the rights of foreign investors.

What it doesn't do is protect the rights of workers, in any way. OFTA, like other recent trade agreements, commits both countries to enforce their own labor laws, whatever they may be. If they fail to do so, they can theoretically be fined, a fine the country would pay to itself, to enforce the law. Of course, there's nothing to stop Oman from worsening or eliminating its labor laws.

Hearing that OFTA might be a close vote in the U.S. House, on July 8 Sultan Oman decreed a set of basic union rights and a prohibition of forced labor and child labor.

Ultimately, Lee says, the passage of

OFTA was more about Mideast politics than about trade. Within the region, Oman is considered a "strategic partner" to the United States.

"It's a pretty small country with which we have a pretty small trade relationship," Lee said.

The agreement brings to 15 the number of countries that have NAFTA-style bilateral or multilateral trade agreements with the United States. The others are Canada, Mexico, Jordan, five Central American countries and the Dominican Republic, Australia, Morocco, Singapore, Chile and Bahrain. The agreement with Bahrain, ratified by Congress in December 2005, was also fought by the AFL-CIO, though Lee said the country does have independent trade unions and doesn't have the awful conditions found elsewhere in the region.

Two more agreements have been ne-

gotiated but not approved yet by Congress. Those include agreements with Colombia and Peru. Also on Congress' trade agenda is a bill to declare Permanent Normal Trade Relations with Vietnam, removing the designation of the country as requiring an annual human rights review.

Trade negotiations at various stages are under way with Panama, United Arab Emirates, South Korea, Malaysia and a group of five Southern African nations.

Meanwhile, advocates of so-called "free trade" had a major setback July 24 when it was announced that negotiations on expanding the World Trade Organization to agriculture had been suspended after five years. Rich countries refused to give up subsidies to their farmers, while poor countries refused to give up tariff protections of their farm-




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