



As July draws to a close we are in about as good a position as we could have hoped, given our situation. While its true we received some troubling news about removing our GIIs and sending them out for refitting to build larger tires than our Curing presses can accommodate, its also the case that the plants Goodyear is hoping to have ready to move to a four-team continuous operation by September may not be able to do so by then. They are having trouble getting enough new hires to fully ramp up to a continuous operation in Fayetteville and Union City. Those plants, and Gadsden, are hundreds of thousands of tires behind for the year in producing their current ticket and on their current schedule. Meanwhile, we finished the month of July over a hundred thousand tires ahead of our ticket expectation. At the end of June we transitioned to the three-fixed shift schedule smoothly and remain well ahead of our revised Annual Operating Plan expectation. As a result, while Goodyear is revising the other plant's ticket expectations down to allow for their poor performance, the expectation for Tyler is moving up to allow for our good performance.

What that all means is that Goodyear needs Tyler more than it expected to at this point in time. It doesn't mean Goodyear has changed its position on shutting the plant down at some point. It doesn't mean we will get those GIIs back when they've been modified to build 20-inch plus tires. We fought hard to get two more GIIs and losing them is going the wrong direction. But, as we enter the last five months of 2007 and Goodyear formulates Annual Operating

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by
Jim Wansley

Plans for next year, taking this plant down on January first of 2008 is looking more and more unworkable. The next few months will be critical to our survival. Producing well during that time will also be critical. We may become an ARF only plant, but that doesn't lower our production capacity.

I want to thank everyone who stayed to continue the fight to keep this plant open. Lots of salaried people are leaving Goodyear, and not just in Tyler. After the latest round of salaried benefit cuts salaried folks across North America are leaving. It's more pronounced here, but every plant is experiencing it. Our challenge is continuing to produce above our ticket, with replacement managers and without any support from Goodyear Corporate. That we continue to do so says a lot about us and speaks volumes about what a mistake it will be to shut down this plant. It is getting attention at Goodyear Corporate and, at some point, could make them rethink their plans for Tyler.

We may not stay open. In fact we'll beat some mighty long odds if we do. But coming to work every day with a "dead man walking" attitude is harmful for all of us, mentally and otherwise. This local union leadership will keep looking for ways to keep this plant open and won't lay down. Mentally, that's not easy to do lots of days. It's tough for every one of you as well. I truly appreciate everyone who is coming to work and, despite all the negativity, continues to make Tyler a productive plant that's still needed by this company.

"The Stretch" Wins 1st Place in the Texas AFL-CIO Media Contest



On Friday, August 3rd, at the 47th Texas AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention in Corpus Christi, "The Stretch" was awarded 1st place in the Texas AFL-CIO Media Contest. In the picture at right, Editor Joe Wyatt accepted the award presented by Texas AFL-CIO Secretary/Treasurer Becky Moeller. The actual award is shown in the picture at left. This was the second AFL-CIO convention in a row that "The Stretch" won 1st place.



Pension and Insurance Notes

by Sherrell Brown

SOME MEDICAL UPDATES

The VEBA lawsuit went to court on July 3, 2007. Neither the USW or Goodyear is expecting any problems. We should hear something in the next few weeks.

The Med Center has not received any notification on a shut-down date. Then again neither has the Union been notified of a shutdown date for the plant. When we left Cincinnati, Goodyear said they would notify us in November if they wanted to keep the plant open past December 31, 2007. I fully expect it will be November before we are notified of any dates. Anything else at this point is purely speculation.

The Med Center is interviewing Doctors to fill the positions that are vacant.

There have been several questions as to how much it will cost to go to another doctor. As you all know when you go to the Med Center the co-pay is \$5.00 period. If your carrier is Blue Cross/Blue Shield, when you go to another facility there will be a \$15.00 co-pay plus 10% of any other procedures until you reach your maximum out of pocket, then it is paid at 100%.

If your carrier is the Health Plan of Texas, your co-pay is \$10.00 for your PCP and \$20.00 for a specialist.

The information below was published in an earlier edition of the Stretch. Due to increased calls about the shut down benefits we are re-publishing sections of the article.

At plant closure you will have 2 choices. Eligible members who choose to retire at the plant closure can elect a \$10,000.00 lump sum payment or elect the special pay continuation which is:

Two \$750.00 payments for each full year of service that they would have accumulated as of the end of the month of the actual plant closure.

EXAMPLES

New hire to 7years of service will receive the minimum of 15 weeks

8 years will receive	16 weeks
9 years will receive	18 weeks
10 years will receive	20 weeks
11 years will receive	22 weeks
12 years will receive	24 weeks
13 years will receive	26 weeks
14 years will receive	28 weeks
15 years will receive	30 weeks
16 years will receive	32 weeks
17 years will receive	34 weeks
18 years will receive	36 weeks
19 years will receive	38 weeks
20 years or more	40 weeks possibility up to 48 weeks depending on the pool level.

In addition to this \$750.00 weekly amount you may also draw your SUB payment with this concurrently. After the weekly \$750.00 pay continuation ends you may still draw the SUB payment as long as you have credits. The next question is how many credits do I have and how long will they last? You must have at least 2 years of seniority to be eligible to draw SUB payments. The following chart will explain how many credits you have.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CREDIT UNITS

Seniority of member at shut down	Maximum Credit Units
Less than 5	52
At least 5 but less than 10	78
At least 10 but less than 15	104
At least 15 but less than 25	130
At least 25 and over	208

The following chart will explain how many SUB credits are used every time you receive a SUB payment. The SUB fund of

course is full at 100%. This chart shows you how many credits are used according to the percentage the SUB fund is at when you receive a payment.

CREDIT SUBTRACTION CHART

Position of SUB Fund	Member Seniority				
	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20 & over
80% or over	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
70 – 79.99%	1.15	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
60 – 69.99%	1.30	1.15	1.00	1.00	1.00
50 – 59.99%	1.50	1.30	1.15	1.00	1.00
40 – 49.99%	2.00	1.50	1.30	1.15	1.00
30 – 39.99%	2.50	2.00	1.50	1.30	1.15
20 – 29.99%	3.33	2.50	2.00	1.50	1.30
10 – 19.99%	5.00	3.33	2.50	2.00	1.50
4 - 9.99%	7.50	5.00	3.33	2.50	2.00

The next question may be how will I know at what position the SUB fund is at if I want to make sure Goodyear is not taking away too many credits? The Union Hall will have this information. If the Union Hall is shut down we will try to have a phone number you can call.

How do I read the above chart? Let's assume you have 14 years of seniority. First we will look at the credit chart above and find we have 104 credits. Next we will need to call and find out the position of the SUB fund; we find the SUB fund is 80% full. Next we will look at the credit subtraction chart and find our seniority column and find they will subtract 1.00 credit units. We started with 104 credits so now we have 103 credits. For example, let's say we call next week and the fund position is now 15% looking again at the subtraction chart we find Goodyear will subtract 2.50 credit units now we have 100.5 credits left (103 – 2.50 = 100.5). We will continue to draw a sub payment until our credit are exhausted. The Sub credits will only be subtracted if you receive a check. If the SUB fund falls below 4% payments are stopped until it is above 10% this is usually only a week or two if it happens at all.

THESE PAYMENTS WILL IMMEDIATELY TERMINATE SHOULD YOU PREFERENTIALLY HIRE AT ANOTHER GOODYEAR PLANT.

Delegates Travel to Corpus Christi for the 47th Texas AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention



President Jim Wansley and 4 elected delegates were in Corpus Christi August 1st through the 4th for the Texas AFL-CIO Constitutional Convention. In the picture on the left are (from left side, far end) Derwin Ford, Staff Rep. H. L. Thompson, Local 746L President Jim Wansley, Chris Antal and Freddie Wehrmann. Red Roden is seated between H. L. and Jim.

In the picture on the right is President Wansley with Texas AFL-CIO retiring President Emmett Sheppard and Texas AFL-CIO Secretary/Treasurer Becky Moeller, who was elected as the new Texas AFL-CIO President.

Tire Workers Strike in South Africa

At least 6,000 workers representing Goodyear, Continental and Bridgestone plants in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, suspended production at their South African tire plants as workers went on strike for higher wages, a labor union said.

The strike comes after several rounds of failed negotiations regarding employee wages between tire manufacturers and the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA). The tire laborers in the city are requesting a 10 percent pay increase across the board while their employers are offering a pay raise of 7 percent.

NUMSA is also demanding the release of data regarding the pay for hourly and salaried employees. Their demands include the disclosure of executive perks and pay increases over the last five years.

NUMSA spokesperson Mziwakhe Hlangani said that the Port Elizabeth tire plants owned by the three companies would be severely affected by the strike, and thousands of workers from other South African tire facilities, including Dunlop and Bridgestone plants, have said they are prepared to join the strike, the reports said.

The South African tire industry strike continued into its third day on July 24, with wage negotiations progressing slowly, according to the National Union of Metalworkers South Africa (NUMSA), which represents some 4,000 strikers at plants operated by Dunlop, Continental, Goodyear and Bridgestone.

Industry spokesperson Attie Higgs said progress had been made on several non-wage issues, but workers remain firm on their 10% wage increase demands. According to reports, Dunlop, Continental and Goodyear had made a 7.5% offer, while Bridgestone offered a 7% wage increase. "We want to force employers to improve their offer because the industry has been reporting good profits over the past three years. We are hopeful of a significant wage increase," a NUMSA spokesperson said.

Higgs refutes those claims, saying that there had been little growth and that, over the past three to four years, the industry marketshare had dropped as a result of imports. Higgs said the short-term impact of the strike would be limited, but an extended strike would have severe implications.

Detroit Big 3, UAW in Contract Talks

The United Auto Workers union and Detroit's Big 3 automakers are in talks to negotiate a new contract to replace the current four-year agreement that expires Sept. 14. Talks between the UAW and the Chrysler Group began July 20, while negotiations with General Motors Corp. and the Ford Motor Company opened July 23. GM, Ford and Chrysler lost a combined \$15 billion last year and say they need drastic cost reductions to compete with foreign competitors, especially Toyota and Honda. The automakers say they have higher hourly labor and health-care costs than their Japanese rivals. "We need to make some changes to make the business sustainable in the long term," said Diana Tremblay, GM's vice president for labor relations for North America. "Health care is the largest single competitive issue we face as a company," she said. UAW President Ron Gettelfinger said the union is fighting for good jobs and would not walk away from its retirees, noting that the union agreed to health-care cuts in 2005. If an impasse is reached, Gettelfinger said he would be willing to call a strike, saying "That's always an option that we have."

LET'S REMEMBER—NEXT NOVEMBER

Press Associates Commentary

Let's remember, next November—in 2008—if your senators favored or opposed workers' rights this year.

Because, when you get right down to it, that's what the July 26 vote on ending the talkathon/filibuster against the Employee Free Choice Act was all about.

Forty-eight of the Senate's 49 Republicans voted to kill worker rights by keeping debate going, preventing the legislation from even coming up for a final vote, much less passing. The House passed it 241-185 in March, with 13 Republicans there breaking ranks to vote for workers' rights, and only two Democrats voting "no."

But in the Senate, the sole Republican to vote for workers rights was Pennsylvanian Arlen Specter, and he's not up for re-election next year.

All other Republicans, including 21 who will seek new mandates from voters next fall—one is retiring—voted against workers. Here are the names of those who kowtowed to their corporate sponsors and voted against workers, and who, as of now, want to return to the Senate in 2009 and thus must face the voters in 2008:

Lamar Alexander (Tenn.), John Barasso (Wyo.), Saxby Chambliss (Ga.), Thad Cochran (Miss.), Norman Coleman (Minn.), Susan Collins (Maine), John Cornyn (Texas), Larry Craig (Idaho), Elizabeth Dole (N.C.), Pete Domenici (N.M.), Michael Enzi (Wyo.), Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Chuck Hagel (Neb.), James Inhofe (Okla.), Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (Kent.), Pat Roberts (Kansas), Jeff Sessions (Ala.), Gordon Smith (Ore.), Ted Stevens (Alaska), John Sununu (N.H.) and John Warner (Va.).

Sens. John McCain (Ariz.) and Sen. Sam Brownback (Kansas) both seek the GOP presidential nomination and both voted against workers' rights.

We should particularly note four Republicans who voted against workers' rights are now rated as the most vulnerable at the polls in 2008. Watch what Coleman, Collins, Smith and Sununu do in the future to try to make us forget their vote against workers.

And let's not ignore McConnell, the reigning King of Kentucky Politics. Not only is he up for re-election next year, he's also the husband of rabidly anti-worker Bush Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, who cheered the GOP filibuster on.

"The Senate's vote is a victory for workers who value the protection and dignity of private balloting and the basic right to vote on labor contracts," Chao said. In one stroke, Chao joined the other Republicans, including her husband, in wrapping herself in

the flag of "secret ballots"—disregarding bosses' labor law-breaking before recognition elections—while getting the issue wrong.

"Obstructionist-in-Chief Mitch McConnell has cashed more than a few checks from his friends in corporate America, which may explain his eagerness to carry their water and his willingness to marginalize the struggle of middle class families," said Jeremy Funk of Americans United for Change, an AFSCME-backed coalition that campaigned for the Employee Free Choice Act.

"It's because McConnell, George Bush and Republicans in Congress for years have put the bottom line of corporate America ahead of the welfare of workers that the middle class in this country has lost ground. And it's because of McConnell's continued and unapologetic indifference to America's disappearing middle class, we will continue to identify him as 'Public Enemy #1,'" Funk added.

There's another group of senators whom we should not forget: Democrats from "red states" who nevertheless supported workers' rights. Every single Democrat voted with us, except for Tim Johnson (S.D.), who is recovering at home from serious surgery after a near-fatal burst of blood vessels in his brain last December.

The overall vote, on virtual party lines, was 51-48. Democratic senators deserve our thanks and support, especially those who must face their "red state" voters next year. The most-endangered one of that group, due to his health, is Johnson.

Other Democrats who are up for re-election in 2008—and all voted with us—are:

Max Baucus (Mont.), Joseph Biden (Del.), Majority Whip Dick Durbin (Ill.), Tom Harkin (Iowa), John Kerry (Mass.), Mary Landrieu (La.), Frank Lautenberg (N.J.), Carl Levin (Mich.), Mark Pryor (Ark.), Jack Reed (R.I.) and Jay Rockefeller (W. Va.).

Of that dozen, Johnson, Baucus, Harkin, Landrieu, Pryor and Rockefeller are all from states Bush carried in 2004—the "red states." And color Montana, Louisiana and Arkansas deep red. So those senators may have taken a political risk by backing workers' rights, and we should remember that, too, in November 2008.

Finally, all four Senate Democrats who seek the party's presidential nomination next year voted for workers' rights, including one—Biden—who is up for re-election, too. The others are Chris Dodd (Conn.), Barack Obama (Ill.) and Hillary Clinton (N.Y.).

Remember all these votes, or consult this column, before you enter the polls in November 2008.

Press Associates, Inc. (PAI)

China Enacts New Labor Law

BEIJING, China (PAI)—Responding to rising unrest over unpaid wages, unsafe working conditions and reports of slave labor, the Chinese National People's Congress rushed through a new labor law on June 29.

One key point of the new law—which drew protests from multi-national corporations that exported U.S. jobs and migrated to China to exploit Chinese workers by paying them little—gives the state-sponsored All China Federation of Trade Unions the right to bargain collectively with firms over wages, bonuses, training and benefits and duties.

The ACFTU is considered a pro-management union and is not recognized by the AFL-CIO. But Change to Win leaders, who

traveled to China several weeks ago, opened talks with ACFTU and will provide training in collective bargaining.

The multi-nationals were dissatisfied with China's new labor law, even though they won key points, such as limits on severance pay and a provision letting them "consult" with ACFTU before firing workers. Prior drafts of the law gave ACFTU veto rights over layoffs. Workers won the first-ever right to severance pay.

The new law also orders firms to sign "employment contracts" with workers, guaranteeing them the Chinese minimum wage. But enforcement of China's present minimum wage law has ranged from sporadic to non-existent—when workers are paid at all.

USW Workers at Goodyear Engineered Products Ratify New Contract; Carlyle Group to Acquire Division

(Pittsburgh) – The United Steelworkers (USW) announced today that it has ratified a contract with the Carlyle Group and the four engineered products plants in the U.S. currently owned by Goodyear Tire and Rubber and will become part of EPD, Inc. when the sale between Goodyear and Carlyle is finalized.

Members at the plants voted to accept the agreement last week by more than 2:1 margin. 1,600 workers at the plants located in St. Marys, Ohio, Lincoln, Neb., Sun Prairie, Wis., and Marysville, Ohio are represented by the USW. Outstanding issues between the USW International and Carlyle were resolved over the weekend, finalizing the tri-party agreement. The issues related directly to establishing a secure trust for retiree health care completely separate from the one at Goodyear.

“We believe this deal is beneficial to all parties involved,” said USW Executive Vice President Ron Hoover. “It secures the future of our members while allowing EPD to aggressively compete in the global market.

“Goodyear made in clear last year that it was no longer interested in manufacturing engineered products,” he added.

The Carlyle Group, a premier global private equity firm, has been negotiating with Goodyear to acquire this non-tire producing division, but needed to first reach a new labor agreement with the USW because of a “successorship” clause in the current contract. This language requires any potential buyer to recognize the workers’ collective bargaining representative and to negotiate a new contract prior to finalizing any sale. When the sale is finalized, Carlyle will continue to produce Goodyear brands of hoses, belts and other products under the name of EPD, Inc.

“This is the first time we’ve dealt with Carlyle in the tire and rubber sector,” said USW International Vice President Tom Conway, a lead negotiator for the union. “They also have some holdings in steel, too, where we represent the hourly employees. Like other private equity firms, I hope they realize that the USW can be a good business partner, as long as you deal with us in an honest, straight-forward manner.”

The new contract closely mirrors the existing agreement between Goodyear and the USW with some minor exceptions such as an increase of \$3 in the pension multiplier (from \$55) in August 2009 and some minor increases in health care costs in January 2010. In addition, the new agreement calls for \$45 million in new capital investments expenditures in the four plants and an extension of COLA to 2012, with all increases in the last three years incorporated into wages.

The new USW-EPD agreement runs five years, beginning on the date Goodyear sells the plants to EPD and expires on July 31, 2012. The current USW-Goodyear runs for three years. The current pension plan will be frozen for workers at the four facilities as of the closing date of the sale and employees will be vested in EPD, Inc.’s pension plan upon completion of five years of combined service. A profit-sharing plan to consist of profits up to eight percent of profits, with yearly maximum contributions will be established and all profit sharing amounts will be diverted to fund the EPD VEBA.

The USW represents more than 850,000 members in North America. Some 70,000 are employed in the tire, rubber and plastics sector.

House Labor Panel Approves Anti Pay-Discrimination Bill

WASHINGTON (PAI)—By a party-line 25-20 vote, the Democratic-run House Education and Labor Committee on June 27 approved a bill restoring workers’ rights to sue for pay discrimination. The measure would overturn a recent Supreme Court ruling.

“The Supreme Court’s ruling in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear* was a painful step backwards for civil rights in this country,” committee chairman George Miller (D-Calif.) explained. “The court’s misguided decision—if allowed to stand—has harmful consequences far beyond Ms. Ledbetter’s case.

“It has far-reaching implications for an individuals’ right to be compensated fairly for an honest day’s work, regardless of their sex or race or religion. We must not allow this ruling to stand,” Miller declared. Committee Republicans dissented. They claimed they too oppose pay discrimination, but advocated “going slow” on passing more legislation.

Unions and their allies supported the legislation, and joined Lilly Ledbetter at the witness table in a June hearing on the case. The Chamber of Commerce opposed it.

Ledbetter, a supervisor—and the sole female supervisor, out of more than 80, for most of that time—at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., plant in Gadsden, Ala., suffered pay discrimination, unknown to her until the end, throughout her career. When she sued for back pay and damages, lower courts and a jury awarded her

\$3.7 million.

But the High Court, in a 5-4 decision that drew an unusual vocal dissent from the bench by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, threw out the case, and the cash. It said Ledbetter—and anyone else—only could have sued within 180 days of the first instance of pay discrimination, almost 20 years before. In many states, the time limit is 300 days.

“Employees in Ledbetter’s position would be forced to live with discriminatory paychecks for the rest of their careers under this Supreme Court decision,” the committee explained.

During a break in the hearing, Ledbetter told Press Associates that while she and two other—shorter-term—female supervisors suffered pay discrimination at the plant, female rank-and-file tire workers did not. That’s because they were covered by their union contracts between Goodyear and, first, the Rubber Workers, and now the Steel Workers.

The committee’s bill, named “The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act,” says “every paycheck or other compensation resulting, in whole or in part, from an earlier discriminatory pay decision” violates the Civil Rights Act. “As long as workers file their charges within 180 days of a discriminatory paycheck, their charges would be considered timely,” the bill adds. It also says one filing is enough: The worker does not have to file new charges covering every paycheck.

Thank You Notes from Scholarship Recipients

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Donor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the "Kelly Tire-USWA Scholarship". As one of this year's recipients, I am grateful for the opportunities this award will provide me. Receiving this scholarship will help reduce my financial burdens and motivate me to continue pursuing my education in Engineering.

I am from Tyler, TX and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School. I am a member of First Church of Tyler where I am backup soundman. I also work part-time at Ken's Pizza as a waiter. Upon completion of my degree, I hope to find employment in Electrical Engineering.

Once again, thank you for supporting the students of Tyler Junior College. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Andrew Aguillard

Dear Kelly Springfield Scholarship Association,

I would like to thank you for presenting me this scholarship opportunity to help further my career. I will never forget your generosity—once again thank you, and it will be put to good use.

Sincerely,

Whitney Bilby

To whom it may concern,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the John Nash Scholarship I received. It is such an honor to be able to go to school and have the backing and support from members of the community. I am so thankful and can not express my gratitude enough.

Thanks again,

Shandra Chambers

Kelly Springfield,

I would like to thank you for selecting me as one of your recipients of the 2007 – 2008 year for this scholarship. It is greatly appreciated and will be put to great use for my education. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Edwards

Kelly Springfield Scholarship Association,

I am so thankful for the scholarship you allowed me to have. This allows me to go to school! I am planning to go to school to become a paralegal. I have worked hard throughout my 13 years of school to have good grades. Once again, thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Jessica Landfair

I am very honored and grateful that I have been selected to receive the Kelly Tire Scholarship. Thank you very much!

Kasie Lightfoot

Dear Kelly Springfield Scholarship Association,

Thank you so much, not just for the scholarship consideration, but for actually allowing me to receive one. I am so grateful to have even been considered. Receiving the Frank E. Peycke Endowed Memorial Scholarship means even more to me since it's in honor of a special person.

Thank you for helping to better my education possibilities. Knowing that the plant is still able to give out scholarships despite its ups and downs this year is quite incredible. It is somewhat a relief off of my family's back knowing that I am receiving assistance in my education financially. Thank you once again for the scholarship opportunity. It means a great deal to me just being a recipient.

Sincerely,

Brittany Mahler

Tyler Junior College,

Thank you so very much for awarding me with this scholarship. It is a real encouragement to receive such an award. It shows me that someone believes in me and I know so many people do. I will do my best to go through my next semester with my hands held high and know that I will be able to move on to bigger and better things, all thanks to having received this scholarship. I am grateful for every penny. I will show my appreciation and earn every bit of this scholarship by doing my very best and giving my all to my education.

Lauren Murtha

I would like to say thank you to everyone that was involved in making the USW scholarship a success. When attending college every scholarship counts. This one being the first one I got, it really means a lot to me. Hopefully, I can continue to be awarded with future scholarships as well.

Lauren Smith

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to thank Tyler Junior College and Kelly Springfield/John Nash for providing me with this support. I currently work at Cingular and need the money to help take care of my living cost. Sometimes it is difficult to manage work and my courses, but I am determined to be successful.

Without help like this, it would make it a lot more difficult to meet my goal of attaining a college education. I realize that in today's world, this will only help to give one a start, but with high gas and medical cost, I need to be as prepared as I can.

Thank you for the support this year and in years past.

Sincerely,

Jeremy C. Tatum

Dear USW Local 746,

Thank you for the \$1000 scholarship I received. I would not be able to go to college without it. I will be putting it to good use. I will be majoring in Video Game & Simulation programming at TJC this Fall; and I currently working a part time job to help put myself through college. I am involved with the Association of Baptist Students at TJC as well. Once again thank you for the \$1000 scholarship.

Sincerely,

J. Clinton Wyatt

To the wonderful people at Goodyear Tyler:

Thank you very much for the \$1000 scholarship. This money will be used to finish my Bachelor's Degree in English at the University of Texas at Tyler this fall. I am very grateful for all the help you guys have given me over the years. Without those scholarships, I would not have been able to afford college.

With deepest gratitude,

Dakotah Wyatt

OBITUARY



Ron Wayne passed away on July 30th. He was 55. Ron was working in Dept. 515 when he retired in 2002.

Cohen To Top Dems: Government Can Battle Outsourcing By Taking Health Care Out Of Firms, Passing Employee Free Choice Act

By Mark Gruenberg, PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI)—The federal government can best help up to 30 million-40 million workers—almost all in services—who face the outsourcing of their jobs overseas in coming years by passing a national health care bill that takes medical costs out of company spending and by passing the Employee Free Choice Act, Communications Workers President Larry Cohen told Democratic congressional leaders.

Cohen's comments about EFCA drew agreement at a crowded July 12 2-hour seminar hosted by key leaders of the Democratic-run House, called to discuss "Globalization, Outsourcing And The American Worker, And How To Help" those millions of workers.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank (D-Mass.)—who has made the yawning gap between the rich and the rest of us a cause—and Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (D-Calif.) all agreed that helping workers who face the outsourcing threat will be a key House Democratic priority when lawmakers reconvene in September after their August recess.

"Whatever we do in Congress, the American people want to know what's happening on economic security and on health care," Pelosi said. "Globalization is menacing to many. We want to make it promising to many."

"I don't think we'll be able to do trade reform or immigration reform or any of these things without presenting a positive economic agenda to the American people," she added. Pelosi promised to take seminar ideas to a September meeting of legislative leaders from the top industrial nations, which she said share outsourcing problems.

And she said nothing could happen without worker rights.

Speakers, including other lawmakers and three economists, offered various specific ways to help workers. They tried to paint a broad picture while answering Connecticut Rep. Rosa DeLauro's challenge of: "What do I have to offer them when they come to me today?" about job losses. "Right now, we have nothing."

If nothing is done, warned Economic Policy Institute leader Jeff Faux, the U.S. would become "a personal services country, trading with each other, we become an underdeveloped country, without the kind of living standards we are accustomed to" as high-tech, high-paying service jobs follow high-paying factory jobs abroad.

Cohen said pushing health care costs onto U.S. companies, while other countries pay for health care through their governments, puts U.S. firms, both white and blue-collar, at a huge competitive disadvantage. And the lack of workers' rights in the U.S. means our private-sector workers, unlike their colleagues in other industrial countries, have little bargaining leverage over their futures, he added.

"Health care is a key to patching this together," he said. "A number of our large employers, GE, GM, AT&T, Verizon, IBM, have health care costs of \$15,000 per worker. That's more than the minimum wage for a year" even with the recent increase Congress passed, Cohen, the union leader on the 10-person panel, pointed out.

"So when we look at offshoring jobs to Korea, to Taiwan, to South Africa, to Latin America, those nations have moved health care costs off the payrolls" of their companies, giving the firms a competitive advantage over the U.S., and enticing U.S. firms to export jobs overseas, Cohen said.

"That \$15,000 cost in and of itself is pushing jobs out of this country," Cohen added. "So spreading health care costs is important."

Cohen also strongly said that passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, which the Senate GOP talked to death earlier this year, would help battle outsourcing and offshoring of U.S. jobs. He used the contrast between CWA-unionized AT&T and non-unionized Lucent, just purchased by the French firm Alcatel, to make that point.

AT&T announced on July 11 it will return 350 "Tier 1" technical support telecom jobs from India to Louisville, Kent, after previously returning another 1,000 to Nevada and 350 to Evansville, Ind., Cohen said. It acted under its contracts with CWA. Alcatel bought Lucent and announced huge job cuts and outsourcing from the U.S., but none from France, where workers have more rights to bargain over the future, he added.

"In other countries, workers have the power to make deals. Because we don't have the Employee Free Choice Act, we don't. They have the power to stop outsourcing even in Taiwan, where they have more rights," the CWA chief declared.

Cohen also proposed:

◆ Expanding the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, a program that now helps some factory workers—only about 10 percent of those eligible, one economist said—who lose their jobs to subsidized foreign imports. Cohen said it should be extended to cover service workers, too, and Miller promised his committee would soon craft a bill to do so.

◆ "Improving the safety net and training for younger workers." Cohen was not specific, but other speakers noted that "education is a long-term thing" and that plans must be made so that 5-year-olds now entering kindergarten eventually get the training, learning and critical thinking skills, not just rote memorization of current federal education law, they will need for jobs available when they graduate from high school or college in 13-17 years.

Miller added there should be an increased emphasis on what used to be called vocational education, since "the electrician that wires my house" also must know computer skills to help wire a high-tech company—and since that service job not only pays well, but doesn't move overseas.

Other proposals included:

◆ Faux said "neither Congress nor the executive is organized to structure trade policy." He said "we need to have trade driven by our national interest"—which needs definition—and the executive agency that bargains trade pacts, the U.S. Trade Representative "is measured only by the number of deals," not what's in them. Faux reiterated his proposal for a "time out" on new trade pacts until the U.S. can create and set trade goals in the national interest.

◆ Dartmouth economics professor Matthew Slaughter called for rethinking tax policy. He said that for most individuals and firms, the largest tax bite comes not from the income tax, "which is progressive"—taxing higher incomes at higher rates—but the payroll tax "which is a flat tax." Other speakers advocated changing tax policy to discourage transfer of jobs and investment overseas. One noted that 50% of all U.S. corporate investment dollars now flow abroad.

◆ Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) said that "free markets are accepted by the Democrats, but we need to shape the markets" to help people. That's been done starting with the New Deal and all the way down to the House passage, the previous day, of student loan legislation, he added. "We did that (reshaping) domestically, but now we have to struggle with it globally," Levin noted. Without naming business or the GOP, Levin said that "Others just want to let globalization run its course."

◆ Inserting worker rights in trade pacts, as Levin, Pelosi and others forced Bush to do—with weak International Labour Organization standards—in pacts with Peru and Panama is part of that shaping of markets, Levin added. That's because the standards help workers both in the U.S. and overseas. Without that, U.S. workers lose to exploited foreign workers, other speakers said.

◆ Pelosi offered an idea herself: "Combating global warming is an opportunity for 'green jobs' and green-collar jobs. But none of this is accomplishable without rights for workers."

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Kennedy Working On New Minimum Wage Hike Bill

By Mark Gruenberg, PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI)—Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), who spent a decade trying to raise the nation's minimum wage before the new Democratic-run Congress did so this year, is working on a new federal minimum wage hike bill to be announced July 24, says an activist whose organization is among the leaders on the issue.

Interviewed after a Washington press conference on paid sick leave, Jen Kern, director of the Living Wage Resource Center for ACORN, said Kennedy's new proposal would raise the minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour by 2011 and index it to inflation after that.

Kennedy plans to announce his proposal at a mass Capitol Hill celebration marking the first of the three stages in the minimum wage hike that Congress jammed through this year over business opposition and an initial Bush veto.

The federal minimum wage is scheduled to rise in three steps from \$5.15 an hour, where it was stuck for 11 years due to the GOP, to \$7.25 an hour by 2009. The federal minimum was stalled for so long that 32 states hiked their own minimums above the \$5.15 figure in intervening years. The last six also indexed their increases.

Kennedy's hike, if passed, would take the minimum wage back to an historic level it hasn't reached in more than 30 years: 50 percent of the average hourly wage. One Democratic presidential

hopeful, former Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.) has that same hike to \$9.50 in his platform, but by 2012, Kern said.

When Kennedy announces his new plan, ACORN—the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, a leading organizer of and advocate for low-income families—will make it one piece of the “Working Families Platform” the group's board adopted earlier this year.

And organized labor may well get behind the new hike, too. It was the key group leading the campaign for the increase the new Democratic-run Congress approved. AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney is scheduled to speak at the July 24 rally.

Other planks in ACORN's platform include enacting state earned income tax credits, in addition to the federal tax credit, for low-income people, the paid sick days legislation introduced by Sens. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) and Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), and enacting a tax credit available to people who have to deal with child and dependent care. “We moved the earned income tax credit in eight states” in introducing bills “and the paid sick days in seven.” Kern said. “We also should be doing more at the federal level.”

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Joe Wyatt Editor

(Phone) 903-595-3469

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