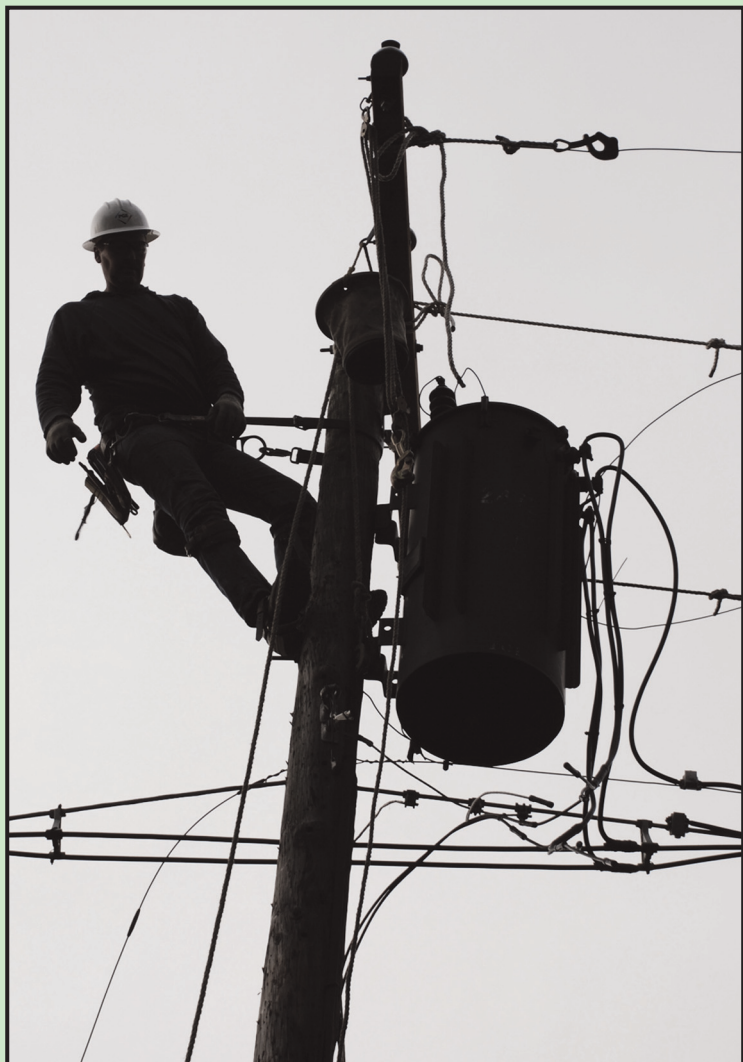




NORTHWEST

LABOR
PRESSVolume 108
Number 2
January 19, 2007
Portland, Oregon*PGE finishes big storm's repairs*

An unidentified PGE employee — a member of Electrical Workers Local 125 — works to restore power to Cedar Hills customers following a wind storm last month that resulted in the loss of power to nearly 250,000 PGE customers in the Portland metropolitan area. As the storm hit (carrying wind gusts of 60 to 80 miles per hour), many PGE repair personnel worked 36 hours straight; then 16-hour shifts became the norm for the next five-and-a-half days. During the duration of the storm, line crews responded to more than 1,700 reports of downed lines. The storm was the biggest to hit the area in more than 11 years. “The restoration process was a huge team effort, involving employees from all parts of the company who pulled together for a common cause,” said PGE senior vice president Steve Hawke. “This once again exemplified the very best of who we are and what we stand for.”

(Photo by Richard Myhre, PGE)

Sen. Wyden touts universal health coverage plan at business summit

By DON McINTOSH
Associate Editor

At a Jan. 4 summit of Oregon business leaders, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) presented his proposal for universal health coverage, which would relieve businesses of the burden of finding and providing coverage to workers — and eliminate union health trusts.

“You can no longer keep plopping one Band-Aid after another on this system,” Wyden said. “Health costs are hitting our country like a wrecking ball.”

Under the Wyden plan, which he plans to introduce in Congress this month, most individuals would be re-

quired to buy insurance, though employers would also contribute part of the cost — and would be required to turn whatever they are now paying for insurance into a raise to employees. Premiums for full-family coverage average \$956 a month, so many workers would get a sizable raise if the Wyden proposal passes. But most of that would then go to pay for their insurance premiums.

Households earning as much as four times the poverty level would get some assistance in paying premiums, in the form of a tax deduction or out-right grant.

Health plans would have to be equivalent in benefits to those now of-

fered to federal employees, and would cover an annual physical examination.

Some individuals would be exempt from the requirement to buy health insurance, including those who are covered by Medicare, the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, or the Indian Health Service. Individuals who oppose medicine for religious reasons also would be exempt.

The Wyden bill would most likely do away with joint labor-management health trusts. Single and multi-employer health plans to which employers are now contributing under current union contracts would remain in existence until the contracts expire (or up

(Turn to Page 4)

PDC adopts wage policy for private construction projects

The Portland Development Commission (PDC) Board on Jan. 10 passed a policy that sets parameters for when prevailing wage laws will apply on private construction projects that it helps finance. PDC is the quasi-independent urban renewal development arm of the City of Portland.

“Ending the uncertainty around prevailing wage and establishing a floor on wages and benefits are in the long term best interests of the community,” said PDC Board Chair Mark Rosenbaum.

To help end that uncertainty, all private construction projects receiving \$1 million or more in PDC resources will be subject to the new wage policy, which will require wages, fringe benefits, overtime pay and apprentice pay to mirror that of state prevailing wage rates for commercial construction, or federal Davis-Bacon Housing of Urban Development rates for residential construction. PDC defines “resources” as donated land, grants and below-market-rate loans. New Markets Tax Credits and other federal and state tax credits will not be counted as a PDC resource.

Additionally, low-income residential housing projects will be exempt, or at least be consistent with the recent agreement between the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council and the affordable housing community.

Prevailing wage laws are designed to level the playing field for construction companies on public projects by setting wage standards for workers on a craft-by-craft basis. Annual wage surveys are conducted by the Oregon Employment Division, and the law is enforced by the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries.

“We made some significant compromises,” said Bob Shiprack, executive secretary-treasurer of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council. “But something had to be done. Doing nothing was not an option.”

Shiprack said the new wage policy will make a big difference on larger projects downtown. “It will apply to roughly 80 to 85 percent of the construction dollars spent by PDC,” he said.

From July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2006, PDC has invested nearly \$200 million in private and public construction development projects.

The new wage policy will not apply retroactively to projects already under construction unless developers sign a memorandum of understanding. All projects now in the pipeline or under consideration will have to abide by the new construction wage policy. Projects subject to the wage policy also will have to negotiate specific hiring goals for minorities and women. Those goals will be determined on a project-by-project basis.

At the Jan. 10 meeting, Commissioner Charles Wilhoite questioned why the construction wage policy didn't contain language for some type of economic sanction against developers that don't meet the established hiring goals. Wilhoite will ask the Board to amend the policy to include such language at the next PDC meeting scheduled for Jan. 24.

Also at that Jan. 24 meeting PDC staff will present a Minority Contracting Initiative to the Board for consideration. This initiative will address issues including prompt payment, insurance and bonding barriers, expanded use of the city's Sheltered Market Program, and other ways to increase the use of minority and women-owned businesses on PDC projects.

John Jackley, manager of the PDC's operations division, told the NW Labor Press that when the Board amends the wage policy regarding economic sanctions, it also will clarify other terms in the policy. For instance, one condition of the construction wage policy states that “the Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council will submit an annual affirmative action report from each member union. On projects where the wage policy applies, the report will include usage rates and goals for apprentice and journey workers. Participating unions shall allow direct entry into the apprenticeship pool from qualified pre-apprenticeship

(Turn to Page 12)

Let me say this about that

—By Gene Klare



Labor abbreviations

THE LABOR MOVEMENT and labor publications are replete with abbreviations and acronyms for the names of labor organizations. This column will spell out names behind shorthand versions which sometimes appear in the Northwest Labor Press and elsewhere. Here starts the list:

AFL-CIO is perhaps the most often-used abbreviation. It stands for American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations. The AFL-CIO is not a labor union; it is a federation of labor unions, a union of unions. It is sometimes called an umbrella organization. The AFL evolved from an organization started in 1881 with the name of Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions. In 1886 the name was changed to American Federation of Labor. Its first president was Samuel Gompers, who had been president of the predecessor organization. He was president and editor of the Cigar Makers International Union. The CIO was formed in 1935 by breakaway unions that wanted to organize workers in all occupations, particularly in mass-production industries. John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers (UMW), was



SAM GOMPERS

the CIO's first president. The AFL and CIO merged nationally in 1955. Its affiliates include:

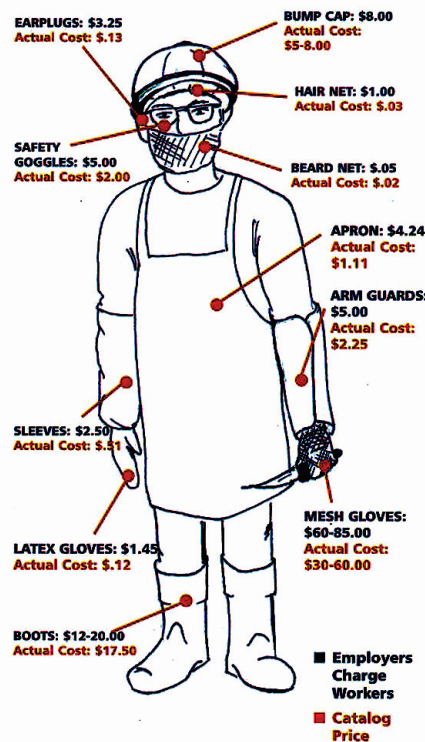
- AFGE — American Federation of Government Employees.
- AFM — American Federation of Musicians.
- AFSCME — American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.
- AFT — American Federation of Teachers. Affiliates include the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals Local 5017; the Portland Federation of Teachers and Classified Employees (PFTCE); and the Portland Community College Faculty Federation (PCCFF) and the Portland Community College Federation of Classified Employees (PCCFCE).
- AFTRA — American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.
- ALPA — Air Line Pilots Association.
- APWU — American Postal Workers Union.
- ATU — Amalgamated Transit Union.
- BAC — International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers.
- BCTGM — Bakery, Confectionery & Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union.
- CPBCTC — Columbia-Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council, based in Portland.
- CWA — Communications Workers of America; unions merged within it include the International Typographical Union (ITU), The Newspaper Guild (TNG), the International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers, and the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA).
- GMP — International Union of Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers.
- IAFF — International Association of Fire Fighters.
- IAM — International Association of Machinists, sometimes called International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW). A division within it is the former International Woodworkers of America (IWA), which has its headquarters in Gladstone. Another is the Transportation Communications International Union (TCU).

(Turn to Page 11)

Labor sues OSHA to force action on employer-provided safety equipment

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Eight years of delay by the U.S. Department of Labor on issuing a standard requiring employers to pay for job-related personal protective equipment (PPE) — a standard that, by the government's own estimates, would have prevented 50 deaths and 400,000 injuries on the job had it been released on time — has prompted the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and the national AFL-CIO to sue to force the release of the standard. UFCW is an affiliate of the

Change to Win labor federation. The Labor Department's foot-dragging on this rule has exposed 20 million working people in some of America's most dangerous industries, including meatpacking, poultry and construction, to a terrible choice: Pay for the protective equipment out of their own wages, or accept increased risk of injury on the job due to a lack of protective equipment, union officials



said.

This Occupational Safety and Health Administration rule would require employers to pay the costs of protective clothing, lifelines, face shields, gloves and other equipment used by workers to protect them from job hazards.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) estimates that 400,000 workers have been injured and 50 have died because of this shortfall in protection on the job.

OSHA's longstanding policy has been to require employers to pay for safety equipment. In 1997, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission found that OSHA's existing standard did not meet this policy requirement; therefore, a new rule was required. OSHA promised in 1999 to issue this new rule in July 2000, but it missed that deadline and every self-imposed deadline since. The agency has failed to act in response to a 2003 petition by UFCW and the AFL-CIO and numerous requests by the Hispanic Congressional Caucus.

The lawsuit, filed Jan. 3, asserts that OSHA's failure to act is putting workers in danger, and seeks to end the eight-year delay.

"Nothing is standing in the way of OSHA issuing a final PPE rule to protect worker safety and health except the will to do so," said Joseph Hansen, UFCW International President. "It is long overdue that the agency take action on protective equipment. Now, we are asking the courts to force OSHA to act."

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, asks the court to order the secretary of labor to complete the rule within 60 days of the court's order.



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Published on a semi-monthly basis on the first and third Fridays of each month by the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co. Inc., a non-profit corporation owned by 20 unions and councils including the Oregon AFL-CIO. Serving more than 120 union organizations in Oregon and SW Washington. Subscriptions \$13.75 per year for union members.

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Freightliner building new manufacturing plant in Mexico

Freightliner LLC announced last month that it will construct a new \$300 million truck manufacturing plant in Saltillo, Coahuila, in northern Mexico.

The 1-million-square-foot facility will produce Freightliner and Sterling brand trucks. The plant could produce up to 30,000 trucks annually, and employ up to 1,600 production and management personnel. Groundbreaking is set for the second quarter of 2007, with start of production planned for early 2009.

The Saltillo plant is the second Freightliner manufacturing facility to be located in Mexico, joining the San-

tiago Tianguistenco plant, which produces Freightliner-brand heavy- and medium-duty trucks.

At the same time it was announcing expansion in Mexico, Freightliner warned its unionized employees at Portland's Swan Island facility of a major layoff this spring. "It's at least 500 employees, and possibly as many as 800," said Joe Kear, a business representative of Machinists District Lodge 24. IAM Lodge 1005 represents approximately 1,400 of the 1,700 unionized workers in Portland, where they build Class 8 Freightliner trucks, Western Star trucks and military vehicles. Other unions at the Portland facil-

ity include the Sign Painters and Paint Makers Local 1094, Teamsters Local 305, and Service Employees Local 49.

Their labor agreement expires July 1.

In October, nonunion white-collar employees at the Portland headquarters were offered voluntary buyouts. There are about 1,900 employees there. It is not known how many employees volunteered.

Eight hundred employees — members of the Canadian Auto Workers — at a St. Thomas, Ontario, plant already have been told that they will be laid off starting in March. That plant manufactures Sterling brand heavy- and medium-duty trucks.

Freightliner officials say as many as 4,000 production and related workers could be laid off companywide.

The downsizing has further ramifications for the Machinists Union. Consolidated Metco's (ConMet) Rivergate and Clackamas, Oregon, plants have laid off approximately 170 Machinists (85 at each location), due in part to the Freightliner slowdown. ConMet manufactures aluminum hubs and spring brackets for Class 8 trucks.

A Freightliner press release said the expansion in Mexico is not connected to the layoffs. Freightliner said the job cuts stem from an industry-wide decline in new trucks redesigned to meet federal emissions standards. The new trucks, because of their added technology, cost more than those sold in pre-

vious years.

Kear confirmed that new Environmental Protection Agency standards will add about \$10,000 to the cost of building a truck engine. The new environmental regulations are meant to reduce pollutants from diesel engines.

Kear also said that Freightliner plans to yank production of all Freightliner brand trucks from Portland. "They can build trucks cheaper in Mexico," he said.

That will leave production of the Western Star brand truck and military vehicles in Portland. Workers currently turn out 32 Western Star trucks a day and nine military trucks a day.

Freightliner has five plants in North and South Carolina. Some are union, represented by the United Auto Workers. And some are nonunion.

Freightliner President and CEO Chris Patterson in a press release said the new facility in Mexico "underscores our confidence in the NAFTA truck market, and our bullish mid-term outlook for industry recovery post-2007. Frankly, we were not able to produce what we could have sold in 2006 due to capacity constraints. We expect another surge in customer demand in 2009 prior to the next round of EPA emissions regulations, and the construction of this new plant will ensure that we are fully prepared."

Freightliner LLC is the leading medium- and heavy-duty truck manufacturer in North America. Freightliner

produces and markets Class 5-8 vehicles and is part of DaimlerChrysler's Truck Group, the world's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer.

The company's truck operations, which include Portland, Oregon-based Freightliner, turned a record profit of \$705 million in the third quarter, up from \$449 million a year earlier.

Global giant formed by British, German and two U.S. unions

British, German and American unions are working to forge a pact that will create an international union with more than six million members.

Amicus, the U.K.'s largest private-sector union, has signed agreements with the German engineering union, IG-Metall, and the United States' United Steelworkers and Machinists Union in an effort to prevent companies playing off their workforces in different countries against each other.

The move is seen by union leaders as the first step toward creating a single union that can present a united front to multinational companies. Amicus is itself planning to merge with the Transport & General Workers Union in May to create a two-million-member labor organization. Between IG-Metall's 2.4 million, the USW's 1.2 million and 730,000 at the Machinists, a merger would create an organization with some 6.3 million members.

Derek Simpson, general secretary of Amicus, said: "Our aim is to create a powerful single union that can transcend borders to challenge the global forces of capital."

Unions in global fight against Alcoa

Trade unions from four nations are mounting a combined campaign against U.S. aluminum giant Alcoa as part of an emerging cooperation among unions.

Union officials from Brazil, the U.S. and Britain met in Melbourne just before Christmas to discuss the campaign with colleagues from the Australian Workers Union (AWU) and the International Metalworkers Federation (IMF).

"Our plan is to start bargaining with Alcoa on a global basis," said AWU Vice President Paul Howes. He said that when the AWU, which has unionized all of Alcoa's plants in Australia, sought to discuss the implementation of a new Alcoa policy on working hours; it was

told the policy had been decided at its U.S. headquarters and could not be negotiated locally.

"The biggest effect will be when they start using their clout in one country to affect an outcome in another," Howes said.

One of the major difficulties unions face in dealing with multinationals is that they operate in countries that have different economies and labor standards. Alcoa, for example, is fully unionized in Australia, compared with only half of its plants in the U.S.

Conditions in Alcoa's Mexican and Guyana plants are way below standards in Australia or the U.S.

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AFL-CIO, nurses union slam Schwarzenegger health plan

OAKLAND, Calif. (PAI) — The California AFL-CIO and the state's top nurses union — which led the successful drive against Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's anti-union referenda two years ago — blasted a health care reform plan "The Terminator" unveiled Jan. 8.

The governor's plan has "the same gaping holes" that a Massachusetts plan enacted last year by then-Gov. Mitt Romney (R), has, said California Nurses Association President Deborah Burger. She called Schwarzenegger's plan "little more than a fresh coat of

paint on a collapsing house."

California AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Art Pulaski was even more caustic, calling the governor's plan one "that Wal-Mart would love and Wal-Mart workers would hate.

"This will be a boon to insurance companies, but a bust for most workers," he continued.

The plan requires all Californians to buy health insurance — just as drivers must carry auto insurance — with no guarantee that it will be affordable or that coverage will be adequate.

Pulaski said Schwarzenegger's plan

creates an incentive for employers who currently provide health care to drop coverage and instead pay only a minimal tax. "The proposed employer contribution is so low that even Wal-Mart, a corporation known for its minimal employee health care coverage, already exceeds the requirements," he added.

The governor's plan would require all Californians, including the more than 7 million who are uninsured, to buy health care coverage, just as Massachusetts' new law does.

Schwarzenegger also would require all businesses to offer health care cover-

age and mandate that insurers cover people with pre-existing medical conditions. Health insurers now routinely reject covering people with pre-existing conditions, forcing them into expensive emergency room care or no care at all.

Schwarzenegger's plan is part of a bipartisan nationwide trend where states fed up with federal gridlock and inaction on health care are trying to come up with ways to make sure all of their residents are covered. Illinois, Oregon and Minnesota are among states working on expanding coverage.

Instead of trying the fix Schwarzenegger proposed, Burger said the state should enact a single-payer government-run health care system, eliminating private insurers entirely. That would also eliminate their pocketing of premiums and denial of care.

The Democratic-controlled State Legislature approved a single-payer plan last year, but Schwarzenegger vetoed it. Then the insurers poured millions of dollars into their successful campaign against a California Nurses Association-backed ballot initiative to enact single-payer.

CNA's Burger said mandating coverage for all — without discussing costs — isn't enough. The biggest problem, she said, is that the governor would "criminalize the uninsured by forcing them to buy insurance, a plan that shifts

the costs and risk from the insurers to individuals."

Burger said that won't work for millions of Californians, and is a huge gift to the insurance industry. "What we don't see is any discussion of what type of health coverage people will buy," she said. "There are no limits on skyrocketing health premiums, no requirements on what will be included in the required plans, and a new call to deregulate existing public protections."

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) introduced a similar coverage-for-all plan, working through private insurers but with standards set by states and insurance bought by individuals.

Service Employees President Andy Stern — whose union represents more health care workers than any other union — supports Wyden's plan. But Wyden's plan has been criticized for no controls on premiums and for keeping the role of the insurers.

Schwarzenegger's plan could leave many people in the nation's largest state with health coverage that covers little and costs a lot, Burger said.

"Many Californians will end up with cut-rate plans that discourage people from using their health coverage, have huge out-of-pocket costs, and expose them to financial ruin in the event of a serious illness or accident," she concluded.

...No cost containment in Wyden's health care plan

(From Page 1)

to seven years). But after that, employers would be off the hook, except that they would contribute from 2 to 25 percent of the cost of their employees' individual premiums, depending on the size of the business. About 10 million people are currently covered by joint union-management health trusts. Wyden's bill doesn't specify what would happen to the billions of dollars in assets held by labor-management health trusts.

Wyden told the NW Labor Press his proposal has benefits for unions. He said he wants union negotiators to come away from the bargaining table with increased wages and pension contributions — instead of the situation now, where everything gets gobbled up by increased health care costs.

Also, under the Wyden proposal, no longer would some employers contribute to health costs while others shirk; under the Wyden plan all employers would contribute a small fraction of the cost on a sliding scale. Businesses with fewer than 50 employees would pay 2 percent. Businesses with 200 employees would pay 17 percent.

Individuals' health insurance contributions would be deducted from

wages by employers, and along with employer contributions, would go to the federal treasury, which would then pay the insurers.

Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain said he commends Wyden for stepping up to the plate with a proposal. But he, and others, questioned how viable Wyden's system would be without measures to contain costs.

Wyden said costs would be restrained because individuals would be better shoppers and it would be easier to compare policies. State clearinghouses would provide information to help people decide which health plan to buy, and insurance companies would be required to charge the same price to all, without regard to age, race, occupation, pre-existing health condition or genetic predisposition.

Wyden's proposal is similar to one proposed for the state of California by Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger that would require all uninsured residents to purchase health insurance (see article above). Under Schwarzenegger's proposal, employers with 10 or more employees who do not provide health insurance for their workers will be required to pay into a state health care fund.

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Study finds rise in illegal firings of pro-union workers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — About one in five union organizers or activists can expect to be fired as a result of their union organizing, according to a new report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR).

The paper, "Dropping the Ax: Illegal Firings During Union Election Campaigns," by John Schmitt and Ben Zipperer, finds a steep rise in illegal firings of pro-union workers in recent years.

"Aggressive actions by employers — often including illegal firings — have significantly undermined the ability of U.S. workers to unionize their workplaces," said Schmitt, CEPR senior economist and lead author of the paper. "With the legal penalties for such actions being so slight, employers can break the law to head-off organizing efforts and face almost no real repercussions," he said.

The report finds that firings of pro-union workers involved in union election campaigns are approaching the peak reached during the 1980s of 1 in 42. The current probability of a pro-union worker being fired — a 1 in 53 chance — is far greater than the rate at

the end of the 1990s, when it was only 1 in 87. The paper also finds that the number of successful union elections have significantly declined, partly as a result of the increase in illegal firings.

"If only 10 percent of pro-union workers are active campaign organizers, almost 1 in 5 union activists were fired illegally in 2005," the authors said.

Using annual data from the National Labor Relations Board on its determinations of "discriminatory discharges" in the context of union-election campaigns, Schmitt and Zipperer were able to estimate the probability of a pro-union worker being fired illegally in connection with a union-organizing election, and to calculate other aspects of employer behavior and success rates in union-organizing elections.

The complete report can be found at: www.cepr.net/documents/publications/unions_2007_01.pdf

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OFFICIAL NOTICES

Auto Mechanics 1005

Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday Jan. 20, preceded by a 9 a.m. shop steward training class. Shop stewards must attend training class and regular meeting to be compensated.

Executive Board meets Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 4:30 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Rochelle Conrad will be available from 8 a.m. to noon during the regular lodge meeting to answer any questions you have concerning health, welfare and pension plans.

All meetings and elections are held at our Union Hall, 3645 SE 32nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers 114

Executive Board meets 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, in the meeting room at 7931 NE Halsey, Suite 205, Portland.

Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers 1

Members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

Carpenters 247

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at the Carpenters Hall, 2215 N. Lombard, Portland.

Carpenters 1388

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 276 Warner-Milne Rd., Oregon City.

Carpenters 1715

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, preceded by a 5 p.m. Executive Board meeting at 612 E. McLoughlin, Vancouver, Wash.

Cement Masons 555

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

Clark, Skamania & W. Klickitat Counties Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, 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, Jan. 23 and Jan. 30, in Kirkland Union Manor II, 3535 SE 86th, Portland.

Communications Workers 7901

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15. General membership meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22. All meetings held at the CWA office, 2950 SE Stark, Portland.

Electrical Workers 48

Marine Unit meets 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22. Bylaws Committee meets 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, in the Executive Boardroom.

Residential Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, in the Dispatch Lobby

General Membership meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. pre-meeting buffet.

Wasco Unit meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the Wasco PUD, 2345 River Rd., The Dalles.

Coast Unit meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, at Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane St., Astoria.

EWMC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, in the Executive Boardroom.

Sound & Communication Unit meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Electrical Women of Local 48 meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at NIETC, 16021 NE Airport Way.

Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 7 and Feb. 21, in the Executive Boardroom.

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

DEATH ASSESSMENTS: The following death assessments have been declared for Jan. and are payable at 50 cents: No. 2127, Jerome F. Winczewski; No. 2128, Ronald L. Lawrence; No. 2129, Daniel L. Faddis; No. 2130, Cecil M. Thames; and No. 2131, Herbert A. Bohlmann.

Electrical Workers 280

Executive Board meets 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 32969 Hwy. 99E, Tangent, OR.

Bend Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at the IBEW/UA Training Center, 2161 SW First St., Redmond.

Joint Unit meets 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, at the Central Electrical Training Center, Tangent.

Elevator Constructors 23

Members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, 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, Feb. 21, at 1125 SE Madison, Suite 207, Portland.

Fire Fighters 452

Members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 2807 NW Fruit Valley Rd., Vancouver, Wash.

Fire Fighters 1660

Members meet 8 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at 4411 SW Sunset Dr., Lake Oswego.

Glass Workers 740

Executive Board meets 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at 11145 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

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

Salem area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Candalaria Terrace, Suite 204, 2659 Commercial St. SE, Salem.

Iron Workers 29

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, preceded by a 5:30 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir. #200, Portland.

Iron Workers Shopmen 516

Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at 11620 NE Ainsworth Cir. #300, Portland.

Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington

Delegates meet 8 a.m. Friday, Feb. 2, at Hometown Buffet, 7809-B Vancouver Plaza Dr., Vancouver.

Laborers/Vancouver 335

Members meet 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, preceded by a 6:15 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at the Vancouver Labor Center, 2212 NE Andresen Rd., Vanc., Wash.

Linn-Benton-Lincoln Labor Council

Delegates meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, preceded by a 7 p.m. Executive Board meeting, at 1400 Salem Ave., Albany.

Linoleum Layers 1236

PLEASE NOTE: The following meeting is "Special Call" for the purpose of voting on health and welfare changes.

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Executive Board meets 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Portland area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Machinists 63

Executive Board meets 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7. Members meet 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, preceded by a 9 a.m. stewards' meeting.

Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

Machinists 1432

Swing and graveyard shift members meet at noon Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Regular membership meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Shop stewards' training session 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20.

Meetings are at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.

Metal Trades Council

Delegates meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Executive Board meets 8 a.m. Monday, Feb. 12, at NOLC board room, 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

Molders 139

Members meet 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, preceded by a 6 p.m. Executive Board meeting at the Carpenters Hall, 2205 N. Lombard, Portland.

Northwest Oregon Labor Council

Delegates meet 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, in at IBEW Local 48 Hall, 15937 NE Airport Way, Portland.

Painters & Drywall Finishers 10

Members meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 11105 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting will be "special call" meeting. All members are requested to attend.

New Hours: Effective Dec. 1, 2006, Local 10 will be open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Plasterers 82

Members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 12812 NE Marx St., Portland.

Roofers & Waterproofers 49

Executive Board meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1. Members meet 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8.

Meetings are at 5032 SE 26th Ave., Portland (503 232-4807).

Sheet Metal Workers 16

Portland area VOC meets 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave.

Portland members meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave.

Eugene area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at UA 290 Hall, 2861 Pierce Parkway, Springfield, preceded by a 5 p.m. VOC meeting.

Medford area members meet 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, at Abby's Pizza, 7480 Crater Lake Hwy., White City.

Coos Bay area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, at the Labor Center, 3427 Ash St., North Bend.

PLEASE NOTE: An election for Business Representative, Position 1 will be held on the following dates.

TUESDAY, JAN 30, 2007:

Coos Bay members vote from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Bay Area Labor Center 4748 Franklin Blvd., North Bend.

Medford members vote from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Medford Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy., Central Point.

WEDNESDAY, JAN 31, 2007: Roseburg members vote 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Roseburg Labor Temple, 742 SE Roberts, Roseburg.

Hood River/The Dalles members vote 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at Hood River Plumbing and Heating, 1009 12th St.

Bend, Redmond members vote 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at UA #290 Training Center, 2161 S. 1st St., Redmond.

THURSDAY, FEB 1, 2007: Eugene members vote 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the SW Oregon Training Center, 4748 Franklin Blvd., Eugene.

Salem members vote 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Neilsen Mfg. Company, 3501 Portland Rd. NE, Salem.

Vancouver members vote 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Carpenters Local 1715, 612 E. McLoughlin Blvd., Vancouver.

FRIDAY, FEB 2, 2007: Portland members vote 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Sheet Metal Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland.

Southern Oregon Central Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the Southern Oregon Labor Temple, 4480 Rogue Valley Hwy. #3, Central Point.

Southwestern Oregon Central Labor Council

Delegates meet 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, at the Bay Area Labor Center, 3427 Ash, North Bend.

Transit 757

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, in the Machinists Building, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at the Comfort Inn and Suites, 1775 Freeway Court NE, Salem.

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1124 South A St., Springfield.

Corvallis members meet 7:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at Woodstock Pizza, 1045 NW Kings Blvd., Corvallis.

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Hampton Inn, 1124 Morrow Rd., Medford.

Portland school bus members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at Rigler School, 5401 NE Prescott, Portland.

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Laborers Hall, 2232 NE Andresen, Vancouver, Wash.

Tillamook members meet 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Odd Fellows Hall, next door to the Bay City Fire Hall in Bay City.

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See your liaison officers.

PLEASE NOTE: ATU members are invited to attend any of the above-listed meetings.

United Association 290

Portland area members meet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Tualatin.

Astoria area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Astoria Labor Temple, 926 Duane, Astoria.

Bend area members meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at the Local 290 Training Center, 2161 SW First, Redmond.

Brookings area members meet 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Curry County Search and Rescue, 517 Railroad St., Brookings.

Coos Bay area members meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at the Coos Bay Training Center, 2nd & Kruse, Coos Bay.

Eugene area members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at the Eugene 290 Hall.

Klamath Falls area members meet 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at the Moose Lodge, 1577 Oak Ave., Klamath Falls.

Medford area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at 650A Industrial Cir., White City.

Roseburg area members meet 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Roseburg Labor Temple, 742 SE Roberts, Roseburg.

Salem area members meet 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at 1810 Hawthorne Ave. NE, Salem.

The Dalles area members meet 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at the United Steelworkers Local 9170 Union Hall, The Dalles.

Humboldt-Del Norte Co. area members meet 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at the Eureka Training Center, 832 E St., Eureka, Calif.

United Steelworkers 1097

Members meet 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, preceded by a 6:15 p.m. Executive Board meeting, in the union office, 91237 Old Mill Town Rd., Westport.

United Steelworkers L&E Committee Dist. 12

Members meet 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 26, in Salem at the Oregon AFL-CIO offices, 2110 State St. For more information, call 503-585-6320.

We will be lobbying State Representatives following the meeting.

AFL-CIO legislative confab slated Feb. 3

A legislative conference for union members will be held Saturday, Feb. 3, at Sheet Metal Workers Local 16's Training Center, 2379 NE 178th Ave., Portland. The conference, held traditionally at the start of the legislative session, will give union members and leaders an opportunity to meet with state lawmakers and other elected officials to hear and share views on the state.

The conference, sponsored by the Labor Education and Research Center of the University of Oregon, begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. (note the time has been changed from an earlier posting). Cost is \$25 for persons affiliated with the Oregon AFL-CIO, and \$35 for non-affiliates. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call 503-725-3295.

RETIREE MEETING NOTICES

ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS OREGON CHAPTER

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, preceded by a 9 a.m. Executive Board meeting, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave., Portland. All retirees are welcome to attend.

Executive Board meets 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, at 1125 SE Madison, Portland.

ASBESTOS WORKERS 36

Retiree breakfast 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at the Dockside Restaurant, 2047 NW Front Ave., Portland.

CARPENTERS

Retired Carpenters meet for lunch 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 12, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS 48

Retired Electricians of Local 48, wives and friends meet 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 13, at Steamers Restaurant, 8303 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland. A brief business meeting and drawing will follow. Ample parking available. For further information and reservations, please call Vera Larson at 503 252-2296.

GLASS WORKERS

Retirees meet 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

LINOLEUM WORKERS

Retirees meet 11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at JJ North's Grand Buffet, 10520 NE Halsey, Portland.

MACHINISTS

Retired Machinists meet 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland, for a brief business meeting, followed by a no-host lunch at a restaurant to be determined at the meeting.

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR RETIREES COUNCIL

Business meeting from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 12, in the Northwest Oregon Labor Council board room, at 1125 SE Madison, #100G, Portland.

OREGON AFSCME

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the AFSCME office, 6025 E. Burnside, Portland. Call Michael Arken for information at 503-239-9858, ext. 124.

TRANSIT 757

Retirees meet 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at Westmoreland Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd, Portland.

UNITED ASSOCIATION 290

Retirees meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, at 20210 SW Teton Ave., Portland.

Martin Luther King Jr. talks about the labor movement

"The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress. Out of its bold struggles, economic and social reform gave birth to unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, government relief for the destitute and, above all, new wage levels that meant not mere survival but a tolerable life. The captains of industry did not lead this transformation; they resisted it until they were overcome. When in the '30s the wave of union organization crested over the nation, it carried to secure shores not only itself but the whole society."

—Speech to the state convention of the Illinois AFL-CIO, Oct. 7, 1965

"Less than a century ago the laborer had no rights, little or no respect, and led a life which was socially submerged and barren ... American industry organized misery into sweatshops and proclaimed the right of capital to act without restraints and without conscience. The inspiring answer to this intolerable and dehumanizing existence was economic organization through trade unions. The worker became determined not to wait for charitable impulses to grow in his employer. He constructed the means by which fairer sharing of the fruits of his toil had to be given to him or the wheels of industry, which he alone turned, would halt and wealth for no one would be available..."

"History is a great teacher. Now everyone knows that the labor movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it. By raising the living standards of millions, labor miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed-of levels of production. Those who attack labor forget these simple truths, but history remembers them.

"Negroes are almost entirely a working people ... Our needs are identical with labor's needs: decent wages, fair working conditions, livable housing, old-age security, health and welfare measures, conditions in which families can grow, have education for their children and respect in the community. That is why Negroes support labor's demands and fight laws which curb labor. That is why the labor-hater and labor-baiter is virtually always a twin-headed creature, spewing anti-Negro epithets from one mouth and anti-labor propaganda from the other mouth."

—Speaking to the AFL-CIO on Dec. 11, 1961

"In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as 'right to work.' It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. It is supported by Southern segregationists who are trying to keep us from achieving our civil rights and our right of equal job opportunity. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone ... Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped. Our weapon is our vote."

—Speaking on "right-to-work" laws in 1961

"Negroes in the United States read the history of labor and find it mirrors their own experience. We are confronted by powerful forces telling us to rely on the goodwill and understanding of those who profit by exploiting us. They deplore our discontent, they resent our will to organize, so that we may guarantee that humanity will prevail and equality will be exacted. They are shocked that action organizations, sit-ins, civil disobedience and protests are becoming our everyday tools, just as strikes, demonstrations and union organization became yours to insure that bargaining power genuinely existed on both sides of the table.

"We want to rely upon the goodwill of those who oppose us. Indeed, we have brought forward the method of nonviolence to give an example of unilateral goodwill in an effort to evoke it in those who have not yet felt it in their hearts. But we know that if we are not simultaneously organizing our strength we will have no means to move forward. If we do not advance, the crushing burden of centuries of neglect and economic deprivation will destroy our will, our spirits and our hope. In this way, labor's historic tradition of moving forward to create vital people as consumers and citizens has become our own tradition, and for the same reasons."

—Speaking to the AFL-CIO on Dec. 11, 1961



"Today Negroes want above all else to abolish poverty in their lives and in the lives of the white poor. This is the heart of their program. To end the humiliation was a start, but to end poverty is a bigger task. It is natural for Negroes to turn to the labor movement because it was the first and pioneer anti-poverty program..."

"Negroes are not the only poor in the nation. There are nearly twice as many white poor as Negro, and therefore the struggle against poverty is not involved solely with color or racial discrimination but with elementary economic justice..."

"Now most serious thinkers acknowledge that dislocations in the market operation of our economy and the prevalence of discrimination thrust people into idleness and bind them in constant or frequent unemployment against their will. The poor are less often dismissed from our conscience today by being branded as inferior and incompetent. We also know that no matter how dynamically the economy develops and expands, it does not eliminate all poverty.

"To a degree, we have been attacking the problem by increasing purchasing power through higher wage scales and increased Social Security benefits. But these measures are exercised with restraint and come only as a consequence of organized struggles... Those at the lowest economic level, the poor white, the Negro, the aged, are traditionally unorganized and have little or no ability to force a growth in their consumer potential. They stagnate or become even poorer in relation to the larger society."

—Speaking to shop stewards of Teamsters Local 815 and the Allied Trades Council, May 2, 1967

(Source: *Now Is the Time*. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Labor in the South: The Case for a Coalition. Booklet prepared by the Southern Labor Institute under the auspices of the Labor Subcommittee of the King Holiday Commission, designed by the American Federation of Teachers and printed by AFSCME. January 1986.)



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"We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly, I have yet to engage in a direct-action campaign that was 'well timed' in the view of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word 'wait!' It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This 'wait' has almost always meant 'never.' We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that 'justice too long delayed is justice denied.'"

Quoted from "Letter from Birmingham Jail," April 16, 1963, from Martin Luther King Jr. to his fellow clergymen.

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New 'D' majority in House gets busy passing labor bills

As promised by Democratic Party leaders, the party's newly sworn-in majority in Congress got busy in its first 100 "legislative" hours. Democrats in the House of Representatives passed long-blocked legislation, including several bills of particular importance to organized labor.

House Resolution 1, the first order of business in the House, would implement the terrorism prevention recommendations of the bipartisan 9-11 Commission. Some of the Commission's suggestions were rejected by Republican leaders in the previous Congress as too burdensome to businesses. Along with better screening of incoming air and sea cargo and better protection of nuclear facilities, the 280-page bill also repeals the clause in the 2001 Aviation and Transportation Security Act that let the Bush Administration nullify the union rights of airport screeners on the pretext of na-

tional security.

The Administration went to the mat to prevent the newly federalized airport screeners from unionizing in 2002.

At stake are the rights of 56,000 airport screeners to form a union and bargain for improved wages and benefits. HR 1 passed the House Jan. 9 by a veto-proof 299 to 128 margin and now goes to the Senate, where it's expected to pass. It will be politically difficult for Bush to veto the legislation, given that he's made terrorism the primary issue of his presidency. All five Oregon representatives voted for the bill, including Republican Greg Walden. Washington Congressman Brian Baird of Vancouver also voted in favor.

House Resolution 2, the second bill to pass the new House, is a defining issue for Democrats: a raise in the minimum wage. Under Republican leadership, the federal minimum wage hasn't

been increased since 1997, when it went up to \$5.15. That's the longest period without an increase since the federal minimum wage began under President Franklin Roosevelt. On Jan. 10, every Democrat in the House, plus just over one third of Republicans, voted for HR 2, which increases the federal minimum to \$5.85 an hour 60 days after enactment, then to \$6.55 a year after that; and \$7.25 an hour the following year.

Again all five Oregon House members voted for it, with Walden breaking ranks with the majority in his party to give low-wage workers a raise. The bill won't affect workers in Oregon or Washington because they're among the 29 states with state-passed minimum wages higher than the federal minimum.

The only votes against the minimum wage increase were from Republicans, some of whom argued that it would cause businesses to lay off the poorest workers.

Congressman Earl Blumenauer called that "hogwash" during the Congressional debate on the bill.

"I come from one of the states that increased its minimum wage and has indexed it automatically for inflation. Since we have done that, our economy is stronger, and our business leadership will tell you that what we have done is fair; it is good for all of us, not just the poor."

Increasing the federal minimum has been a top issue for unions, even

though very few union members earn the minimum. The minimum is a wage floor for all workers, and increases tend to trickle up to workers earning up to several dollars more, since their employers are paying a certain premium above minimum to attract better workers. A low minimum wage puts downward pressure on the wages of workers earning above, and can make it hard for unions

in some industries to bargain wage increases, when nonunion competitors pay substantially less.

The 325 to 116 vote in the House is more than the two-thirds needed to

override a presidential veto, but the bill will have a more complicated time in the Senate, where some senators say they are willing to compromise with the president, who has indicated he won't sign a bill increasing the minimum wage unless it also includes new tax breaks for business.

Two other bills of interest to unions would undo the most controversial parts of the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act, which created a prescription drug benefit for seniors. One bill, passed Jan. 12 by 255 to 170, would lift the ban on Medicare using its bargaining power to negotiate with drug companies for lower prescription drug prices.

All Oregon representatives except Walden voted for this bill.

Another change expected to pass would lift the ban on mail-order imports of lower-cost prescription drugs from Canada and other countries.

After these and other "100-hours" items are dealt with, Democrats could move to pass the law that is without a

doubt labor's Number One priority in Congress — the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). EFCA would make it easier for workers to unionize and get a union contract. Passage of EFCA, labor leaders say, would assure a union comeback after decades of decline. As of press time, the bill hadn't yet been introduced in the 110th Congress, but an outright majority of

Renaming the Committee on Education and Workforce to the Committee on Education and Labor reflects the new tenor of the Democratically-controlled Congress

House members are on record in support of it. And the Congressman who sponsored the bill last session, Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), now chairs the committee that will hold hearings on it. The name of his committee reflects the new tenor of the times.

For decades it was known as the Committee on Education and Labor, but in 1995, when Republicans took control of the House, it was renamed the Committee on Education and Economic Opportunities — a symbolic move that was considered a slap at organized labor. Two years later it was renamed again, the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Now it will return to being the Committee on Education and Labor.

EFCA may face a Republican filibuster in the Senate, and would almost certainly be vetoed by President Bush. So realistically, it won't pass until a Democratic president takes office. But union leaders want Congress to pass it anyway as a test of strength.

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New York subway hero an active member of Laborers Union

New York City subway hero Wesley Autrey — now known around the world for saving a student's life by risking his own — is a shop steward and 10-year member of Laborers Local 79. Autrey jumped on a subway track and shielded the student's body with his own as subway cars roared two inches overhead.

"Since I do construction work with Local 79, we work in confined spaces a lot," said Autrey in a Laborers Union press release. "So I looked, and my judgment was pretty right. The train did have enough room for me."

While the student recovered in a hospital, Autrey declined medical attention and was only a half-hour late for work. His boss apparently forgave the tardy, as he bought Autrey a "hero sand-

wich" for his actions. Autrey's story has now been told in newspapers and on TV around the world. He has received the Bronze Medallion from the mayor of New York.

"Wesley Autrey possesses the qualities of our shop stewards," said Local 79 Business Manager John Delgado. "He is always helping others and he serves as a real role model to other Laborers. We are proud and honored to have him as a member."

NOLC, LCSA donate record amount of gifts for children

Labor's Community Service Agency and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council and their affiliates donated a record 1,219 gifts to underprivileged children in the Portland metropolitan area during the holiday season, part of their annual Presents for Partners program.

On Dec. 16, over 350 children attended a party at Genesis Community Fellowship in Northeast Portland, where they enjoyed treats, visited with Santa Claus and received gifts.

"This was by far the biggest donation of toys in the history of the program," said Glenn Shuck, executive director of Labor's Community Service Agency. "It was the local unions who helped make it all happen."

Shuck said there were so many gifts this year that after every child at Genesis got two or three toys, the remaining items were donated for distribution through the Bethel Drop-In Center, the Dislocated Workers Project and Portland's Help the Homeless program.

In addition to the numerous unions that donated cash and toys, \$2,500 came from the BULL Session Charity Golf Tournament and toys were collected at Saturn of Beaverton.

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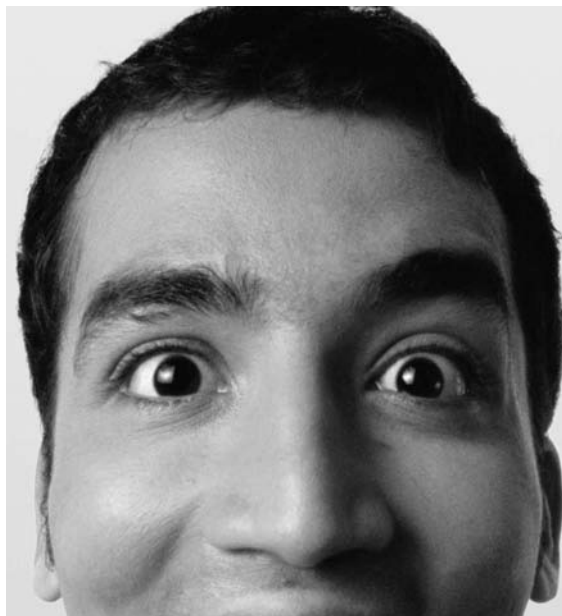
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Local Motion

December 2006

Union election activity in Oregon and SW Washington, according to the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board

Elections held

Company	Date	Union	Location	Results:		
				Union	No Union	
Camas Valley School District	12/13	OSEA	Camas Valley	4	0	
General Distributors (decertification)	12/15	Teamsters Local 162	Oregon City	43	12	

Elections requested

Company	Union	Location	# of employees
Weber Distribution	Teamsters Local 81	Wilsonville	2
Bay Cities Ambulance (decertification)	International Association of EMTs & Paramedics	Coos Bay	35
Paratransit Service Inc.	Amalgamated Transit Union Division 757	Bend	34

Labor groups rally around bus drivers trying to join ATU #757

BEND — Four Central Oregon labor groups are rallying behind three-dozen bus drivers who will vote Jan. 29 whether to unionize with Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757.

The drivers are employed by Paratransit Services, a non-profit company based in Bremerton, Wash.

On Jan. 10, the Central Oregon Labor Council, the Central Oregon Building Trades Council, the Oregon School Employees Association, and Central Oregon Jobs with Justice issued a statement of "solidarity" with the transit employees.

Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Fletcher, who is also president of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 280, attended an organizing meeting of drivers. All four organizations stress that a level playing field during the union campaign can best be achieved through card-check recognition or, short of that, employer neutrality.

Since 2003, the City of Bend has contracted with Paratransit Services to provide door-to-door transportation for people with disabilities. Last year the city added bus service along six fixed routes to the contract.

Seeking better wages and increased job security, several drivers contacted Portland-headquartered Local 757 in November to talk about unionizing. Wages for the Bend drivers currently top out at \$12.25, while union bus drivers in nearby locales earn several dol-

lars an hour more. Local 757 represents drivers at transit districts up and down Western Oregon, but none thus far in Central Oregon. ATU locals in Seattle and Tacoma represent other units of Paratransit Services.

Shortly after the union filed for an election, the company sent employees a four-page letter outlining its opposition and urging drivers to "vote against the union and suggest you encourage others to do the same."

In mid-January, management held a series of mandatory-attendance anti-union meetings from which pro-union workers were excluded. Workers are reportedly being told that they may lose their jobs if they vote the union in. They might get the low wages of one ATU contract in Alaska, but pay the higher dues of a local in Seattle.

ATU International Rep Ron Heintzman, a former Local 757 president, hopes workers will resist the scare talk. Heintzman recently bargained a contract with Paratransit in Port Angeles, Wash., and said the company does bargain fairly when employees stand firm.

And it's a good time to unionize, Heintzman said — Bend bus service is likely to double in the next few years, and will undergo lots of changes. Having a union will make sure workers' interests are represented as it grows.

"They (drivers) want the same right to bargain that police, fire and others in the City have," Heintzman said.

SEIU campaign to organize bus drivers stalls

A union campaign among school bus drivers at Gresham-Barlow School District failed to win a majority in a Jan. 5 vote. With 103 drivers eligible to unionize, the vote was 44 for and 49 against joining Service Employees International Union Local 503.

The drivers are employed by First Student, a multinational corporation which has the contract to provide bus service to the 12,000-student school district.

Starting wages among drivers in Gresham are \$11 an hour, and some drivers wanted comparable pay of unionized school bus drivers at nearby school districts.

For SEIU, the narrow loss was a setback in its "Driving Up Standards" campaign to unionize First Student, the second-largest private bus company in the United States. In the campaign, SEIU is allied with the the Teamsters and Great Britain's Transport and General Workers Union. First Student is owned by UK-based FirstGroup.

Local SEIU organizers believed First Student would stay neutral, as promised after a stockholder protest at the company's 2006 annual meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland. But in the final days before the local election, First Student management came out strongly against the union, a union spokesperson said.

The same thing happened in 2003, when another local union, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757, tried to unionize the same group of drivers. Local 757 staff attorney Susan Stoner said First Student managers created an atmosphere of threat and intimidation, conducted surveillance when union organizers came to talk to workers, and stirred up conflict among the workers and then used that to predict endless turmoil if the union were to win. ATU lost 73 to 33.

SEIU has union campaigns among First Student workers at the Tigard School District, as well as in Jacksonville, Fla., and Minneapolis, Minn.

Meanwhile, the Teamsters have won union elections among First Student workers in Anchorage, Alaska, and Baltimore, Md. There are about 22,000 First Student drivers in the United States.



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...Spelling them out

(From Page 2)

IATSE — International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts.
IBEW — International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.
ILWU — International Longshore and Warehouse Union. The Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU) is a division of the ILWU.
IUEC — International Union of Elevator Constructors.
IUOE — International Union of Operating Engineers.
IUPAT — International Union of Painters and Allied Trades.
LCLC — Lane County Labor Council, Eugene-Springfield area.
MEBA — Marine Engineers Beneficial Association.
MMP — International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots.
NALC — National Association of Letter Carriers.
NOLC — Northwest Oregon Labor Council, based in Portland.
ONA — Oregon Nurses Association.
OSBCTC — Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council.
OPEIU — Office and Professional Employees International Union.
SAG — Screen Actors Guild.
SIU — Seafarers International Union of North America.
SMWIA — Sheet Metal Workers International Association.
UA — United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the U.S. and Canada.
UAW — United Auto Workers or the United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America International Union.
USW — United Steelworkers, or United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial & Service Workers International Union
WSLC — Washington State Labor Council of the AFL-CIO.

★★★

CTW — Change to Win, a labor federation started in 2005 by international unions dissatisfied with the AFL-CIO. CTW's members include:

IBT — International Brotherhood of Teamsters; affiliates include the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) and Graphic Communications International Union (GCIU).
LIUNA — Laborers International Union of North America.
SEIU — Service Employees International Union.
UBC — United Brotherhood of Carpenters; affiliates include the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers (AWPPW) and the Carpenters Industrial Council (CIC). Both organizations are based in Portland.
UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers.
UFW — United Farm Workers.
UNITE HERE — Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, and Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees.

★★★

INDEPENDENT UNIONS include the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA); the Oregon Education Association (OEA); the Portland Police Association (PPA), and Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United (PCUN), is the Spanish acronym for the Woodburn-based organization); and Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA).

★★★

THERE ARE SOME UNIONS whose names aren't usually shortened by abbreviations and acronyms but instead are referred to by shortened versions of their names. Examples are the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers. The Labor Press identifies that union's Oregon locals as Iron Workers Local 29 and Iron Workers Shopmen's Local 516. Another is the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers. The Oregon affiliates are Roofers Local 49 and Roofers Local 156. The International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers is referred to as Asbestos Workers Local 36; the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers is known as Boilermakers Local 500; and the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association's Portland affiliates are Plasterers Local 82 and Cement Masons Local 555.

★★★

THE FOLLOWING aren't unions, but they are mentioned often by the NW Labor Press.

BOLI — Bureau of Labor and Industries, an Oregon governmental agency.
LERC — Labor Education and Research Center of the University of Oregon.

★★★

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS can be made to this list by mailing them to the NW Labor Press on the sending union's letterhead.

U.S. Supreme Court tackles Washington State teachers' case involving union dues

WASHINGTON D.C. — The U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 10 heard oral arguments in a case involving the Washington Education Association (WEA) — an affiliate of the National Education Association (NEA) — and a state law that restricts union expenditures in connection with state elections.

The issue centers around non-members who must pay agency fees for the collective bargaining services the union provides for all state teachers, but who object to having their fees used for political action. Each year, the union notifies non-members in writing that they have the right to opt out of political action spending and receive a refund for that part of their agency fees.

But with backing from the anti-union National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, a few nonunion-member teachers filed suit, claiming a 1992 voter-approved state ballot measure required the union to acquire written permission from each non-member — called "opting in."

In March 2006, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled the "opt in" provision of the state law was unconstitutional and also wrote:

"There is no indication or argument that WEA is compelling non-members to support political activities or preventing non-members from asserting their First Amendment rights."

The National Right-To-Work Committee took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that the fee-payers' First Amendment right to free

speech was violated because they must pay the money first and then ask for a portion of it back later.

WEA attorney John West said its right to speak — to lobby for legislation on behalf of all 70,000 people it represents, including the 3,500 fee payers — would be violated because its views would be held hostage to those of the non-member fee-payers.

The case is important for unions nationwide. Agency fee-payers are workers who are represented by unions, but are not union members. The most recent federal figures from 2005 show there are 1.5 million agency fee-payers.

Currently, agency fee-payers pay the equivalent of union dues to unions that represent them. But unions, under the U.S. Supreme Court's previous Beck decision, must give fee-payers the right to "opt out" of paying for anything except collective bargaining expenses. After a request and calculations, the extra money is returned.

The Washington state law that was tossed out would deprive WEA, for example, of between \$26 and \$70 per month from each fee-payer who did not "opt in." Other unions nationwide would lose millions of dollars each year.

West told the justices that "there is a rational basis for protecting the rights of fee-payers." He said the present system, where they "opt out," provides that.

He argued that banning the union from using the money, subject to the

"opt-out" provision for the fee payers, shows the law "is content-discriminatory" and thus violates the free speech clause of the Bill of Rights.

The justices offered a mix of views in their questioning, with Associate Justices Samuel Alito, Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy appearing dubious to the union cause and Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer supportive.

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...PDC construction wage policy will be amended Jan. 24

(From Page 1)

programs when no women or minority apprentices are otherwise available." The policy makes no reference to open-shop contractors.

"The clear intent was to include open-shop contractors as well," Jackley said. "It will be those types of technical changes" that the Board will make on Jan. 24.

Other terms of the construction wage policy include:

- PDC will appoint a Wage Rate

Oversight Group that includes PDC, union and nonunion representatives, women in trades, the minority community, the construction industry and other stakeholders to review the affirmative action report and make recommendations.

- Environmental remediation and demolition shall be done consistent with current BOLI rules.

- Contractors that are on the BOLI list of ineligible cannot participate in construction projects subject to the

wage policy.

- Projects constructed privately that include public and private ownership may be separated for the purposes of this policy.

- When the total floor area of publicly-owned space is less than 50 percent of the total floor area of the combined public/private space, the policy will not apply to the construction of the privately-owned space unless that portion of the project receives \$1 million or more in PDC resources.

- Any project that is constructed which will be owned by the public is subject to the policy.

Jackley told the NW Labor Press that PDC will act as the monitor and enforcer of the new construction wage policy.

Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner said his agency will continue enforcing state prevailing wage laws. "Regardless of their new policy, if we receive a complaint about a PDC project, we will apply the state law as

it is currently written," he said.

The threshold for applying state prevailing wage rates on a public project in Oregon is \$50,000.

John Mohlis, executive secretary-treasurer of the Columbia-Pacific Building Trades Council, said the PDC's new construction wage policy "is a good starting point. It's not perfect, but there is a process for fine tuning it."

Mohlis was appointed by Mayor Tom Potter to a vacant seat on the PDC Board. His nomination was confirmed by City Council on Jan. 17. Mohlis' first Board meeting as a commissioner will be at the next regular meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 24, when amendments to the policy will be heard. The meeting starts at 8 a.m. at the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, 4134 N. Vancouver Ave., Portland.

Seattle stiffens wage enforcement on low-income housing projects

SEATTLE — Stricter enforcement of prevailing wage rules on all city-financed low-income housing projects began Jan. 1 in Seattle.

The new policy revises how the City of Seattle deals with developers, contractors and subcontractors who receive loans and other public subsidies for the construction and rehabilitation of low-income housing. Under the new policy:

- Developers will be required to certify that their general contractors and subcontractors are paying the state-mandated prevailing wage for each job classification.

- Contractors must pay either the federal Davis-Bacon required wage or the state prevailing wage, whichever is higher.

- Contractors will be required to inform workers in English and Spanish about prevailing wage laws and they must maintain payroll records for inspection.

- Workers must sign in and out at the job site daily, identifying the contractor or subcontractor for whom they are working, their job classification, and their wage rate.

- The City's Department of Executive Administration will conduct random on-site audits to ensure wage rate compliance, and a new City position

will be created to ensure compliance.

"This is an example of people in authority doing the right thing for the right reason," said Eric Franklin, spokesman for the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters, which along with the Painters Union assisted in drafting and moving the enforcement policy forward.

Franklin said the city is not legally obligated to pay prevailing wages on low-income housing projects.

Adrienne Quinn, director of the Office of Housing, which administers the programs and helps leverage additional funding to develop projects, confirmed that. "A prevailing wage policy is not required," she said. "These are internal benchmarks set by the mayor and our department."

In 2002, the voters of Seattle passed a seven-year, \$86 million union-backed property tax levy to provide affordable housing opportunities for low-income residents. The housing levy contained language "encouraging" contractors to comply with the City's fair contracting practices ordinance. The ordinance "aspires to utilize" more women and minority businesses, and contractors that offer apprenticeship training, but does not mandate it.

Mayor Greg Nickels and the Office

of Housing later added prevailing wage benchmarks whereby contractors and subcontractors on low-income housing projects were required to sign documents stating that they paid employees prevailing wages and benefits.

Quinn told the NW Labor Press that her department looked at the paperwork and that on its face, everything looked fine. "We're basically a bank. Our employees are underwriters, so if the records looked fine that was it."

However, the Carpenters and Painters unions had been logging instances of contractors cheating workers — who are primarily Latino — on wages and benefits on several of the housing projects. Union officials took that information to Quinn.

"She was very bold. She put staff on it, she held public meetings and basically pushed it forward," said Clark Gilman of the Carpenters Union.

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