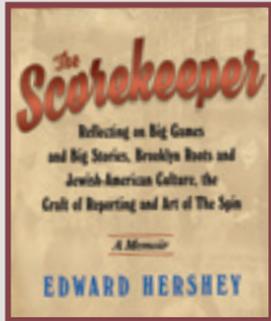


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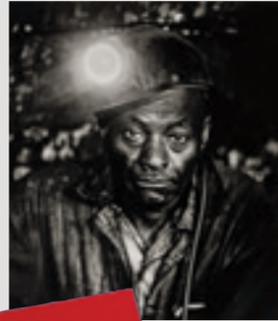
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A Newsday Reporter Looks Back



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Photos of 'Beautiful' Humanity



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GCC/IBT Vets Honored in Illinois



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TOP STORY

Unions Set to Battle Capitol Hill Labor Foes

By Zachary Dowdy
Special to the Communicator



AMERICAN ORGANIZED LABOR IS BRACING FOR WHAT UNION LEADERS AND pro-worker politicians are calling a coordinated, multi-pronged attack by emboldened anti-union forces on Capitol Hill and GCC/IBT officials warn “we could be in the fight of our lives.”

Leaders say the bond between Republican lawmakers and their wealthy, corporate backers is stronger than ever as evidenced by the number of ultra-rich cabinet selections made by President Donald Trump.

“In general, I don’t know how any working person can think a bunch of billionaires have our interests at heart,” said Michael Stafford, president of the 400-member GCC/IBT Local 503M in Rochester, N.Y. “How do they know what I’m going through? Their interests are not my interests and I don’t know how anybody could think they are.”

Labor-friendly elected officials express the same sort of concern. “Every little piece of good working-place policy that we’ve put in place over the last 20 years, I expect Republicans to begin picking away at,” Iowa state Rep. Marti Anderson, a Democrat, told The Hill, an online political publication. “I expect to have bargaining units be decimated.”

Particularly alarming is the push by Republicans for a national right-to-work law. New York Rep. Steve King and Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina have introduced legislation that would impose right-to-work provisions in all 50 states. Twenty-eight have passed right-to-work legislation already and if a national law succeeded, many fear the union movement would be seriously weakened – perhaps fatally.

continues on PAGE 14

An NLRB ruling against the Santa Barbara News-Press is upheld in federal court.

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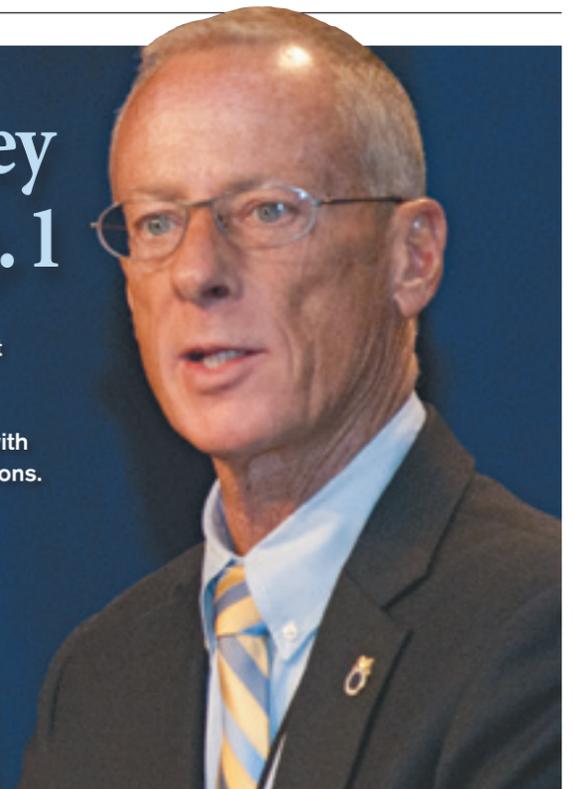
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Secy-Trsr Lacey To Retire Aug. 1

After four decades of union activity, Robert Lacey, GCC/IBT secretary-treasurer/vice president, is heading home to Evansville, Indiana. Lacey said he will stay involved with union issues and aid local labor organizations. ‘This work,’ he said, ‘is in my blood.’

PAGE 5

IBT PHOTO



We Are Responsible For Environment, Too

NOT FAR FROM MY OFFICE AT TEAMSTER HEADQUARTERS in Washington, D.C., the cherry blossoms bloomed last month – nature’s annual announcement that spring is on the way.

But this year was different.

The blossoms opened three weeks early – still beautiful, but scary.



“...one more sign of wacky and warming weather,” said the New York Times.

Around the country, the Times noted, there were other oddities.

Flowers were way ahead of schedule in Texas after a string of days in the upper 80s.

Hardly any snow fell in Chicago, the Windy City, famous for its fierce winters.

In upper New York State, farmers tapped maple trees two months before the sap usually starts flowing.

While it’s a mistake to claim every unusual weather event is the result of climate change, the evidence is overwhelming. No matter what short-sighted politicians say in order to protect their billionaire industrial backers, the Earth is heating up.

If you care about your grandchildren, time to take notice.

In fact, I believe organized labor should be on the front lines of environmental awareness. The whole idea of the union movement is to protect the little guy and make certain those in power do not advance their own agendas at the expense of the rest of us. Let’s meet the challenge.

Sure, there are bound to be conflicts. Sometimes environmental regulations may seem a danger to working-class job growth – the so-called “blue-green” clash.

Each case must be considered on its own, of course. But, overall, there is ample evidence that the field of sustainable energy – wind and solar – can boost employment.

This is not only my idea. Plenty of people in the labor movement are interested in addressing tough questions on the environment



– and not dismissing climate change as something cooked up by a bunch of “tree huggers.”

In our “All the Best” roundup on Page 7 of this edition, for instance, we mention a terrific website launched by a group called “Labor Network for Sustainability.” The Network dismisses the “blue-green” issue as “outdated” and a threat to achieving “a sustainable future for the planet and its people.” The two are not mutually exclusive, in other words. Environment is not the enemy.

As unionists and loyal Americans, we have to come to grips with the facts. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, here are some major worries:

- Melting glaciers and severe droughts will lead to water shortages and increase the risk of wildfires
- Coastal flooding caused by rising sea levels
- Farmland and fisheries swamped by heavy downpours
- Plant and animal species threatened with extinction
- Allergies and infectious diseases on the rise

Look, there is plenty of room for debate on how to protect the Earth while making sure workers are not put at risk. Earning a living is basic. We are committed to preserving the middle-class. But we can’t be short-sighted or distracted by political operatives who deny the obvious. Climate change is real. We need a safe shop floor, and a safe environment, too. ■

OUTLOOK

JAMES P. HOFFA TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT

Capitol Hill Still Listens When Money Talks

WORKING AMERICANS STOOD UP TO THE political establishment in 2016 and demanded that the resources of the country and efforts of the government be devoted to restoring the manufacturing base that provided generations of Americans with good paying jobs that propelled them into the middle class.

But as a new Congress took its place on Capitol Hill this year, it became quickly apparent that those in charge are listening to the big business interests that bankrolled their election campaigns, including many of the businesses that closed their factories in the United States and left for foreign shores.

Nowhere is that clearer than the Republicans’ roll out of so-called right-to-work (RTW) legislation that would further decimate good wages nationwide.

Under current law, each state has the right to decide whether to adopt right-to-work laws for private sector employees in industries



other than rail and airlines. Now the oft-proclaimed proponents of limited federal authority want to take that right away from the states and authorize the federal government to impose a law that will eliminate the right of workers to participate in democratic organizations that provide them a say in their workplaces. Can anyone spell hypocrisy?

After workers vote democratically for union representation at their workplace, unions have a legal duty to represent all the workers, even the employees who choose NOT to join the union. But because unions are required to represent even non-members under the same laws, non-members must pay a fair share to cover the reasonable costs of bargaining and enforcing a workplace contract, an amount that is a fraction of the rate of dues paid by workers who want to be members of the union.

Right-to-work legislation does nothing to create jobs, grow the middle class or improve the lives of workers. It’s shameful that some members of Congress have chosen to prioritize big business interests over the demands of their constituents. The Teamsters Union is committed to improving the lives of working people by fighting against dangerous RTW. ■



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25 Louisiana Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
202-508-6660

e-mail: webmessenger@gciu.org
Internet: www.gciu.org

GEORGE TEDESCHI
Editor

FRED BRUNING
Managing Editor

AFFILIATIONS

Change to Win Coalition

Canadian Labour Congress

Member of International Labor Communications Association of Labour Media



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A Remarkable Presidency Puts Unions on Full Alert

REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU VIEW THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION, IT HAS BEEN a remarkable first few months for the new White House. Every day seems to bring another major announcement, or crisis. But, as our coverage indicates, union members must not be distracted.



In his Top Story on Page 1, Zachary Dowdy reports that GCC/IBT leaders and labor officials around the country warn that the union movement could be “in the fight of its lives” if the Republican war on workers gains momentum. Of particular concern is the GOP’s campaign – backed by President Trump – to enact a national right-to-work law. If that happens, says IBT General President Jim Hoffa, “lower wages and fewer rights on the job are sure to follow.”

These also have been tough days for our friends in the newspaper business – the “front shop” folks who write and edit the product we print and deliver. Honest reporting now is dismissed as “fake news” and some in Washington argue that “alternative facts” hold the same weight as truth.

In a charming memoir, “The Scorekeeper,” noted on Page 4, Edward Hershey, a former Newsday reporter thinks back on his career and the glories of the city room before

the media was described as “enemy of the people.” Hershey, a lead organizer of the editorial unit at Newsday, also says in a Guest Spot essay on Page 7 that launching a union at the paper was one of the “proudest accomplishments of my life.”

Hershey has reason to be proud. As union members and labor leaders, we are part of a proud heritage and perhaps at no time in recent memory has the importance of our movement been more clear.

Recalling the grit and determination of union members – and all hardworking Americans – is essential in this time of partisanship and civil disagreement. And it is difficult to imagine a more profound testament to the spirit and resilience of American workers than the photographs we feature in the centerfold, Pages 8-9.

These splendid pictures taken by highly regarded photographer Builder Levy chronicle the struggle of coal miners, the grit and determination of civil rights and union activists, and the steadfast decency of people no matter their wealth and privilege.

“I want to show real life – the way people live and struggle,” Levy said in an interview. “I want to show what’s out there and what could be and what we need to do to change the world.”

Changing the established order is no easy task, as union people know. Like Builder Levy, we must keep on trying. ■

COMMENTARY

Wall Street’s Big Guns Now Calling the Shots

By Jim Hightower

Earlier this year, Donald Trump and a blue-ribbon panel of working-class champions announced a bold new initiative to create millions of new American jobs. The panel members were genuinely thrilled that the President was acting so swiftly and decisively. Indeed, a spokesman for the group, Steve Schwarzman, praised Trump as a leader who wants to “do things a lot better in our country, for all Americans.”

Wait a minute... Steve Schwarzman?

Isn't he the billionaire honcho of Blackstone, a group of Wall Street hucksters? Yes – and Holy Money Bags! – there's Jamie Dimon, who's presided over a mess of investment frauds and financial scandals as head of JPMorgan Chase. This “jobs” panel is filled with Wall Street banksters and corporate chieftains notorious for laying-off and ripping-off workers.

You might remember Trump-the-candidate fulminating against those very elites as being “responsible for the economic decisions that have robbed our working class.” But now he's asking them to be architects of his economic strategy.

Worse, he's doing this in the name of helping workers – but not a single labor advocate is on his policy council, in his cabinet, or anywhere near his White House.

Thus, the so-called “job-creation plan” announced by Trump doesn't create any jobs, but calls instead for – *ta dah!* – deregulating Wall Street. These flimflammers actually want us rubes to believe that “freeing” banksters to return to casino-style speculation will give them more money to invest in American jobs.

Trump's scheme will let banks make a killing, but it doesn't *require* them to invest in jobs – so I bet they won't.

Many of Trump's working class voters must've been stunned to see that his economic priority was not them, but a tiny group dwelling in luxury at the tippy-top of the ladder: The very Wall Street bankers he campaigned against.

Cheered on by House Speaker Paul Ryan and the other corporate-owned GOP congressional leaders, Trump rushed out a “reform” proposal to undo essential financial restrictions that help keep the banksters of the Street from defrauding and gouging workaday people.

For example, Trump & Company want to save financial giants from a consumer protection called the “fiduciary rule” scheduled to go into effect this month.

If you have a 401(K) retirement plan, chances are it's invested on your behalf by a firm of financial advisors so this rule simply requires them to act in *your* best interest, rather than shifting your money into risky investments that pay them bigger commissions – already an estimated \$17 billion a year!

The industry lobbied unsuccessfully to kill the “fiduciary rule” but then President Trump ordered that implementation be reconsidered. If that happens, Wall Street could be liberated from the shackles of ethics – and free to gouge again. ■

Printed with permission of Jim Hightower, national radio commentator and public speaker. With Susan DeMarco, he is author of “Swim Against The Current: Even A Dead Fish Can Go With The Flow” and publishes a monthly populist newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown (hightowerlowdown.org)

NANC DELEGATES URGED TO ATTEND CONFERENCE WITH RENEWED PURPOSE

North American Newspaper Conference officials are urging delegates to head for the NANC meeting June 5-7 in Scottsdale, Arizona, with renewed determination at a time of unprecedented pressure on the newspaper industry and labor movement.

NANC president Joe Inemer invited members from throughout the union because “we address issues that affect all locals.”

International officers and conference leaders likely will address matters related to Donald Trump's surprising victory in the November presidential election and Republican control of Congress, NANC officials said.

Without doubt, said Kevin Toomey, NANC secretary-treasurer, labor has reason to be worried,

“Trump's selection of an administration comprised mostly of billionaires and the uber-rich does not bode well for the families living week-to-week and struggling to make ends meet,” Toomey said.

George Tedeschi, GCC/IBT president, said he will urge that Scottsdale delegates remain politically aware and active. “I will make clear to the people at NANC that these are challenging times,” Tedeschi said.

Many national union leaders have expressed concern that the GOP will push a number of anti-labor initiatives in Washington, including a national right-to-work law.

If Republicans pass RTW legislation it “would be a nail in the coffin for unions,” said Inemer. Toomey agreed. “I fear that we are in for the fight of our lives to keep any RTW legislation from passing.”

In addition to political concerns, Toomey said the importance of organizing would be emphasized at the conference particularly in view of technological developments that threaten print industry jobs.

“No longer should we be restricted to bringing in new members only within the printing segments,” he said. “We need to get out and organize our companies door-to-door, regardless if they are printing, reporting, sweeping the floors, answering phones or whatever their job descriptions may be. We need to bring them into the fold.”

The 59th North American Newspaper Conference will be at the Embassy Suites by Hilton (formerly Chaparral), Scottsdale, Arizona, 800-362-2779. Registration is June 4. Reservations must be made by May 2 for the special conference rate of \$104 per night. NANC is self-supporting and not subsidized by the GCC/IBT. Inemer urged locals to help finance the meeting by placing ads in the conference bulletin. Call Inemer at 215-739-1704.

For Star Reporter, Union Contract Was Biggest Scoop

By Fred Bruning
Graphic Communicator

As a reporter for Newsday, Ed Hershey covered big league sports, investigated Long Island's overburdened criminal justice system, filed stories on the 1971 Attica prison uprising and famous "Son of Sam" serial murder case and once dressed like a cop to get a street-level view of life on the beat.

Hershey served as New York City Department of Correction spokesman after leaving the newsroom for a public relations career. He directed communication departments at prestige schools including Cornell University and Colby College in Waterville, Maine, ran successfully for alderman in Ithaca, New York, worked as press representative for the Service Employees International Union in Oregon, taught journalism and was an announcer at basketball games.

But, says Hershey, 72, he is most proud of an achievement that earned no byline, paycheck or notoriety: launching a union drive at Newsday.

"I wore it as a badge of honor," Hershey said recently at a Huntington, Long Island, bookstore where he was promoting a new memoir, "The Scorekeeper," recalling his Brooklyn roots, career highlights and union activism.

In 1973, Newsday's large rank and file editorial staff – approximately 400 reporters, editors and support personnel – was non-union. Local 406-C, led by then-president, George Tedeschi, represented back shop units – pressroom, transportation, pre-press, platemaking and building maintenance – but reporters and editors remained unaffiliated.

A unionization drive by the American Newspaper Guild had failed two years before, and it was not clear that editorial workers – fiercely independent and wary of ties to outside groups – were prepared to come aboard.

But, said Hershey in an interview, the time was right.

Newsday management had a benevolent reputation, Hershey said, but it was clear that unionized employees had better pay and protections than their newsroom counterparts. In addition, Hershey thought editorial workers needed some measure of autonomy – contractual guarantees that, for instance, allowed reporters to "yank" bylines when heavy editing fundamentally altered a writer's original story.

Now he would have to see if Local 406-C was interested in an unusual blue collar-white collar alliance.

Hershey made the plunge. "I called Tedeschi and said, 'tell me about the union.'"

Tedeschi was receptive – organizing the expansive editorial unit would be a significant accomplishment – but wary. Editorial employees were in a world separate from the craft departments. Would an alliance of this sort work?

"I told him I didn't know how successful we'd be, but that I was interested," Tedeschi said in an interview.

In what Hershey recalls as a "Brooklyn accent even more pronounced than mine," Tedeschi provided a quick course in labor organizing and noted that the success of 406-C depended on strict discipline and a relationship with the company marked by mutual respect.

There had never been a strike at the newspaper, Tedeschi told Hershey – and Tedeschi said he intended to keep the peace while always fighting for contract improvements.

In his book, Hershey recalls Tedeschi saying that members of the various units of Local 406-C served as a safeguard against unreasonable demands that could prompt a labor crisis.

"If anyone asked for something crazy," Tedeschi told Hershey, "the other members would tell them to go back to the table and be more realistic."

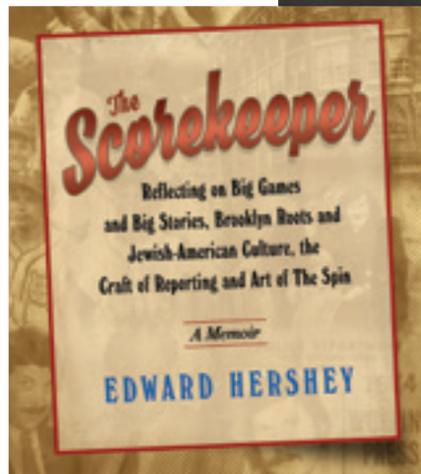
It took more than a year of hard work – and victory in a court challenge brought by the company – but Hershey, Tedeschi and a resourceful editorial organizing committee prevailed against management efforts to kill the union drive.

Hershey proved worthy of the faith Tedeschi and 406 had placed in him.

"He was legitimate," Tedeschi said. "He was very committed and really into our organizing effort." Tedeschi called Hershey a "typical reporter" in that he was forthright and insisted on transparency. "No secrecy about anything." Bottom line, Tedeschi said, Hershey "produced everything he said he was going to do."



PHOTO COURTESY EDWARD HERSHEY



As a Newsday reporter in 1973, Ed Hershey, left, started a drive to organize Newsday editorial workers for Local 406-C, Long Island. Two years later, Hershey and George Tedeschi, second left, then 406 president and now the leader of the GCC/IBT, met company officials to sign a first contract.

By 1975, the newsroom was organized and Local 406-C had gained unique status as a labor group representing both the people who write and edit a newspaper paper and workers who produce and deliver it.

"It's the proudest thing I've ever done," said Hershey, who at one time produced the International Printing & Graphic Communications Union newspaper and says his devotion to organized labor remains undiminished. "It affected most lives in the most direct way."

Union organizing may be Hershey's most cherished accomplishment, but, as "The Scorekeeper" makes clear, there is plenty more in his portfolio – dating all the way back to Little League in Brooklyn.

A self-described unathletic "klutz," Hershey was cut from the "major league" squad of West Highway Little League. The demotion stung but Hershey, who had a passion for sports, found a niche – as scorekeeper.

So outstanding was the young statistician's work that he was awarded a trophy. In a way, a career had been born.

Newspaper work was a natural.

After a brief stint as a public school teacher in Brooklyn, Hershey joined the New York World-Telegram & Sun – one of several city dailies that since has folded – as a fledgling sports reporter and then moved to the Suffolk Sun on Long Island, the "nation's newest newspaper" started by Cowles Communications, publishers of Look magazine.

The Sun aimed to compete with Newsday in Suffolk County, the island's sprawling eastern county, but hadn't a chance. Well-established and with a powerhouse staff and big budget, Newsday easily outmuscled the Sun. The "newest newspaper" folded in three years.

Hershey was gone before the Sun set. He had moved along – to Newsday.

As Hershey recounts in, "The Scorekeeper," he started as a sports writer but soon moved to news side as general assignment reporter – a crucial move that gave him access to the big stories he yearned to cover.

He gained respect of editors with a deadline piece on a fatal bus crash that killed seven Long Island school children – Hershey discovered that the driver had a string of motor vehicle violations and suspensions – and quickly became one of Newsday's most reliable and prolific staff members.

Hershey was part of a team that investigated New York prisons after the Attica revolt. He covered a trial of the Black Panthers. He was the first to report that David Berkowitz, the notorious "Son of Sam" killer intended to plead guilty rather than stand trial. Eager and resourceful, Hershey gained a reputation for speed and thoroughness – and for a gift of gab that allowed him to expound at length on almost anything while a pipe filled with Dutch tobacco was clenched between his teeth.

"He was a good reporter – fast on deadline," said Howard Schneider, a former Newsday reporter who became the paper's editor and now serves as dean of the Stony Brook University School of Journalism. Schneider recalled being assigned a criminal justice project with Hershey. "I remember being awed and overwhelmed by Ed's ability to speak at great length and synthesize what we were working on. Ed was always expansive."

Though at some point he moved to public relations – "switching sides," as reporters say when an editorial staffer abandons the city room for a publicity job – Hershey's heart clearly remains in the newsroom. At the Long Island bookstore event attended by many old newsroom colleagues, Hershey took stock of the challenges facing media in a time of "fake news," "alternative facts" and a White House that calls the press an "opposition party."

Reporters, Hershey said, are vital to democracy – "scorekeepers" of a sort who keep tabs on the powerful. More than ever, Hershey said, "we need them." ■

Signed copies of, "The Scorekeeper: Reflecting on Big Games and Big Stories, Brooklyn Roots and Jewish-American Culture, the Craft of Reporting and Art of the Spin," can be ordered at <http://www.joymediaonline.com/products/the-scorekeeper> or at [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Robert Lacey Retiring as Secretary-Treasurer on Aug. 1

Robert Lacey, who rose from the ranks of a small Indiana local to become the first GCC/IBT officer to serve in the combined role of secretary-treasurer and vice president and whose skills as a money manager helped guide the union back to financial strength after a period of difficulty, will retire as of Aug. 1, two days after turning 65.

Known widely as a resourceful contract negotiator, devoted advocate for individual union members and outspoken defender of the labor movement, Lacey said it was “scary” leaving union work after four decades but that he wanted to “spend time with friends and family.”

Lacey will return to his home in Evansville, Indiana, where he intends to pursue a long-time hobby in antique collecting while remaining active with local labor organizations. “I enjoy this work,” he said. “It’s in my blood.”

GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi said Lacey’s contributions have been invaluable. “I want to thank Bob for his great service,” Tedeschi said. “No one has done more to keep our union a viable and responsive labor organization. I will miss him enormously.”

Lacey’s union involvement began in his early 20s.

After earning a two-year degree in graphic arts at



Secretary-Treasurer/Vice President Robert Lacey

Bob Lacey accomplished his goals by ‘being intelligent, always putting the best interests of the organization first, and working his tail off.’

– Peter Leff, GCC/IBT attorney

Vincennes University, Indiana, Lacey went to work at Keller Crescent commercial printer as a computer typographer and joined the Graphic Communications International Union Local 571-M, Evansville, in 1974. He was elected secretary-treasurer in 1983 and president in 1985. Members re-elected Lacey six times.

While at 571-M, Lacey served as president of the Evansville Allied Printing Trades Council, secretary-treasurer of the Evansville Labor Temple, secretary of the Central Labor Council of Southwestern Indiana, in addition to participating in a number of volunteer and community activities.

In 2004, Lacey was elected GCIU vice president. He was named acting secretary-treasurer in 2005 – the union merged that year with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and became the GCC/IBT – and began work as secretary treasurer/vice president in 2006.

Tedeschi hailed Lacey for “turning GCC finances around over the last several years, eliminating deficit spending and keeping us in the black.”

GCC/IBT attorney Peter Leff said Lacey consistently met the most difficult challenges of the secretary-treasurer/vice president’s office – maintaining financial stability, making certain the union and its locals met regulatory and legal standards and performing effectively as a negotiator.

Lacey accomplished his goals by “being intelligent, always putting the best interests of the organization first, and working his tail off,” Leff said. The attorney noted that Lacey had negotiated “innumerable” contracts with RR Donnelley, a top employer of GCC/IBT workers, and had a keen interest in pension and benefit issues. “It’s quite a success story.”

Looking ahead, Lacey offered a word of advice.

He said the union would prevail if it focused on building its membership base. “The GCC/IBT will be alive and well into the future – but only by organizing.” ■

Hoffa: ‘We’ll Support Trump When He’s Right’

The Teamsters did not endorse Donald Trump in the fall election but two of his early moves drew praise from IBT General President James Hoffa who said the union would continue to back Trump when “he’s out there creating good union jobs.”

Trump withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and signed executive orders aimed at restarting the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines widely scorned by environmentalists.

By blocking the TPP, Trump “has taken the first step toward fixing 30 years of bad trade policies that have cost working Americans millions of good-paying jobs,” said Hoffa in a statement. Earlier this year, Hoffa said in a television interview that the Trans-Pacific deal – which faced almost certain defeat in Congress – amounted to “NAFTA on steroids.”

Like many labor leaders, Hoffa has been a longtime critic of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and, in his official statement, said he hoped Trump would review the pact signed in 1992 by Canada, Mexico and the United States. Speaking to Fox Business host Maria Bartiromo, Hoffa claimed NAFTA resulted in the loss of more than a million American jobs to Mexico and urged Trump to renegotiate terms.

“We’ve seen what happens when we have these agreements,” Hoffa said. “We applaud the president when he basically says we’re getting out of TPP – that was a big victory for us – and if he’ll renegotiate NAFTA, we support him on that. Where the President, we think, is right, we will support him.”

In a related matter, Hoffa applauded a resolution introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon) calling for renegotiation of NAFTA and demanding that any revised agreement include enforceable labor standards, environmental safeguards and protections against currency manipulation, among other essential improvements.

Hoffa said the DeFazio proposal provides a “roadmap” for Trump administration officials “if they truly want to fix this broken trade agreement.”

Trump’s moves to re-start the stalled Keystone and Dakota Access drew praise, as well, from Hoffa and a number of building trades union officials. “Thousands of union jobs will be created,” the IBT leader said on Fox.

Decent employment is essential if the middle class is to be sustained, Hoffa said in his official statement. “The Teamsters union prioritizes the creation of good jobs through much-needed infrastructure development,” Hoffa said.

Keystone, designed to run from Alberta, Canada, to Nebraska where it would meet an existing pipeline, drew vigorous opposition from climate activists who said “dirty” Canadian tar sands oil posed a dire environmental hazard.

Dakota Access, intended to run from North Dakota to Illinois, was opposed by Native Americans and their supporters who claimed the project endangered local water supplies and threatened sacred tribal sites.

Work on both projects had been halted by the Obama administration.

Trump’s actions on trade and major construction projects underlined the potentially awkward relationship between labor and the White House.



In a bid to spur job growth, President Donald Trump defied environmentalists and signed orders aimed at restarting the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines.

Unions are intent on boosting good-paying jobs for members but, in Trump, must deal with an unpredictable leader who prides himself on “the art of the deal,” and who, as a Republican, is obligated to support anti-labor allies in the GOP-controlled House and Senate.

Adding to a difficult situation is the split between union leadership and many in the rank-and-file.

Most large unions and their policy making agencies, including the Teamsters General Executive Board and GCC/IBT General Board, endorsed Democrat Hillary Clinton in the November presidential contest. After the election, however, it became clear that many union members – 37 percent, according to one poll – disregarded their leaders and voted for Trump.

“This is a challenge for us,” said GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi. “As labor leaders we are committed to representing our members in the strongest way possible – and to offer what we think is good advice. In November, many union members were drawn to Trump. We all hope he delivers.”

But make no mistake, said Tedeschi, President Trump is an unusual leader, who, as a developer and business executive, had a number of showdowns with labor.

“We really don’t know what to expect from him when it comes to vital labor concerns like right-to-work legislation, safety issues, minimum wage and respect for the collective bargaining process,” said Tedeschi. “What we must do now is hope for the best but stay on our toes. Who knows what’s ahead?”

Hoffa also made clear in the Fox interview that the IBT would assess the new President’s policies on a case-by-case basis.

“We can’t support him on everything,” Hoffa said. ■



This Isn't Fake News: Democracy Depends On Strong, Free Press

Pop quiz!

Name the five freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment – and no Googling.

Religion, good. Speech, yup. Assembly, you're getting there. Petition, nice work.

And – drum roll, please – freedom of the press.

Not a bad idea to remind ourselves of this precious gift bestowed by the Founding Fathers in Philadelphia on Dec. 15, 1791.

Early Americans knew press freedom was essential to the young democracy they had launched – that, in fact, there could be no democracy without it.

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter," said Thomas Jefferson.

What a difference a couple centuries make.

Instead of hailing the press as indispensable, the new White House administration goes out of its way to belittle and undercut the news media.

Stories that displease President Donald Trump are dismissed as "fake news" brought to the public by "failing" newspapers, magazines and television outlets. Incredibly, Trump calls the press the "enemy of the people."

Kellyanne Conway, Trump's counselor, insists the President is entitled to "alternative facts" that more suit his personal outlook. So often has Conway's information proven unreliable that some television shows no longer book her as a White House mouthpiece.

Worse is Stephen Bannon, the President's incendiary political strategist, who came into government straight from Breitbart News, a leading voice of the "alt-right" conservative movement that has been linked with extreme causes and conspiracy theories. The media, Bannon said, should "keep its mouth shut and just listen for a while."

And how about press secretary Sean Spicer who blocked a number of major media outlets – the New York Times and CNN, included – from a briefing after reports Trump felt unflattering?

If Jefferson were around, Conway, Bannon, Spicer – and Trump, himself – might have found themselves sent to a corner with copies of the Constitution and told not to come out until they learned what a free society is all about.

This is dangerous stuff, make no mistake – and close to home for the GCC/IBT.

Many of our members proudly serve the newspaper industry. We print and deliver some of the nation's finest dailies – the New York Times, Boston Globe and Newsday, to mention only a few. Without us, the printed paper – still the gold standard of news – would never reach its audience. Often, our people get to know folks on the editorial side. We know how hard they work. And they know we do, too.

So the next time somebody in the White House tells the press to sit down and shut up, take it personally. They are trying to damage a noble enterprise that employs thousands of union members – in front shop and back – and undermine a Constitutional safeguard. Those who try to sabotage a free press are the reason we need one. ■



Point of View BY SAM PIZZIGATI

While Workers Risk Life and Limb, Wall Street Execs Score Big Bucks

Why do top Wall Street execs deserve to be making \$25 billion in bonuses a year?

Wall Streeters actually have a ready response for impertinent questions like this: We deserve the big bucks, they'll tell you, because we take risks.

Truth be told, risk-takers do abound in the canyons of Manhattan. But to see them, you have to lift your line of sight off street level – and beyond the corner offices of Wall Street's high-finance movers and shakers.

You have to look skyward, up into the "high steel" world of construction workers continually adding new towers to the city's skyline.

These workers risk life and limb every day – and don't get anywhere near the reward that those "risk-taking" power suits are grabbing.

How risky has construction work in New York become? Over the past two years, 31 construction workers in the city have died. Between 2011 and 2015, the city's Department of Buildings reports, instances of on-the-job construction injuries climbed 250 percent.

But New York hardly counts as an isolated example. In 2014, the latest year with full stats, 899 construction workers nationwide died from fatal work injuries, a 9 percent increase over the year before.

Why so much carnage in construction? Some of the same factors that make Wall Streeters fabulously rich are making construction work tragically unsafe.

Start with the steady erosion of America's unions.

Fewer construction workers today carry union cards, and this declining union presence has severe consequences for safety. Construction unions have traditionally run well-regarded safety training programs, and they give individual workers the clout they need to challenge hazardous working conditions.

Without unions, workers in construction regularly find themselves both inadequately

trained and forced to labor in situations that could – and do – kill them. Of the 31 New York construction workers who've perished on the job over the last two years, 29 have died working on nonunion job sites.

Unfortunately, even union sites have become more dangerous, as huge national construction companies have come to dominate what used to be a small-business sector.

In years past, local unions could bargain with modest-sized construction contractors and not feel overmatched. Not anymore. Unions know that if they challenge today's construction giants too strenuously on safety, construction work will flow even faster to nonunion operations.

And what about OSHA, the federal agency that's supposed to protect the job safety of America's working people?

Anti-government and anti-regulation hysteria has left OSHA woefully understaffed. Chronic budget squeezes have trimmed the ranks of OSHA job-site inspectors down to about 2,200 – or approximately one compliance officer for every 59,000 American workers.

What could turn this situation around? We need stronger safety regulations, for starters, and a stronger OSHA to enforce them. We need public policies that give all workers a shot at gaining effective union representation.

We need, in other words, everything that the new Trump administration isn't planning to deliver. President Trump has already put the kibosh on any new hires at OSHA and announced plans to cut existing federal regulations – on workplace safety and everything else – by 75 percent.

More carnage is coming – unless we start making attacks on job safety politically unsafe. ■

Veteran labor writer Sam Pizzigati is an associate fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies and co-edits, Inequality.org, an online newsletter examining wealth and class.

Friend of the ‘Little Guy?’



Bad News: It looks like President Trump is keeping some of his campaign promises, which bodes ill for consumers.

First, he is going after President Obama’s fiduciary rule which says financial advisors have to put the interests of clients ahead of their own.

Proposed by the Treasury Department, the rule took six years to get right and was to take effect in April but probably is doomed.

That means all the little guys Trump said he was supporting could get socked \$16 billion a year in added, often hidden, fees – especially on their retirement accounts.

Next: Trump is going after Richard Cordray, head of the independent Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which has already saved \$12 billion for victims of mortgage and other fraud.

This gets a little more complicated.

While the President can fire Cordray before his five-year term ends in 2018, the ouster can only be for inefficiency, neglect of duty and malfeasance.

Cordray is guilty of none. So Republicans sued in federal court, claiming that the rules unreasonably restrict the President’s powers. The court split and the case will be heard in May by a 10-member appeals court.

Now we get to the big stuff: Trump’s plan to deport all undocumented people – everyone, it appears, except young people brought here as kids and known as “Dreamers.”

The economic dislocation such a crackdown will

cause is unknown, but there already are signs of trouble.

The National Association of Realtors said home sales jumped 3.3 percent in January but warned that supplies of housing stock are dwindling because of a worker shortage. Mass deportations of undocumented people could leave the building trades short of laborers by 200,000, according to a Realtors analysis.

That shortage might also be a problem for Trump as he tries to build his great wall on the Mexican border – estimated pricetag \$20-30 billion. Does he suppose Mexico will both pay for the wall and build it with workers shoved out of the United States? Sure.

What else?

Trump vowed to “drain the Washington swamp” of lobbyists and Wall Street types. He did. They went down the drain and into his cabinet. Friend of the little guy? As we should have known, the President’s biggest buddies are billionaires.

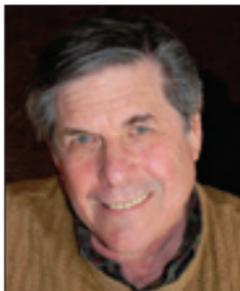
And finally, Trump said he would repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act – Obamacare. Turns out to be a little more difficult than expected because the 20 million people on the plan are fighting like hell to keep it.

Trump is acting on campaign promises, no question. Is that going to Make America Great “Again?” Doesn’t look like it to me. ■

Guest Spot

BY EDWARD HERSHEY

No Muzzles on the Press



Writing a memoir reinforced something I have long believed: the two proudest accomplishments of my life were completing basic training in the summer heat of Georgia and initiating the drive that led to union representation for 400 editorial employees at Newsday.

They were also two of the most surprising.

I showed up at Fort Gordon as a flabby 25-year-old, lost 50 pounds in seven weeks and ran a 7:35 mile on what turned out to be a broken ankle. And, as I explain in detail in my new book, “The Scorekeeper,” I was about as unlikely a union organizer as you could find back in 1973. I’d even voted against another union two years before.

As my friend and colleague Bob Wyrick put it during an organizing meeting that year, I called Local 406-C President George Tedeschi to ask about union representation after an editor told me to write what I considered a distortion in a story – a breach of ethics that would put any reporter in a bind.

I felt powerless to do otherwise and followed orders. Angry and ashamed, I made a call that would change the arc of my career and impact the fortunes of thousands of Newsday employees these past 43 years.

And just to be sure I understood what I was risking, after our drive became public the boss whose orders led me to make that call summoned me to his office and pretty much made clear that unless I backed off, I was headed nowhere at Newsday.

My real undoing, though, was the outcome of the union drive. We won!

After a 30-month struggle that included a contested election, a favorable NLRB rule and six months of negotiation, we had a first contract.

And while news executives made a point of saying how fairly they treated employees who sought a union — the publisher toasted organizers after the prior, unsuccessful campaign — that benevolence extended only so far. “Start a union,” as I put it in the book, “and you are not exactly a favored staffer.”

My job was secure – protections in the Wagner Act took care of that – but over the next four years my journalistic star, which had been on the rise, plummeted like a meteorite and I eventually left the paper.

Yet, that, too, worked out well enough because it led to a series of rewarding positions in government, higher education and, yes, organized labor. My final position was communications director of SEIU Local 503, Oregon’s largest union. Once a proud young organizer at Newsday, I had come full circle. ■

Edward Hershey, former Newsday reporter and editorial unit leader at Local 406-C, is author of a new memoir, “The Scorekeeper.”

All the Best

Print

Republic of Spin: An Inside History of the American Presidency

David Greenberg

When Donald Trump’s close advisor, Kellyanne Conway, said on “Meet the Press” that the White House intended to rely on “alternative facts,” host Chuck Todd could not contain his dismay. “Look,” Todd said, “‘alternative facts’ are not facts. They’re falsehoods...” Todd was correct, of course, but Conway, a consummate political operative, was merely observing a long tradition of high-level efforts at political obfuscation. In his timely book, historian David Greenberg notes that the White House spin machine has been humming since at least the days of Teddy Roosevelt and continued through the Obama Administration. Do Donald Trump and his surrogates take contrivance and misdirection to unprecedented levels? A headline in the New York Times following a number of unverified claims by Trump and his staff suggested a barrier likely has been broken. Said the Times: “In a Swirl of ‘Untruths’ and ‘Falsehoods,’ Calling a Lie a Lie.” W.W. Norton & Company, \$23.31, Amazon.com



Music

Day Breaks

Norah Jones

This is the Norah Jones we remember from her breakthrough 2002 album, “Come Away With Me.” Since that debut smash, Jones has done admirable work but with “Day Breaks” she recaptures the moody, folk-jazzy, piano-centered sound that gained her an instant audience and widespread acclaim. Jones sings nine new tunes and three covers including Neil Young’s melancholy “Don’t be Denied,” and sultry *Fleurette Africaine* (*African Flower*) by Duke Ellington. Jones has rediscovered her roots and her fans are sure to rediscover Jones. Blue Note, \$9.99, Amazon.com



Video

Loving

Jeff Nichols, director

Hard to imagine, but interracial marriage once was illegal in certain states. Virginia was one and this well-crafted film recalls the struggle of a white man, Richard Loving (played by Joel Edgerton), and his black fiancé, Mildred Jeter (Ruth Negga), to buck a bigoted system. The couple married in Washington, D.C. in 1958 and returned to Virginia where they were sentenced to a year in jail. The sentence was suspended on condition the Lovings left town. They moved but successfully challenged the Virginia law in Supreme Court. The Lovings triumphed – and love, too.

Universal Studios, \$17.96, Amazon.com



Internet

Labor Network for Sustainability

labor4sustainability.org

Climate change is real – don’t let any politician tell you differently. And as responsible members of the community, union members, and their leaders, can help preserve the planet by demanding elected leaders act responsibly and doing the same, themselves. On its website, the group Labor Network for Sustainability provides information regarding “climate, jobs and justice” – and urges organized labor to continue its laudable role as an agent of social change that puts unionists at the forefront of every important social movement from workplace safety to civil rights.





Toby Moore, Old House Branch Mine, Eastern Coal Company, Pike County, Kentucky, 1970



Martin Luther King Memorial March for Union Justice and to End Racism, Memphis, 1968

The Photographs of Builder Levy:

By Fred Bruning
Graphic Communicator

Builder Levy is living up to his name.

Levy's reform-minded parents, Harold, an architect, and Vivian, a public school teacher, hoped their son would devote himself to improving society.

"They wanted me to be a 'builder' of a new world," said Levy, whose vivid black-and-white photographs of Appalachian coal miners, civil rights activists, union members and the extended human family have gained wide praise and reflect the high ideals of his mother and father.

Levy recalled that his father once organized architectural and drafting workers – he got fired for unionizing, joined another firm, and declined to return to his old post when the contrite owner invited him back – and an aunt, Dolores Perlstein, quit a job in Florida as a young woman upon discovering her boss had

been involved in a notorious, and fatal, 1930s Ku Klux Klan attack on labor organizer Joseph Shoemaker.

"I was raised to understand the importance of unions," said Levy. Early inspiration came from listening to his parents' recordings of the labor anthem, "Which Side Are You On?" sung by Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger. "It had strong emotional resonance with me," Levy said.

In the faces of men emerging from a mine shaft, or union marchers in Memphis after the assassination of Martin Luther King, or schoolchildren in Cuba, or the indigenous people of Mongolia, Levy's determination to portray the universality of all people – and, at the same time, their unique "particularities" – is evident.

Levy had considered becoming an abstract expressionist painter but decided photography would allow him to "immerse" himself in diverse cultures and be "more directly socially involved" with the equal rights and working class issues he viewed as essential.

"I want to show real life – the way people live and struggle," said Levy, who has published



Brenda Ward, U.S. Steel No. 50 Mine, Pinnacle, Wyoming County, West Virginia, 1982



Young men in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Builder Levy met the group while teaching at a nearby public school, 1978.



Union Justice, I Am A Man, Martin Luther King Memorial March, Memphis, Tennessee, 1968



Lucius Thompson with Destiny Clark and Delena Brooks, Letcher County, Kentucky, 2002

Struggle, Beauty, Compassion

three books of photography and has another in the works. “I want to show what’s out there and what could be and what we need to do to change the world.”

Levy, 74, who began taking photographs as a teenager, earned an art degree from Brooklyn College and master’s degree in education from New York University. He worked for 35 years in New York City public schools – Levy was a member of the United Federation of Teachers – where he taught at-risk adolescent and teenage students. In summers and off-hours, he concentrated on taking pictures and making a “small contribution” to social justice.

“Photography made me realize I could do something special – I could participate as an artist and be more than just an observer,” he said. “I felt I could do something to make a change.”

Levy’s work has earned high praise. Among many awards, he received fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts and the Alicia Patterson Foundation. His photographs are in 80 collections. He has been the

principal in at least 50 one-person shows and his photos have appeared in more than 200 museums and galleries around the world. A picture Levy took at the 1968 funeral of Martin Luther King is shown in, “I Am Not Your Negro,” the acclaimed, new documentary film on writer James Baldwin.

There is unmistakable power to Levy’s photos, said Arnika Dawkins, an Atlanta gallery owner who represents Levy. “I ran across Builder’s work and was just stopped in my tracks,” she said. “There is so much beautiful compassion and attention to humanity. He leaves no detail unnoticed.”

Now retired from the school system, Levy lives in New York with his wife, Alice. His next book will be a collection of photos shot in the city emphasizing the “resilience of its communities and working class people who struggle for a better world and better life.” ■

Builder Levy’s books, “Builder Levy Photographer,” “Appalachia USA” and “Images of Appalachian Coalfields,” are available at Amazon.com.



Martin Luther King Memorial March for Union Justice and to End Racism, Memphis, 1968



End of Shift at Wolf Creek Colliery in the town of Lovely, Martin County, Kentucky, 1971

Union Membership at Record Low: Organize!

At every GCC/IBT conference, leaders warn that organizing is the key to survival.

Latest figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics tell why.

Union membership is at its lowest level since the government began keeping records in 1983.

Membership rate was 10.7 percent in 2016, down 0.4 percentage point from 2015 and the number of workers belonging to unions was 14.6 million, a loss of 240,000, the BLS reported. When the Labor Department began taking count, union membership rate was 20.1 percent and 17.7 million workers were organized.

“These numbers bear out a trend that’s been underway for some years, and it puts into starker relief the urgency of the moment for labor, now that the Trump administration is in power,” Joseph McCartin, director of the Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University, told the online Washington, D.C. publication, The Hill.

Dwindling numbers in the ranks of organized labor come despite the clear advantage union workers enjoy over non-union counterparts.

According to the BLS, median weekly earnings for union members was \$1,004



IBT PHOTO

last year and \$802 for employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement. “We always outperform the non-union sector but people have been persuaded to act, and vote, against their own best interests,” said GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi. “It’s sad, but true.”

From the BLS report:

- Public-sector workers had a union membership rate (34.4 percent) more than five times higher than that of private-sector workers (6.4 percent).

- Workers in education, training, and library occupations and in protective service occupations had the highest unionization rates (34.6 percent and 34.5 percent, respectively).

- Men continued to have a slightly higher union membership rate (11.2 percent) than women (10.2 percent) and black workers were more likely to be union members than white, Asian, or Hispanic.

- New York continued to have the highest union membership rate (23.6 percent). South Carolina had the lowest (1.6 percent).

The decline in membership is a profound worry for union leaders. “It’s why we keep hammering away on the need to build strength at the local level,” said Tedeschi. “We’re in a fight for our lives.”

Trump’s Foreign Intrigue

America First – or not?

During his election campaign, Donald Trump denounced globalization and preached a gospel of economic nationalism.

The newly sworn-in President Trump sounded a call for protectionism in his Jan. 20 inauguration speech. “We must protect our borders from the ravages of other countries making our products, stealing our companies and destroying our jobs,” he said.

But Trump’s own business dealings raise questions, according to an investigation by the New York Times.

The newspaper reported that before and after the election, Trump’s namesake organization aggressively pursued business deals around the world.

Trump’s operation filed “dozens of new trademarks, in China, Canada, Mexico, the European Union and Indonesia, and one of his companies applied for trademark protection in the Philippines more than a month after the election,” the Times reported.

The Times found that 400 foreign trademarks were registered to Trump companies in 28 countries since 2000, among them New Zealand, Egypt and Russia. The President’s organization “has been filing trademarks for decades” and claims to have obtained trademarks in 80 countries, the Times reported.

“Trump seems to be the archetypal businessman with mercantilist instincts,” Dani Rodrik, of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, told the Times. “Open your market for me to do business in it, but you can have access to mine only on my terms.”

JOBS GONE? BLAME GREED, NOT ROBOTS

Robots aren’t the enemy.

The idea that technology and innovation are robbing Americans of jobs – a notion often heard when employment issues are debated – doesn’t identify the real problem, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Automation is a factor in the modern workplace – no question about that – but EPI researchers Lawrence Mishel and Heidi Shierholz say the impact has been overstated. In fact, they say, innovation can lead to more jobs.

“Robots and automation allow us to increase efficiency by making more things for less money,” the researchers said. Cheaper products leave consumers extra money, Mishel and Shierholz added. Spent on goods and services, those dollars boost employment and “help compensate for the jobs lost to automation.”

In an editorial headlined, “No, Robots Aren’t Killing the American Dream,” the New York Times made a similar point. “Blaming robots” is a “distraction from real problems and real solutions,” the Times said.

And what are those real solutions?

“...we should focus on policy choices that lead to things that truly threaten workers and their families like eroding labor standards, declining unionization, elevated unemployment, unbalanced globalization, and declining top tax rates,” said the EPI researchers.

EPI says modern machinery is not swiping our jobs. The prime suspects are a familiar pair – clueless politicians and corporate greed.



‘Tone-Deaf’ Bid to Kill Davis-Bacon

Despite wage stagnation and a widening gap between the ultra-rich and working-class Americans, Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Arizona) has introduced a bill that union leaders say would make matters worse.

Flake wants to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act guaranteeing workers on federally funded jobs a “prevailing wage” that at least matches local pay. The Arizona legislator claims elimination of Davis-Bacon “would make federal transportation and infrastructure dollars go further.”

GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi and Teamster General President James Hoffa joined other labor officials in denouncing the initiative. “After years of pressure on American workers, a move like this makes no sense – unless you’re one of the privileged 1 percent,” said Tedeschi.

Equally emphatic, Hoffa said Flake’s misguided “crusade” betrays “ignorance of the current plight of working Americans.” He added: “Perhaps Sen. Flake would be better served by listening to his constituents and not the lobbyists for big business.”

Davis-Bacon, signed into law by President Herbert Hoover in 1931, is credited with assuring workers fair compensation and freedom from wage exploitation wherever they work on federal projects.

Flake’s attempt to kill the law is a “politically tone-deaf maneuver,” said a statement from North American Building Trades Unions.

Tedeschi agreed.

“The senator is calling for a pay cut when we need exactly the opposite,” said the GCC/IBT leader. “Infrastructure spending that Republicans blocked under President Obama might actually begin now that they control the White House and Congress. Workers on federal projects need pay protection -- not a pay cut.”

MONUMENT HONORS UNION VETS

In the middle of the 982-acre Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois, along a circular memorial walkway and beneath a high-flying American flag, a new monument honors veterans who were members of GCC/IBT Local 458-M, Chicago.

It is the first monument in a national cemetery that strictly recognizes veterans who belonged to a union.

The monument was recently dedicated to Local 458-M members who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. An inscription says the memorial was placed in “Honor of veterans of the union printing trades, GCC/IBT Local 458-M and District Council 4.”

Retired member Joe Gremal, a bugler at the cemetery, spearheaded the monument effort with members Jack Doyle, Art Schmidt, Ray Urchell and Dennis Anderson. The group also belongs to the Carl Lindberry American Legion Post 1009, where Gremal is post commander.

“Freedom rings here because of all of the sacrifices these veterans have made,” said Gremal, a union member since 1970 who served three terms on the executive board.

“I fly a flag in front of my house ever day and I have a union placard on my lawn,” Gremal said. “I’m proud of all of this. And that’s why we put the monument there. We are somebody. And now we are recognized in a national cemetery.”

The cemetery, which is twice as large as the Arlington National Cemetery, is 50 miles southwest of Chicago in Elwood.

Paul Mancillas, president of Local 458-M, Chicago, said: “This is a great honor to have our members recognized for their service to our country. We are very proud of our veterans and the efforts by our members to make this happen.”



Jack Doyle, Art Schmidt, Ray Urchell, (left-right), retired members of Local 458-M, Chicago, honor union veterans on visit to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, Illinois.

PHOTO BY JOE GREMAL

CHICAGO LOCAL WINS AT SG360°

GCC/IBT Local 458-M expanded its membership at a commercial print shop in Wheeling, Illinois, when it won a recent election in the company’s shipping and receiving department.

The local already represented 130 members in the print shop at SG360°, a direct mail marketing firm, and increased that number by 12 when it slammed the February election.

“This was really a result of internal organizing with our existing members talking to the shipping and receiving people,” said Paul Mancillas, local president, who credited secretary-treasurer Mike Consolino for working behind the scenes with the members.

SOLIDARITY ‘MORE THAN EVER’

With unions increasingly under attack and an unpredictable White House administration crowded with anti-labor billionaires, it’s crucial to regroup and determine strategies of how to move forward in the current political climate, GCC/IBT officials say.

There will be opportunities to learn, offer mutual support and seek common purpose at three major GCC/IBT conferences scheduled for spring. “These meetings are of great value,” said GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi. “Delegates bring important information back to their locals. I urge a big turnout at each conference. We need solidarity more than ever.”

•Eastern Conference, Atlantic City, April 23-25, contact Harry Selnow, conference vice president, at 973-227-6801

•North American Newspaper Conference, Phoenix, June 5-7, contact NANC president Joe Inemer at 215-739-1704

•Midwest Conference, Cleveland, June 8-10, contact Steve Nobles, DC3 secretary-treasurer, at 586-755-8041



DC3: FOLLOW OUR LEAD

District Council 3 has been busy – and leaders urge other GCC/IBT units to match its effort.

DC3 recently offered a number of leadership training sessions and picked up 126 new members.

“If DC3 can do it, anyone can do it,” said Steve Nobles, secretary-treasurer of the district council based in Cincinnati.

Local 2/289M, Detroit, and DC3 recently won an election at the Ypsilanti Marriott Hotel, where they organized 40 banquet servers.

The district council also picked up an additional 86 members last year through voluntary recognition from small shops that wanted the union label.

“A lot of shops are just interested in the union label,” Nobles said. “Don’t look the other way – go after them. Any time we received a phone call, we returned it and that’s how we picked up the additional 86 new members.”

He also suggests venturing outside of the printing industry. The Marriott win was the council’s first in the service industry.

“I believe there are still viable targets within our industry,” Nobles said. “But we also need to be prepared to organize any group of workers that need our assistance.”

“We have trained our members to grab any and all leads and turn them over to the local leaders to follow up on whether they are in our industry or not.”

DC3 has also followed organizing training meetings with a higher-level, two-day session led by GCC/IBT representatives Nick Caruso and Phil Roberts. Topics included advanced grievance handling, bargaining tactics and organizing for contracts.

“I feel I have an obligation to my members to do anything we can to educate the next generation of labor leaders,” Nobles said.



IOWANS FIGHT FOR MINIMUM WAGE

Workers, labor advocates and community leaders in Iowa are demanding that state legislators drop threats to roll back minimum wage increases approved by elected officials at the county level.

Instead, activists said, lawmakers should adopt a statewide minimum wage that meets or exceeds the county-approved increases.

“If this bill is passed, it means that all the wages that were increased by the counties would then get rolled back,” said Mark Cooper, who served as president of GCC/IBT Local 727-S, Des Moines, for 18 years and is now president of the South Central Iowa Federation of Labor.

Cooper noted that recent action by the board of supervisors in Polk County raised wages from \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour. Des Moines, Iowa’s capital and largest city, is the Polk County seat.

Officials in three other of the state’s largest counties, Johnson, Linn and Wapello, authorized a wage hike after nearly a decade of state inaction on the issue. The local ordinances affected 60,000 Iowans.

Legislators in Iowa’s Republican controlled House and Senate want to pass a “pre-exemption” bill that would make it illegal for counties, cities or municipalities to set their own minimum wage.

“What people have to do when their employer pays less than a living wage is they then have to beg from public agencies to qualify for public assistance to get help with their rent, food, childcare and health insurance,” Cooper said. “It’s a really bad situation.”



Local Stops wants to hear from you. If your GCC/IBT local has been involved in organizing efforts, community outreach or volunteer work, e-mail a brief summary to dawnhobbs@cox.net.

Les travailleurs syndiqués livrent « le combat de leur vie »

Par Zachary Dowdy
Collaboration spéciale au Communicator

Aux États-Unis, les travailleurs syndiqués se préparent à ce que les dirigeants syndicaux et les politiciens pro-travailleurs appellent une attaque coordonnée sur plusieurs fronts des forces antisyndicales du Capitole, qui redoublent d'ardeur, et les dirigeants de la CCG-FIT préviennent que « nous pourrions bien livrer le combat de notre vie ».

Selon les dirigeants, les liens entre les décideurs républicains et les fortunes du monde des affaires qui les soutiennent sont plus forts que jamais, comme le prouve le nombre d'ultra-riches que le président Donald Trump a choisis pour faire partie de son Cabinet.

« D'une façon générale, je ne sais pas comment un travailleur peut croire qu'une bande de milliardaires prend nos intérêts à coeur, a déclaré Michael Stafford, président de la section locale 503M de la CCG-FIT à Rochester, N.Y., qui compte 400 membres. Comment peuvent-ils savoir ce que je traverse? Leurs intérêts n'ont rien à voir avec les miens et je ne connais personne qui puisse le croire. »

Les élus favorables à la cause des travailleurs ont exprimé les mêmes inquiétudes.

« Je m'attends à ce que les républicains commencent à éliminer la moindre politique pour assurer un bon milieu de travail que nous avons mise en place depuis 20 ans, a indiqué Marti Anderson, représentant démocrate de l'Iowa, à The Hill, une publication politique en ligne. Je ne serais pas étonné que les unités de négociation soient décimées. »

L'insistance des républicains à faire passer

une loi nationale sur le droit au travail est particulièrement alarmante.

Steve King, représentant de New York, et Joe Wilson, représentant de la Caroline du Sud, ont présenté un projet de loi qui imposerait les dispositions sur le droit au travail dans les 50 États. Vingt-huit l'ont déjà adopté et si une loi nationale est votée, beaucoup craignent que le mouvement syndical ne soit sérieusement affaibli – voire condamné.

Le président de la CCG-FIT George Tedeschi reconnaît que la menace est sérieuse. Selon lui, les travailleurs doivent s'opposer à la campagne sur le droit au travail en faisant preuve d'autant d'énergie et de détermination que les forces antisyndicales.

« Nous savons tous que le 'droit au travail' signifie en fait le 'droit de travailler pour moins', a précisé le dirigeant de la CCG-FIT. Il s'agit ni plus ni moins d'une attaque contre les fondements mêmes du mouvement syndical. Nous ne devons pas relâcher notre opposition. Maintenant que le Congrès et la Maison-Blanche sont contrôlés par les républicains, nous pourrions bien devoir livrer le combat de notre vie. »

James Hoffa, le président général des Teamsters, s'est toujours opposé aux initiatives en faveur du droit au travail.

« Le droit au travail ne comporte pas d'avantages économiques vérifiables, sauf pour les entreprises, a récemment affirmé Hoffa dans un article visant à souligner l'instauration en février de la loi sur le droit au travail. Chose certaine, une fois que les lois sur le droit au travail seront adoptées des baisses de salaires et une réduction des droits des travailleurs vont suivre inévitablement. »

Le droit au travail n'est qu'une des mesures que les républicains et le président Trump envisagent de prendre contre les travailleurs syndiqués et les Américains de la classe moyenne. En voici d'autres :

- Mise au rancart probable d'une mesure de « responsabilité fiduciaire » visant à faire en sorte que certains conseillers financiers voient aux meilleurs intérêts de leurs clients.

- Attaques constantes contre les négociations collectives au niveau de l'État, à l'instar de la campagne menée par le gouverneur Scott Walker au Wisconsin.

- Décret de Trump imposant un gel des hausses salariales et de l'embauche chez les fonctionnaires fédéraux dont beaucoup travaillent ailleurs qu'à Washington, D.C., là où les économies locales risquent de pâtir.

- Autre décret de la Maison-Blanche supprimant une réduction du taux des prêts hypothécaires garantis par la Federal Housing Administration.

- Opposition aux augmentations du salaire minimum et aux garanties sur le « salaire existant » fournies par la loi Davis-Bacon.

- Engagement à « abroger et remplacer » la loi sur les soins abordables – l'« Obamacare » – sans véritable plan de rechange.

Selon les analystes et les dirigeants syndicaux, il y a quelques lueurs d'espoir.

Andrew Puzder, PDG d'une chaîne d'alimentation rapide, à qui Trump avait initialement proposé de devenir secrétaire d'État au Travail, a renoncé au poste en raison de questions persistantes sur sa candidature. La Maison-Blanche a ensuite nommé R. Alexander Acosta, doyen du Florida International University College of Law et ancien membre du Conseil national

des relations du travail, qui est considéré comme nettement plus modéré que Puzder.

Les nouvelles sont bonnes aussi au New Hampshire où une proposition sur le droit au travail a été rejetée. Et beaucoup de leaders syndicaux – dont Hoffa – ont salué Trump lorsqu'il a autorisé la relance des projets d'oléoducs Keystone XL et Dakota Access, qui ont été bloqués après s'être heurtés à la résistance des activistes environnementaux, car ils estiment que cela va créer des milliers d'emplois.

Les dirigeants syndicaux se sont aussi réjouis lorsque Trump a émis un décret signant la mort de l'accord de partenariat transpacifique qui menaçait, selon les travailleurs, les emplois aux États-Unis.

Mais il ne fait aucun doute que le Congrès républicain et la Maison-Blanche dirigée par Trump menacent sérieusement l'avenir des travailleurs syndiqués, estiment les dirigeants.

Selon Paul Mancillas, président du conseil de district no 4, qui comprend les sections locales 458-M et 568-M de l'Illinois, les leaders syndicaux doivent utiliser les stratégies qui ont fonctionné par le passé pour renouveler les forces syndicales et exhorter les membres à dépasser la rhétorique politique.

« Nous devons pratiquement revenir au point où se trouvait le mouvement syndical dans les années 30 et 40, et informer les gens sur leurs droits. Je vous demande de sortir et de faire vos devoirs pour voir qui va protéger nos salaires et nos avantages sociaux. »

Zachary Dowdy est journaliste à *Newsday* et vice-président de l'unité de rédaction de la section locale 406-C à Long Island.

Los sindicatos se preparan para la 'mayor batalla de nuestra vida'

Por Zachary Dowdy
Especial para *The Communicator*

El movimiento laboral de los Estados Unidos se está preparando para resistir lo que los líderes sindicales y los políticos que toman partido por los trabajadores dicen que es un ataque coordinado, con múltiples frentes, por fuerzas antisindicales envalentonadas en el Capitolio, y los dirigentes de GCC/IBT advierten que « ésta puede ser la mayor batalla de nuestra vida ».

Los líderes dicen que los vínculos entre los legisladores republicanos y los empresarios millonarios que los respaldan son más fuertes que nunca, según puede verse por número de miembros extremadamente ricos que conforman el gabinete seleccionado por el presidente Donald Trump.

En general, no sé cómo puede pensar cualquier trabajador que a un grupo de multimillonarios puedan importarles nuestros intereses», dijo Michael Stafford, presidente de la local 503M de GCC/IBT, en Rochester, N.Y., que cuenta con 400 miembros. «Cómo pueden saber lo que estamos pasando nosotros? Sus intereses no son los nuestros y no sé cómo puede alguien pensar que lo son».

La misma preocupación expresan los funcionarios prosindicales que ocupan cargos en el gobierno.

«Pienso que los republicanos van a estar socavando poco a poco todos los logros que hemos ido consiguiendo en el lugar de trabajo durante los últimos 20 años», declaró la representante demócrata Marti Anderson, de Iowa, en la publicación política en línea The Hill. «Lo probable es que nuestras unidades de negociación se vean diezmaradas.»

Es especialmente alarmante que los republicanos estén impulsando una ley

nacional sobre el derecho al trabajo.

Los representantes Steve King, de Nueva York, y Joe Wilson, de Carolina del Sur, han propuesto legislación que impondría el derecho al trabajo en los 50 estados. Veintiocho de ellos han aprobado ya legislación para imponer el derecho al trabajo, y si se aprobara una ley nacional muchos temen que el movimiento sindical quedaría seriamente debilitado, quizás mortalmente.

El presidente de GCC/IBT, George Tedeschi, confirmó que la amenaza era muy grave. Los sindicatos deben luchar contra la campaña nacional por el derecho al trabajo con la misma energía y determinación que demuestran las fuerzas antilaboristas, dijo Tedeschi.

«Todos sabemos que el 'derecho al trabajo' realmente significa 'derecho a trabajar por menos'», dijo el dirigente de GCC/IBT. «Se trata ni más ni menos que de un asalto a los cimientos mismos del movimiento sindical. Nuestra oposición debe ser implacable. Con el Congreso y la Casa Blanca en manos de los republicanos, en esta batalla podemos jugarlos nuestra supervivencia».

El presidente general de los Teamsters, James Hoffa, ha expresado en todo momento su oposición a las iniciativas a favor del derecho al trabajo.

«El derecho al trabajo no tiene beneficios económicos comprobables más que para las empresas», dijo Hoffa en un reciente artículo con ocasión de la promulgación en el mes de febrero de la legislación del derecho al trabajo. «Lo que sí es seguro es que con la aplicación de las leyes del derecho al trabajo bajarán los salarios y los trabajadores tendrán menos derechos laborales.»

El derecho al trabajo es solo una de las medidas de las que persiguen el Partido Republicano y el presidente Trump que socavarán la posición de los trabajadores

sindicalizados y de la clase media de los Estados Unidos. Entre otras de estas medidas se encuentran:

- El probable abandono de la medida que exigía «responsabilidad fiduciaria» a los asesores financieros para asegurarse de que servían los mejores intereses de sus clientes.

- Ataques constantes a la negociación colectiva a nivel estatal, siguiendo las mismas pautas establecidas en la campaña liderada por el gobernador de Wisconsin, Scott Walker.

- La orden ejecutiva de Trump que congela los aumentos de sueldo y la contratación de trabajadores federales, muchos de los cuales son empleados de comunidades distintas a Washington, D.C., cuyas economías locales podrían verse afectadas.

- Otra orden de la Casa Blanca por la que se suspende el recorte de la tasa de interés de préstamos hipotecarios garantizados por la Administración Federal de Vivienda.

- Oposición a aumentos en el salario mínimo y a las protecciones para el pago del «salario prevaleciente» bajo la ley de Davis-Bacon.

- Promesas de «derogar y reemplazar» la Ley del Cuidado de Salud Asequible («Obamacare») sin un plan practicable para su sustitución.

Los analistas y los líderes sindicales dicen que hay algunos rayos de esperanza.

El nominado inicial de Trump para el puesto de secretario del Trabajo, el empresario de comida rápida Andrew Puzder, retiró su candidatura ante el cuestionamiento persistente de su historial. La Casa Blanca nominó entonces a R. Alexander Acosta, decano de la escuela de derecho de la Florida International University y anterior miembro de la Junta Nacional de Relaciones Laborales, que está considerado como

mucho más moderado que Puzder.

También llegaron buenas noticias de New Hampshire, donde fue derrotada una propuesta de ley del derecho al trabajo. Y muchos líderes sindicales, incluido Hoffa, aplaudieron a Trump por reautorizar los oleoductos de Keystone XL y Dakota Access, que se encontraban paralizados por la resistencia de activistas medioambientales pero que según los líderes sindicales crearán miles de puestos de trabajo.

Los dirigentes sindicales celebraron también cuando Trump firmó una orden de sepultar el tratado de libre comercio Transpacífico que los sindicatos decían que pondría en peligro los puestos de trabajo en Estados Unidos.

Pero no cabe duda de que el Congreso republicano y la Casa Blanca liderada por Trump constituyen una grave amenaza para el futuro de las organizaciones sindicales, dicen los líderes.

Paul Mancillas, presidente del Consejo Distrital 4 que incluye la local 458-M y la local 568-M en Illinois, dijo que los dirigentes sindicales tienen que usar las estrategias que han funcionado en el pasado para renovar la fuerza sindical, y recomendó a los miembros que miraran más allá de la palabrería de los políticos.

«Lo que tenemos que hacer es casi regresar al punto en que se encontraba el movimiento sindical en los años 30 y 40 y educar a la gente sobre los derechos que les corresponden», dijo. «Les pido que vayan y estudien bien la situación para saber quién es el que va a proteger nuestros salarios y beneficios.»

Zachary Dowdy es reportero de *Newsday* y vicepresidente de la unidad editorial de la Local 406-C de Long Island.

GOP Agenda Threatens Unions, Middle Class

continued from PAGE 1

Michael Winship, president of Writers Guild of America East, representing television and movie writers, and WGAE executive director Lowell Peterson said in a statement that right-to-work advocates intend “to cut organized labor off at the knees by making it impossible to finance the tough work put in by American unions to represent and protect working people.”

GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi agreed the threat was dire. Labor must counter the national right-to-work campaign by matching the energy and determination of anti-union forces, Tedeschi said.

“We all know that ‘right-to-work’ really means the ‘right to work for less,’” the GCC/IBT leader said. “This is nothing less than an assault on the very foundations of the union movement. We must be relentless in our opposition. With Congress and the White House in Republican control, we could be in the fight of our lives.”

Teamster General President James Hoffa has been a consistent voice opposing right-to-work initiatives.

“There are no verifiable economic benefits from RTW, other than for the corporations,” Hoffa said in a recent essay to mark the rollout in February of RTW legislation. “What is true is that once RTW laws are enacted, lower wages and fewer rights on the job are sure to follow.”

Lawrence Mishel, president of the Economic Policy Institute, made a similar analysis. Right-to-work, Mishel said, “will only lower the wages and benefits of workers, both union and nonunion, and further tilt our economy and political life toward dominance by big business and the wealthy.”

Right-to-work is only one entry on a list of actions by the GOP and President Trump that undercut union workers and middle class Americans. Among the others:

- Likely shelving of a “fiduciary responsibility” measure intended to make certain financial advisors serve the best interests of their clients.
- Continued attacks on collective bargaining at the state level along the lines of the campaign led by Gov. Scott Walker in Wisconsin.
- Trump’s executive order freezing raises and hiring for federal workers, many of whom are employed in communities other than Washington, D.C. where local economies could suffer.

- Another White House order suspending a cut in the rate of mortgage loans backed by the Federal Housing Administration.
- Opposition to minimum wage increases and Davis-Bacon “prevailing wage” protections.
- Vows to “repeal and replace” the Affordable Care Act – “Obamacare” – without a workable substitute plan.

Analysts and labor leaders say there are a few bright spots.

Trump’s initial nomination for labor secretary, fast food executive Andrew Puzder, withdrew his candidacy when questions regarding his record persisted. The White House then nominated R. Alexander Acosta, dean of the Florida International University College of Law and a former member of the National Labor Relations Board, who is viewed as far more moderate than Puzder.

Good news also was found in New Hampshire where a right-to-work proposal was defeated. And many labor leaders – including Hoffa – hailed Trump for re-authorizing the stalled Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, projects that have met resistance by environmental activists but which labor leaders say will provide thousands of jobs.

Union officials also cheered when Trump issued an order killing the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal that labor said would put American jobs at risk.

But there is no question that the Republican Congress and Trump-led White House represent a serious threat to the future of organized labor, leaders said.

Paul Mancillas, president of District Council 4 which comprises Local 458-M and Local 568-M in Illinois, said labor officials have to use the strategies that worked in the past to renew union strength and persuade members to look past political rhetoric.

“What we have to do is almost go back to where the union movement was in the 30s and 40s and educate people on what rights they have,” he said.

He said the effort to raise awareness of pro-labor advocacy must start now in anticipation of 2018 mid-term elections that could shift the balance of power in Washington if voters grow dissatisfied with Congress and the President.

“I am asking you to go out and do your homework to see who is going to protect our wages and benefits,” Mancillas said he tells DC4 members. “The 2018 election will be a good barometer on how the attitude in the country is changing.” ■

Zachary Dowdy is a reporter at Newsday and editorial unit vice president of Local 406-C, Long Island.

Puzder Out; Acosta Likely

Donald Donald Trump’s first choice for labor secretary was a risky pick.

Andrew Puzder, a fast-food executive who opposed minimum wage increases, favored provocative ad campaigns featuring beautiful models, and once was accused of spousal abuse, dropped out when questions about his background and policy outlooks became too intense.

An aide complained Puzder was victim of “an unprecedented smear campaign,” according to the New York Times, but opponents said his record was so spotty that confirmation was in doubt.



R. Alexander Acosta

Trump’s second nomination for Labor Department chief, R. Alexander Acosta, has none of Puzder’s baggage and likely will gain approval easily from the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and full Senate. (At press time, there had not been final action on the Acosta nomination.)

Acosta, 48, a Miami native and Cuban-American, served on the National Labor Relations Board, 2002-03, led the Justice Department in the civil rights division, 2003-05, and was U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, 2005-09.

He then joined Florida International University as dean of the law school. “He’s had a tremendous career,” Trump said. “I think he’ll be a tremendous secretary of labor.”

There is little controversy in Acosta’s background but he drew attention over a plea deal with Jeffrey Epstein, a wealthy financier charged with soliciting prostitution and teenagers. Epstein, who once was a member of Trump’s Mar-a-Lago country club in Florida, escaped federal prosecution by pleading guilty to state charges. Women involved in the case later complained that Epstein was let off too easily and should have been charged by federal authorities.

The New York Times also reported that when Acosta led the civil rights division, his office assessed employees on the basis of political affiliations in violation of federal law, according to a Justice Department investigation. Though a subordinate was found to be most at blame, officials determined that Acosta “had ignored warning signs about hiring practices.” William Yeomans, who worked at Justice for 26 years and now teaches law, told the Times that, under Acosta, there was a “coordinated political effort” to replace career personnel “with conservative ideologues.”

Despite questions about Acosta’s tenure at the Justice Department, he gained a reputation for fairness as a Republican member of the NLRB.

Wilma Liebman, a Democratic NLRB member who served with Acosta, told the Politico online newspaper, he was “a good colleague.” Unions might not “always be thrilled” with Acosta’s rulings, Liebman told Politico, but “they’ll get a good hearing.” ■

Union Beats Odds at Adelson Casino

Jackpot!

Union workers at a Pennsylvania casino owned by billionaire Las Vegas gambling baron Sheldon Adelson ratified a contract – the first collective bargaining agreement in Adelson’s vast global domain.

Approval of the pact by security guards at the Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem was a major victory for labor and stinging setback for Adelson, a fierce anti-union employer who has spent millions trying to undercut collective bargaining rights.

Adelson also was a generous backer of Donald Trump’s presidential campaign – he contributed more than \$20 million, according to the Guardian newspaper – and found, in Trump, an ardent, anti-union ally.

Particularly attractive to Adelson is Trump’s backing of national right-to-work legislation. The Guardian reported that since the election “Adelson has held multiple one-on-one meetings with Trump, and he and his wife, Miriam, attended the inauguration.” Shortly after Trump was sworn in, White House press secretary Sean Spicer said: “The President believes in right to work.”

Commenting on the Adelson-Trump relationship, GCC/IBT president George Tedeschi said union members must not overlook the President’s eager embrace of the Republican anti-labor agenda and its wealthy backers. “Everything from seniority issues to right-to-work, Trump is aboard,” Tedeschi said. “Keep it in mind.”

At the Bethlehem casino, security officers represented by Local 522 of the International Union, Security, Police and Fire Professionals of America, voted 70-6 to ratify a contract that guarantees raises of 8 percent, seniority rights and a voice in work rules, according to the Allentown (Pennsylvania) Morning Call.

Sands security guards became the first workers among the 50,000 employed worldwide by Adelson’s Las Vegas Sands Corp. to achieve a union contract. Security workers voted to organize in 2011 but Adelson appealed to the National Labor Relations Board which finally ruled for the union four years later.

“For the first time, they have a voice in how their careers progress,” David Hickey, president of the International Union told the Call newspaper. “It’s no longer a take-it-or-leave-it proposition.”





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Union Wins Round Against 'Labor Law Outlaw'

By Dawn Hobbs
Special to the Communicator

A federal appeals court upheld a National Labor Relations Board ruling that found the Santa Barbara News-Press guilty of numerous unfair labor practice violations after a 2006 GCC/IBT union drive.

The District of Columbia Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals agreed that the newspaper bargained in bad faith, used temporary employees to undercut the editorial bargaining unit and unlawfully fired two workers.

Union attorney Ira Gottlieb said the appeals court effectively had confirmed that the News-Press is the "labor law outlaw we've been complaining about for a decade."

Also upheld by the appeals panel were NLRB findings that the News-Press failed to give annual merit raises, changed productivity expectations for reporters without bargaining and warned newsroom employees to not cooperate with NLRB investigators.

"We are gratified that the court saw through the 'one size fits all' defense the News-Press presented," Gottlieb said.

The attorney said the appellate judges "upheld the Board's finding that the News-Press blatantly violated federal labor law by demanding provisions that would be worse than having no contract, at all." He added: "No more can the paper bray about how the federal courts will vindicate its recalcitrant stance."

The appellate court's ruling, released in March, now paves the way for the NLRB to determine how much money should be paid to the two illegally fired reporters, Dennis Moran and Richard Mineards.

The NLRB will also determine monetary awards for employees who should have received annual merit raises since the company abruptly stopped the well-established practice immediately after the union won a secret-ballot representation election in 2006.

This favorable decision also provides for the union to receive bargaining expenses it has incurred since 2007.

The News-Press may, however, challenge the ruling and ask the panel or the entire D.C. Circuit to rehear the case, or petition for U.S. Supreme Court review.

While eight reporters unjustly terminated for union organizing just marked the 10-year anniversary of their dismissal last summer, the GCC/IBT continues its fight against the paper's multimillionaire owner, Wendy McCaw, who the union says is guilty of many subsequent labor law violations.

These additional violations include illegal withdrawal of recognition of the union and unilateral changes to benefits and health insurance contributions, Gottlieb said.

"The Board is expected to prosecute the News-Press," he said, "if the paper continues its unlawful refusal to bargain and other violations in defiance of the Circuit Court's approval of the NLRB's order that it bargain with the union." ■

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Affected by Hurricane Katrina

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