STEEL VOICE



UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 1999

March 16, 2008

Indiana Steelworkers Lobby Lawmakers

n January 29th the Steelworkers held their annual Lobby Day. Over 500 Steelworkers were in attendance.

Several dignitaries were in attendance at the event. Speakers included Steelworker endorsed democrat candidate for Governor Jill Long Thompson, Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight, and Majority Floor Leader in the Indiana House of Representatives Russ Stillwell.

Thompson who is running for Governor of Indiana, was warmly received. Her speech drew rounds of applause and a standing ovation. She pledged to reinstate collective bargaining rights for state employees, a right they were stripped of by Mitch Daniels on his first day in office.





Steelworker endorsed candidate for Governor Jill Long Thompson presents District Director Jim Robinson with a campaign hat.

Jill Long Thompson told Steelworkers that she was committed to strengthening Indiana's economy by attracting better paying jobs to the state.

Thompson also stated that she would improve education, reform the state's antiquated property tax system, and stop the give away of Indiana's assets and resources.

Steelworkers heard from Russ Stillwell about the importance of keeping the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives to prevent Indiana from becoming a "Right to Work" state. "Right to Work" is a direct attack on unions.

After lunch the Steelworkers

See Steelworkers, Page 3.

My View

Bruce Reed, Business Rep.

The President and Congress are busy attempting to prop the economy up with rebates to tax payers. While a stimulus package helps put money in the hands of people who use it to purchase goods, providing a quick boost to the economy. The purchases help out the retailers who sell the products, the manufacturers who make the product, the people who transport the product, and so on.

But today, when we have a growing reliance on foreign goods, the stimulus money won't go as far as it did in the past. In 2006 (the last year the data was available), 61 cents out of every dollar that Americans spent on consumer goods was spent on imports. In 1997, that figure was only 38 cents. In many categories, imported goods completely overwhelm those made domestically, giving consumers little option to purchase goods made in the U.S. For instance, 90 percent of non-athletic shoes, 90 percent of women's coats and 96 percent of men's dress and sport shorts are made abroad.

Where the stimulus money could once boost U.S. manufacturing and in turn help domestic hiring, encourage domestic businesses to invest in their operations and help a local tax base by keeping or expanding quality jobs, it will now put more money into the pockets of out-of-country manufacturers.

How did this Happen?

Trade agreements such as

NAFTA and Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China, while failing workers, have also failed the U.S. economy by favoring businesses that want to leave the U.S. over those that want to stay here. Allowing other countries to manipulate currency, subsidize their manufacturing and dump products into our markets hasn't helped either. (Information provided by United Steelworkers International Union)



It's my opinion the two issues we should pay the most attention to as working class Americans, and demand the candidates respond to are, <u>Bad Trade Agreements and</u> Healthcare for all Americans.

Bad trade agreements that give employers opportunities to use slave like labor in third world countries to compete against American employers that pay fair wages and fair benefits MUST BE STOPPED. If our employers are not afforded a level playing field to compete in business, then it becomes a race to the bottom of the economic ladder for all of us. When this happens, we the workers pay the price with lost jobs and any opportunity to provide

our families with the basic needs and desires we are accustomed to having. We have seen in this area many plant closings due to outsourcing of good paying jobs to Mexico and China, for that matter any other Country that will allow a Company to prosper with a slave labor work force. A slave labor work force that works for pennies on the hour with no benefits, no work place safety protection, no limit on hours worked per day and employers that have no concern for their health. We must hold the candidates accountable for our economic future.

When considering health care in America it is unimaginable to me that we do not have health care for all Americans. When we go to the bargaining table the one issue that is on the table at every negotiations is health care. We have to bargain with Companies for insurance coverage that should be a right of every American, a right that most every other industrialized country in the world has, again we must hold the candidates accountable to our needs as American Workers and voters.

When we vote this year lets all remember there seems to be money for rebates, money for tax cuts for the wealthy, money for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, money for everything except taking care of our own with healthcare for all Americans. As workers all we want is an opportunity to work for a livable wage so we can take care of our families. VOTE for a candidate that will allow America to help its own citizens. Please vote for the candidates the Union has endorsed to protect our future and the future of our families.

Steelworkers, from Page 1.

made their way to the Indiana Statehouse where they introduced themselves to their elected representatives. They discussed several issues with the lawmakers and let their position be known to them.

Some of the bills discussed were House Bill 1034 that would move age discrimination enforcement to the Civil Rights Commission and remove the current provision of Indiana law that allows discrimination after age 70.



Russ Stillwell emphasizes his point while speaking at the Steelworker Lobby Day

Also discussed was House Bill 1292 that would require that flags purchased by the government be "Made in the USA. It would include state flags as well as U.S. flags.

Steelworkers let lawmakers know that they supported House Bill 1219. This bill would ensure that workers who become unemployed as a result of a plant closure or a large layoff continue to be eligible for unemployment insurance even if their union negotiates a



closing agreement. These workers have had to hire attorneys to get the unemployment benefits that they are entitled to. All thanks to Mitch Daniels.

Another house bill, 1277, would require any employer receiving development incentives from the state to accept applications from any prospective worker who lives anywhere in Indiana and wants to apply. It ensures that an employer taking our tax dollars cannot use geography as an excuse to exclude applications from workers due to their likelihood of previous union membership.



The Importance of Politics

Chuck Jones, President

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. With elections for the President, Congress, and the Governor, this year promises to be very exciting and very busy. As everyone probably knows the Steelworkers supported John Edwards in the Democratic Campaign. Unfortunately he wasn't successful in gaining the Democratic nomination but he did manage to get his message heard.

John Edwards is from a working class family. When he spoke of Poverty, National Health Care, and Trade Policies he knew how these things affected the average working class American. He was very passionate about these issues and he managed to bring them to the forefront.

The two remaining Democratic Candidates have embraced these issues and now understand how important they are to people like you and me. I believe this year will truly make American History. We still have two excellent candidates running for the Democratic nomination and I think one of them will be the next President of the United States. Which ever candidate receives the nomination deserves to have the full support of the Democratic Party.

I'm sure by now everyone is aware of the passing of Honorable Congresswoman Julia Carson. It was a very sad day personally and professionally. Labor has never had such a great advocate. We will miss her. Who ever is elected for her position has some big shoes to fill. We are supporting her grandson Andre Carson for the 7th District Congressional seat that she previously held. Our hope is to have a relationship with him that mirrors that of Julia's.



The Primary Election is closer than we think. Voter turnout is usually very low for these elections but this year we need everyone to make the effort to go to the polls and support our Labor friendly candidates. There are some very important positions at stake. The Governor's race is one.

The Steelworkers has a long history with one of the candidates, Jill Long Thompson. Jill was born in Warsaw, Indiana and raised on a farm outside of Larwill, Indiana in Whitley County. Jill earned a Bachelor's Degree from Valparaiso University. She was awarded an M.B.A. from Indiana University and also received her Ph.D. from Indiana University.

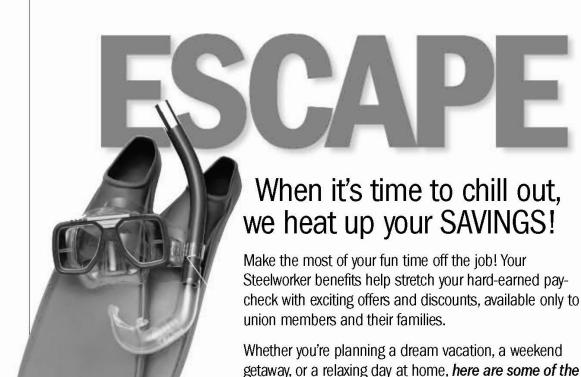
Jill's first elected position was to

City Council in Valparaiso (1984-1986). She was elected to the U.S. Congress through a special election to fill a vacated seat. And was re-elected for two more terms. In 1995 Bill Clinton appointed Jill as Under Secretary for Rural Economic & Community Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That is where she served until 2001 when George W. Bush took office.

Jill Long Thompson is a true fighter. She has endured a few disappointing defeats. Some of which were lost only by a very narrow margin. Of the candidates running for the office of Governor of Indiana, Jill is by far the most experienced, knowledgeable, and proven Labor friendly Candidate we have. And she defiantly has the tenacity to do the job.

To a lot of people politics is just plain boring and to others it's a way of life. Myself I fall somewhere in between. I understand that the people we elect to hold the various positions from City County Council all the way to the Presidency has some affect on our lives. From the Bills that they support to the Laws that they enact they can change our lives instantly. For example when Mitch Daniels was elected as the Governor, the first thing that he did was to take away the Union from all the State Workers. And if he is reelected and has his way he will make Indiana a right to work state. Then we can all say good-

See Politics, Page 9.



Travel Savings

- Save a minimum of 5% on cruises anywhere in the world on Norwegian Cruise Line; up to 30% off selected sailings.
- Save up to 25% on resort condo rentals worldwide.
- Book the **best flights** through the largest airfare search engine on the Internet.
- Reserve the best rates at hotels.
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UNITED STEELWORKERS



Vehicle Rental Deals

 Save up to 10% on RV rentals through Cruise America, the nation's number one supplier of motor home rentals.

ways your union membership helps you SAVE...

 Save up to 25% on car rental with Avis, Budget and Hertz.

Entertainment Discounts

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- Get discount DVD rentals at Blockbuster.
- Find bargain prices and great selections at Powell's Book Store, the largest unionized Internet bookseller.

Family Fun for Less

- Save up to \$15 per ticket at theme parks across the country.
- Get discount admissions to museums, aquariums, and zoos.
- Save on Broadway shows and sporting events in selected cities.



Not all programs are available to Canadian members who may be eligible for the Canadian Union Advantage benefits, Visit www.unionsavings.ca



Check out the Union Plus Travel Center and start planning your fun today!

Visit www.**UnionPlus**.org

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One Local, Many Voices

When Amalgamated Local 1999 was formed, the Local quickly set the standard for others. Within the first month there was a successful organizing drive. Shortly thereafter a former Rubber Worker Local voted to join 1999. Then in 2007 the Membership of a Teamster Local representing Vertellus (formerly Reilly Cemical) voted to become USW Members and join Local 1999. Now in 2008, with the support of the Officers and Members of former-Pace Local 7-168 representing Valspar, have elected to join Local 1999.

It is unquestionable that the Membership and Officers of Local 1999 realize what is impor-



tant. The success of our Local Union is reflective of the efforts that are made to represent the Membership whenever there are issues. Local 1999, is well

known by those that are elected to hold political offices with the county and state. Our influence is recognized throughout our great Union and often Local 1999 is referenced as the standard for others to reach for.

As the Members of Local 7-168 are welcomed into the family that is Local 1999, one thing remains true both Local Unions will be stronger with our shared commitment to represent our Members, organize the unorganized and express our views within the Political Community.



"...and the winner of this week's "Race to the Bottom" is..."

Angela Davis Breakfast at the Hall

Angela Davis prepared and served breakfast at the Local 1999 membership meeting in January. Bob and Julie Voorhies helped Angela prepare and serve the meal.

Local 1999 endorsed Angela in her bid for Marion County Superior Court Judge.

Angela is a partner in the Indianapolis law firm of McClure, McClure, Davis, and Henn

Unfortunately Angela was unsuccessful in attaining the Democratic nomination she sought.



Angela Davis candidate for Marion County Superior Court Judge serves Lori and Greg Rippy biscuits and gravy.



Angela Davis with District 7 Indiana Political Coordinator Brett Voorhies and Carrier (Unit 7) Unit President Kenny Dickerson.

Is McCain The Right Choice For Working Families?

After the February 5 primaries, the Republicans now have a likely nominee. He's been advertised as a "Straight Talker" who has reasonable positions, but his policies do not match up to this reputation. If elected, would he make our country better for the working families that are struggling to make house payments, facing higher health care costs and worrying if their jobs will still be here next year?

I heard McCain was a "maverick" who went against party leadership because of his beliefs; Is that true?

John McCain has actually supported Bush's position 89% of the time since Bush came to office, and in 2007 that number ran as high as 95%, according to Congressional Quarterly's Voting Study. He supports making Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy permanent, supported Bush's failed plan to privatize Social Security and his efforts to contract out large numbers of government jobs. McCain also shares Bush's misguided assessment that our economy is "inherently strong"; saying in January, "I don't believe we're headed into a recession."

Isn't McCain a reasonable guy who will work to make our economy stronger?

At a time when the economy

is the top concern for a majority of Americans, McCain has stated that economic issues are something he's "never really understood." He did not even bother to vote on the badly needed stimulus bill, despite being in Washington, D.C., at the time.

Well, won't he at least help keep our jobs from continuing to go overseas?

Sen. McCain has made it clear that he won't. He told voters in Michigan and South Carolina that their "jobs are not coming back" and has proudly proclaimed he "would negotiate a trade agreement with almost any country." He has cast vote after vote for every free trade agreement under the sun, including the most devastating agreement in our history, NAFTA. He's gone on to praise NAFTA and its effects, said we need to expand CAFTA, and strongly supported normalizing trade relations with China despite its horrendous worker safety and product safety record.

Well, isn't he at least being straight with us about his position?

Not exactly; what Sen. McCain doesn't often explain is his role in exporting those jobs in the first place. In addition to his support for these unfair trade agreements, McCain supported Bush's at-

tempt to outsource many federal jobs. And McCain has certainly done little to aid those who have lost their jobs, voting against the extension of federal unemployment insurance benefits and would take money out of current job training programs.

But McCain claims to support regular working people; doesn't he at least support protecting our right to bargain for better wages and benefits?

No, Sen. McCain supported a Republican filibuster of the Employee Free Choice Act, which would protect that right, and he supported a national Right-to-Work-for-Less law that would attempt to eliminate unions altogether. He even said that government workers are "crippled" by their union contracts.

Health care is very much on families' minds right now.

McCain said he will work to make health care more affordable. Will he?

Sen. McCain's health care plan is merely an extension of Bush's failed plan. It does not address the issue of the 47 million uninsured in America. It will force working families out into the private market to fend for themselves against the insurance companies and will chip away at employer-based health care. It will actually make



On February, 20 Jill Long Thompson dropped off 5,533 certified signatures at the office of Secretary of State Todd Rokita in the Indiana Statehouse. Jill had to collect 500 signatures of registered voters in each of Indiana's 9 congressional districts to have her name placed on the Indiana Primary ballot for Governor. The Steelworkers have endorsed Jill Long Thompson.

it harder for many people to get coverage. In addition, Sen. McCain voted to slash funding for Medicare and Medicaid and opposed the reauthorization of and new funding for SCHIP that helps millions of children have access to health care.

McCain has not been a "Straight Talker" when it comes to his record on working families. Make sure you check the candidates' true records when deciding whom to support.



Politics from Page 4

bye to our higher paying Union jobs. So we need to make sure that this doesn't happen, by supporting Jill Long Thompson for Governor.

District 7 Director Jim Robinson and the majority of the entire District 7 Local Unions have endorsed Jill Long Thompson for Governor. Local 1999 hopes Jill will have your support on May 6, 2008 and again in November.



The United Steelworkers Local 1999 participated in a national day of action on January 16, 2008. The International Union coordinated the event in several cities nationwide.

Local 1999 members Chuck

Jones, Kevin Addison, Bruce Reed, Jim Adcock, Kelly Ray Hugunin, Brett Voorhies, and Garland Stovall visited U.S. Congressman Steve Buyer's office in Plainfield Indiana. They voiced the Steelworker's concerns over cheap imports from China that are poisoning our children.

Bad trade deals have lowered U.S. standards and harmed workers and the environment here and in countries like China.

They asked for Steve Buyer's

JEAD OUT
protect our kids





support of the Food and Product Responsibility Act. The act would require importers to get insurance to cover the full cost of the goods they import that would cause serious harm to the American public. The bill also requires that the insurance be sufficient to cover claims for damages when individuals are harmed, maimed, or killed by a toxic import.



In District 7, the Steelworkers created a lot of waves visiting Representatives in 11 cities. Over 220 creative, spirited and concerned members and their families visited the offices of their congressmen.

As of the date of publication Congressman Buyer has not elected to tell us his position on this issue.





Pictured from left to right: Brett Voorhies, Kevin Addison, Garland Stovall, Kelly Ray Hugunin, Chuck Jones, and Bruce Reed.

Photo by: Jim Adcock

Unit 00 Rexnord

Greetings from Rexnord. 2008 has started out slow for us. This past week (Feb. 15) we went through a series of layoffs, with a total of 13 people hitting the streets. At this point it doesn't look as if the economy is going to pick up anytime soon.

2008 is a very important year due to the elections. Steelworkers are supporting Jill Long Thompson for governor. Be sure to vote for candidates who support labor issues such as health care, foreign trade, and keeping good paying American jobs here in the United States for working people, their families, and future working people.

Kevin Addison Unit President

We here at Rexnord would like to thank Kelly Hugunin for putting this together and Chuck Jones, Bruce Reed, and Jim Adcock for their continued support and guidance through all of our issues at our plant.

Even though we are seeing some overtime in several areas of the plant we had a layoff of 13 people that went into effect Friday, February 15, 2008. The Company has informed us that the First Quarter units scheduled to be shipped, are way less than what they need to maintain the current work force.

We have had some changes in management such as a new HR manager and the loss of one sub plant director, it remains to be seen what impact this has on our brothers and sisters on the floor but whenever changes occur you are always busy working on the issues that fall underneath their jurisdiction.

Don Zering, Brian Reed, and Tom Andrusk and the other members have been working hard on their respective committees to insure that the Union members voices heard. We are continuing to do what we can to get our people back to work because the bottom line is having our people working!!!! Remember we should be united all the time and always remember that we are all Union.

Brian Bousom Unit Vice President

Unit 07 Carrier

Our contract with Carrier will be up on April 27, 2008. We have already had 4 negotiation meetings. We started early because we believe it will be a tough contract .Business in the housing market is way down as we all know.

Our first meeting with the company will be April 3. The company has hinted on some negotiation issues they would like to change like attendance, working before and after holidays to get paid, and as usual they have no money.

The company has already started there contract bullying and bulls**t. They are doing a lot of job combinations and job cuts in the departments and a lot of our senior members are getting hurt in the fallout. They are taking our ergonomic chairs away and writing us up for small offences. You have to remember these things happen every time we negotiate a contract. Be patient and follow the rules, things will settle down after contract

We **all** need to stand together and show the company that we are *united in our fight*. It will take all 1400 members backing us up. We will have t-shirts with our slogan and buttons in the near future. But for now please wear blue on Monday and red on Thursday to show your support!

In Solidarity your Negotiation Committee

Jim Robinson - District Director, Jim Adcock - Staff Rep., Chuck Jones - President Linda Bennington - Vice President, Kenny Dickerson - Unit President, Grace (Shelly) Barber-Carr -Unit Vice President, Allen Johnson, Greg Rippy, Vickie Clark, Maurie Wilkerson, Bennie Porter, Marion Qualls, & Roy Beatty

Unit 09 Quemetco

"Safety First" here at RSR Indy that's our motto. Lets take a moment to re-examine that motto. We have several programs in place in our plant to remind us of the importance of safety. We should all remember that PERSONAL INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY will promote better safety habits for all. Safety should be our top concern.

Steelworkers V.P. Elected to AFL-CIO Executive Council

The AFL-CIO Executive Council approved the election of Fred Redmond USW; Vice President-Mark Ayers, President, AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD); Ann Converso, President, United American Nurses (UAN); and Richard Hughes, President, International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) to the council at its winter meeting in San Diego, Calif. The Executive Council -- composed of 47 union leaders -- is a key decision-making body of the 10.5 million member AFL-CIO.

"The AFL-CIO proudly welcomes four dedicated, committed leaders of the American labor movement to our Executive Council," AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. "Their years of

collective experience fighting on behalf of working families will prove invaluable as the AFL-CIO



continues to confront the many challenges facing America's workers"

Redmond replaces former USW Vice President Leon Lynch, who has retired. Redmond joined the USW in 1973 when he went to work at an Illinois steel mill. He served in several local union offices and in 1996, joined the union's national staff. Redmond has assisted in developing training programs for USW and was assistant director of USW District 7 before being elected a USW vice president in 2005. Redmond chairs the union's Container Industry Conference and coordinates bargaining for the USW health care and public employees sector. He also serves as Chair of the A. Philip Randolph Institute and is a leader within the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

"GO HOME FROM WORK THE SAME WAY YOU CAME TO WORK - IN ONE PIECE AND HEALTHY"

We have very good camaraderie at our plant so lets all continue to look out for one another. Management is doing their part lets continue to do ours, BY WORKING SAFE & SMART AT ALL TIMES.

We have a safety committee here in our plant "see Leroy Robinson". The committee has both hourly and salary members. They meet once a month. If you have any concerns or safety issues in your departments see someone on the committee and they will address your problems.

Union Safety Committee Members: Kelly Ray Hugunin, Selmon Brown, Edwin Cruz, Edwin Johnson, Derrick Jones, and Leroy Robinson.

In Solidarity, Derrick L. Morris Sr.

Unit 28 Vertellus

We would like to let all the other units know how pleased we are at Vertellus for becoming Steelworkers.

Everyone from Local 1999 has by far exceeded our expectations as far as support for us. Everyone we have met at the Hall has treated us like they have known us forever and they all make us feel like we are very much a part of them.

We would like to give a Special Thanks to Chuck Jones, Jim Adcock, and Bruce Reed for their accessibility, and making us feel like we are very important to each of them. Local 1999 is the Best!

Proud to be United Steel Workers!

Proud to be in District 7!

Proud to Vote! -- Jill Long
Thompson! -- Our next Governor!

In Solidarity, Carl Thompson Sr. Unit President **Campaigning for Edwards**

In November the call went out from the International Steelworkers asking for volunteers to campaign for Senator John Edwards in the Iowa caucus. Several of our members answered the call.

The volunteers received no lost time and had to schedule vacation time or some other leave in order





campaign for John Edwards last December included; Vicki Clark, Dwight Turner, Bennie Porter, Ronald Terry, Anthony Whitley, Phil Deetz, Chuck Jones, Leo Hedden, Maurie Wilkerson, Markeya McDaniel, and Ike Hefflin.

District 7 had more volunteers in Iowa than any other Steelworker district.

Thank you to all of those who volunteered their time to work the Iowa caucus.

to be off from work. A 7 day commitment was required for those who chose to participate.

The volunteers spent a week in Iowa working long hours on the campaign. They walked the neighborhoods braving frigid temperatures, snow, and ice visiting people at their homes. They also spent many hours on the phones making calls in support of Edwards.

Volunteers from Local 1999 who volunteered to travel to Iowa to



Carson Signs EFCA Pledge

On Saturday, February 23 more than 100 union members from Indianapolis attended a rally at the UAW Local 98 hall at 550 South Audubon on the eastside. There were members of the UAW, USW, IBEW, and AF-SCME International unions to name a few.

Speakers at the rally included Ken Zeller, President Indiana AFL-CIO, Lettie Oliver, President Central Indiana Labor Council, and Mo Davison, Director UAW region 3.

Andre Carson spoke of how the economy is not working for the

working people of Indiana and good jobs are going overseas. Carson stated he was pro union and pro labor and would work hard to pass laws like the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA). At the rally Carson signed a pledge to co-sponsor the EFCA.

77 percent of Americans support strong laws that give employees the freedom to make their own choice about whether to have a union in their workplace without interference from management.

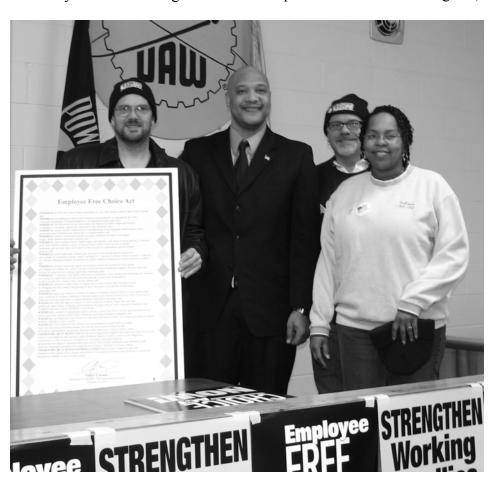
The Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 800, S. 1041), supported by a bipartisan coalition in Congress,



would level the playing field for workers and employers and help rebuild America's middle class. It would restore workers' freedom to choose a union by:

- Establishing stronger penalties for violation of employee rights when workers seek to form a union and during firstcontract negotiations.
- Providing mediation and arbitration for first-contract disputes.
- Allowing employees to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation.

After the rally everyone headed out to canvas the eastside neighborhoods for Carson. They visited the homes of fellow union members to talk one on one about how Carson would work for working families as he represented the 7th Congressional District.



Phil Deetz, Leo Hedden, and Markeya McDaniel (all from Sumco, Unit 10) with Andre Carson at the January 23 rally.



STEEL VOICE

Kelly Ray Hugunin Editor

USW Local 1999 218 South Addison Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46222

Phone: 639-1479 Fax: 639-1138 E-Mail: uswa1999@iquest.net

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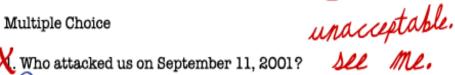
UNION USW LABEL

Presidency 101 Global Test

Name George W. Bush



Multiple Choice



(a) Iraq b. Al Qaeda

. Who should we have invaded? (pick two)

a. Iran

(b.) Iraq

c. Afghanistan

d. North Korea

🐧 Why did we invade Iraq?

Grave and gathering threat of WMD Saddam Hussein had ties to al Qaeda

c. To liberate the Iraqi people

d. Oil

True or False

He forgot Poland. poland wasn't part of the true initial invasion, mr. president

*There are fewer terrorists now than four years ago.

+rue refer to your state department's report

6. Al Qaeda attacked us on September 11, 2001.

true (i know that!) good!