

STEEL VOICE



UNITED STEELWORKERS LOCAL 1999

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Economic Downturn Emphasizes Election Importance

The recent economic downturn has had a tremendous effect on our Local. It has resulted in layoffs at four of our plants.

Carrier announced two weeks ago that they would furlough over 300 employees. Sumco has idled close to 20 employees. Pepsico announced last week that they would be scaling back at all of their facilities including the Indianapolis Gatorade plant. Valspar also announced last week that they will be laying off 10 of its employees.

The economic collapse responsible for these layoffs is a direct result of the failed economic policies of the Bush administration. These policies have resulted in unbridled greed on wall street which has led to the current mortgage crisis and bank failures.

These recent economic problems



Barack Obama speaking at the Indiana State Fairgrounds during a rally on October 8th. He was joined by Jill Long Thompson, Birch Bayh, Evan Bayh, and Robin Winston among other notable Democrats

underscore the importance of who we elect to our government & who is responsible for the policies and laws that control how wall street conducts business. For too long CEO's have been allowed to recklessly conduct business to line their own pockets without regard to the working class.

Imagine if Bush and others in Washington, including, Senator John McCain, had been successful in priva-

tizing Social Security. It would have devastated social Security, possibly threatening the immediate solvency of the program.

We must elect candidates to office that will implement policies and pass laws that will rebuild our economy and protect our jobs here in the United States.

Barack Obama has sound propos-

My View

Bruce Reed, Local Union
Representative



Brothers and Sisters:

As I write this article I have just finished filling out my absentee ballot for the November National Election. Voting in America has been apathetic at best in the last two or three elections, but hopefully not in 2008. We have all heard in past election seasons the phrase "this is the most important election ever". While this phrase does somewhat define any national or state election due to the importance of electing good leaders, I think we all agree this one is very critical. Our economic structure in the United States is in the worst shape since the great depression. The economic policies of the Bush administration are not only a failure; they have created a catastrophic situation in our Country. Bush's legacy is now sealed; job losses are at record levels, we are at war in two Countries with no hope of success, the economy is in the trash can and only 14% of Americans approve of his leadership.

We working men and women and

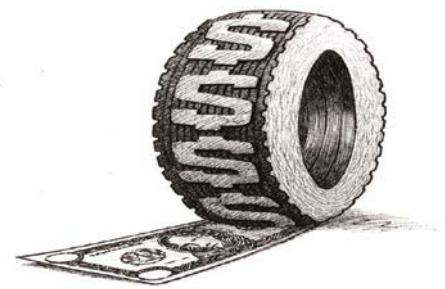
our grandchildren will carry the burden of Bush's failed economic plan for our whole working lives. His plan is the plan of his party; it always has been and will always be. Senator McCain can and will say whatever he needs to say to get our vote, but his economic plan will be his party's economic plan (Bush's Plan). Let's all remember that when George Bush was inaugurated for his first term of office he stated in his inaugural speech "I am a uniter not a divider", hindsight shows us that nothing could be further from the truth, this country has not been more divided since the sixties. Bush took from the working class and gave to the businesses and the wealthy and **McCain will continue the disaster Bush started.** The working class deserves an opportunity to take care of their families, have affordable health care and retire with some dignity. These are not entitlements, as McCain and his advisors claim but are some of the wants, needs and desires a working class American hopes to achieve.

The airwaves are full of Daniels' propaganda telling us how good a job he has done working for us as Governor, please look at what he has done not what he says he has done. There is much more negative than positive, remember his first day in office he eliminated Union representation for state workers, the first day. We must recognize he is anti labor, which means he is not supportive of what the working class in Indiana wants. He, like his friend Bush only care about the business end of every decision, they believe if the workers have a problem it's their problem not America's problem.

As you already know our International Union and our Local Union

have endorsed **Barack Obama for President of the United States and Jill Long Thompson for Governor of the state of Indiana, in the November elections.** We believe they give us the best opportunity to achieve our wants needs and desires as working class Americans. I still believe that if we elect these candidates we will give our families a chance for a better future. ☐

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Support
Union
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Save money on tires,
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who make many
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WEB-03/05

WHAT THE NRA SAID ABOUT JOHN MCCAIN

BEFORE HE WAS THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT

"Anti-gun groups, led by Americans for Gun Safety, have teamed with U.S. Sen. John McCain to exploit terrorism in order to advance their gun control agenda..." [America's First Freedom Magazine, February 2002.]

"... Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has now become one of the premier flag carriers for the enemies of the Second Amendment." [America's First Freedom Magazine, July 2001.]

"...according to McCain and AGS [Americans for Gun Safety], the only safe gun is one that is completely inaccessible to the owner in an emergency." [America's First Freedom Magazine, July 2001]

"...McCain-Lieberman is a cornucopia of poison bills that would allow a future anti-gun executive branch to shut down gun shows entirely." [America's First Freedom Magazine, September 2002.]

**DON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN
THEIR PARTISAN POLITICS**

"I have always believed that the Second Amendment protects the right of individuals to bear arms."

—Barack Obama (Washington Times, 6/30/08)



A collage of black and white photographs celebrating Kevin Addison's retirement. The central text reads "Congratulations on Your Retirement Kevin Addison". The photos show Kevin with a Harley-Davidson cake, with friends, and in various work settings.

Vote! Vote! Vote!

Chuck Jones, President

The count down is on! Just a few more days and the election results will be known. It will be time to find out if all our hard work will pay off.

The Steelworkers have worked very hard for our Labor Friendly Candidates.

The Presidential Election is probably the most important in our history. The economy is failing more everyday. We need a new administration in the White House, one that has our best interest at heart. Not more of the same. Barack Obama's plans for Health Care, Job Creation, Tax Cuts, and Education are everything we need. He believes strongly in the Middle Class. Barack Obama plans to rebuild America by helping working families re-establishing the Middle Class. We must secure our jobs here in the United States and stop exporting them overseas. He has a National Health Care plan that will provide Health Insurance for everyone. Tax Cuts for everyone that makes under \$250,000 a year. And Barack Obama thinks that every child should have the opportunity to attend college regardless of their financial status. And he plans to make college affordable for all.

At the state level Mitch Daniels would have you believe that Indiana is doing much better than it was four years ago. Someone, Please tell me What is better? Daniels has increased Indiana State sales tax, increased cigarette tax, and increased Property tax. He has taken away the union for the State Workers (in his first week in office) He privatized

the Indiana State Toll Road Project and gave our Indiana jobs to other states. But we have a Candidate for the Governors Office that will make the next four years (or more) much better than the last. Jill Long Thompson.



Jill has a history of standing up for Labor. In her years in Congress she voted against NAFTA and she has continuously fought in favor of good jobs, health care, and retiree security for working families. Jill will use her voice as Governor of Indiana to carry our message to Washington, that we expect action on Trade, Health Care, and the enforcement of our "Union Rights" She will lead Indiana forward and clean up this mess that Mitch Daniels has left. So please don't take for granted that our candidates will win, Get Out and VOTE!

Vote for the Labor Friendly Candidates that help secure our Union, not the ones that seek to destroy us.

A great man once said:

"In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans as "right to work". It provides no "rights" and no "work". Its purpose is to destroy

Labor Unions and the freedom of collective bargaining....

We demand this fraud be stopped."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Please take the time to go vote.
Thank You ☐

Election From Page 1.

als for rebuilding our economy and bringing us out of the recession that Bushonomics has gotten us into.

Obama does not support the Free Trade deals that Bush and McCain have supported in the past. These bad deals have cost over one million U.S. jobs. McCain has said that he will make a Free Trade deal with any country that was interested.

On the state level we have Mitch Daniels failing to keep our jobs here in Indiana. Under Daniels Indiana has lost 64,000 jobs. He has outsourced many state employees jobs after stripping them of their collective bargaining rights.

Mitch will continue to work for the interests of big business and strip Hoosier workers of there ability to provide for their families.

Jill Long Thompson will work tirelessly to keep jobs from leaving our state. She will grow Indiana's economy. Jill will stop the insane idea that we must sell off Indiana's assets to raise revenue for the state.

We must vote for change on Nov. 4. Change for our country, change for Indiana. ☐

Union Plus—helping union families get ahead.

Scholarships

Helping union families realize their dreams

Going back to school? Sending your children to college? Learn more about the scholarship opportunities available to you as a union member. Union Plus supports working families by providing these scholarships to help you focus on your studies instead of your tuition bill.



UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIP

- Awards ranging from **\$500 to \$4,000** are available to students attending two-year and four-year colleges, recognized technical or trade schools, and graduate schools
- **Current and retired** union members, their spouses and dependent children **are eligible**
- Applications are **available in September**. To apply, just download an application at UnionPlus.org/Scholarship and **return it by January 31**.

UNION LEADERS OF THE FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP

- **Helping more women** and people of color pursue union career goals and **enhance leadership skills**
- Annual awards **up to \$3,000 to cover the cost** of continuing education or training
- To be **applied toward the completion** of an accredited degree, coursework or seminar at an **accredited** educational institution
- Applications are available in **January**. To apply, just download an application at UnionPlus.org/Scholarship and return it by **May 31**

UNION PLUS NATIONAL LABOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

- A total of **\$25,000** is awarded each year to help union members attend the world's only university dedicated to **labor education**
- Take classes at your own pace and schedule with a **unique program** tailor-made for full-time working men and women
- Please **contact Tracie Sumner** in the Office of Student Finance at the National Labor College at **301-628-4253** or email tsumner@nlc.edu for more information



For details about all the scholarship opportunities available to union members, visit

www.UnionPlus.org/Scholarship

Dennie Oxley leaflets Quemetco

Candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Dennie Oxley who is running along side AFT member Jill Long Thompson joined Indiana AFL-CIO Secretary Joe Breedlove and members of USW Local 1999 in an afternoon of work-site leafleting for union-friendly candidates at the Quemetco Plant in Indianapolis! Representative Oxley says that "though we can go around ourselves and shake hands with as many people as possible, what's really going to win this election is union members reaching out to their fellow members



and getting our word out there!"

And aren't they ever! Hoosier union members from across the state are walking, knocking, and talking to make sure that all union brothers and sisters know which candidates will stand strong with working families. And with only a few short weeks left to go until the big day, candidates like Rep. Oxley knows that with the help of the Indiana Labor 2008 program and all locals firing on all cylinders, union members are sure to win for working families in November!

"We can and we will win this election, but it's going to take a lot of hard work! And what you can do, as working men and women, is get involved in the Indiana Labor 2008 program: labor walks, participating in member-to-member phone banks, work-site leafleting, and getting out one more piece of local union mail! It is critical that we put all of our time, all of our energy, all of our effort into that- into Labor 2008- because it's going to pay huge, huge dividends so that we can get elected- candidates who support the cause of labor, and working men and women!" □



Workers' Issues Finally Come Up In Presidential Campaign Debate

By Mark Gruenberg, PAI Staff Writer

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (PAI)--It took almost the entire campaign, but two workers' issues--fair trade vs. free trade and equal pay for equal work--finally came up in the debates between Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama and Republican nominee John McCain.

And those issues, both raised in their Oct. 15 showdown at Hofstra University in Hempstead, Long Island, in turn followed McCain's first mention of the Employee Free Choice Act, in his economic speech in Virginia earlier in the week--and he's against it.

Obama and McCain faced off at Hofstra in the final debate of their campaign to succeed anti-worker GOP President George W. Bush. The top topic was the failing economy, and one of their testiest exchanges was over trade.

"For far too long, certainly during the Bush administration with the support of Sen. McCain, the attitude has been that any trade agreement has been a good agreement," Obama said. "But NAFTA did not have any enforceable labor rules, and it should. We've got to have a president who stands up for American workers."

Obama has previously said he would sit down with the Canadian prime minister and the Mexican president to renegotiate NAFTA, "to stop the hemorrhaging" of U.S. industrial jobs it produced. The job losses led the labor movement--and much of the country--to strenuously oppose NAFTA when former Presidents George H.W. Bush (R) and William

Clinton (D) pushed it through Congress more than a decade ago.

Unions and their members still demand NAFTA be renegotiated, at least, and oppose subsequent trade pacts it spawned as also lacking worker rights. Obama has pledged any trade pact he signs will have enforceable worker rights in its text.

Obama's NAFTA critique, and his comments--agreeing with the Auto Workers--that the Bush-proposed U.S. "free trade" pact with South Korea would not open up Korea's auto market to more than "4,000 or 5,000" cars, drew a retort from McCain. He blasted Obama for opposing Bush's proposed "free trade" pact with Colombia.

Obama, congressional Democrats and unions all oppose the U.S.-Colombia FTA because of the notorious murder of more than 2,500 Colombian union leaders and members over the last decade-plus. The murders, some at behest of U.S.-based multinational firms, are carried out by right-wing death squads encouraged by Colombia's military. There have been only a handful of prosecutions and convictions.

McCain ignored the murders in defending the U.S.-Colombia FTA. Earlier this year, around the time he clinched the GOP nomination, the Arizonan traveled to Colombia and Mexico, where he was an outspoken public supporter of both trade pacts.

"Their goods and services come into our country for free," McCain said of Colombia's trade with the U.S.,

now governed by a lesser-known law that waives tariffs for goods from Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. But U.S. goods face what McCain said are \$1 billion in tariffs when exported to Colombia.

The U.S.-Colombia FTA would remove that nation's tariffs "and that will help you create jobs in America," McCain claimed, though he did not say how many. NAFTA, on which the U.S.-Colombia FTA is modeled, has cost hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs.

"Labor leaders have been targeted for assassination there on a fairly consistent basis," Obama retorted about Colombia. "We have to make sure violence hasn't been perpetrated against workers who are standing up for their rights."

The two also jostled over sexual discrimination in pay. Their difference was over legislation overturning the U.S. Supreme Court's Lilly Ledbetter decision, which barred victims of pay discrimination by sex from suing their employers any time after 180 days on the job. GOP-named justices, all men, were the 5-4 majority on that ruling.

Obama pointed out that victims of discrimination, including Ledbetter, a former supervisor at the Goodyear tire plant in Gadsden, Ala., don't discover the discrimination until years later. Rank-and-file workers at the plant, covered by a Steel Workers contract, suffer far less pay discrimination there, if any, Ledbetter has told PAI.

Do You Think Our Governor is In Touch with Reality?



Mitch Daniels drives a Mercedes.
What do you and your family members drive?



Where are the Jobs in Indiana going?

Obama/Biden vs. McCain/Palin

What if things were switched around?..... Think about it. Would the country's collective point of view be different? Could racism be the culprit?

Ponder the following:

What if the Obama's had paraded five children across the stage, including a three month old infant and an unwed, pregnant teenage daughter?

What if John McCain was a former president of the Harvard Law Review?

What if Barack Obama finished fifth from the bottom of his graduating class?

What if McCain had only married once and Obama was a divorcee?

What if Obama was the candidate who left his first wife after a severe disfiguring car accident, when she no longer measured up to his standards?

What if Obama had met his second wife in a bar and had a long affair while he was still married?

What if Michelle Obama was the wife who not only became addicted to pain killers but also acquired them illegally through her charitable organization?

What if Cindy McCain graduated from Harvard?

What if Obama had been a member of the Keating Five? (The Keating Five were five United States Senators accused of corruption in 1989, igniting a major political scandal as part of the larger Savings and Loan crisis of the late 1980s and early 1990s.)

What if McCain was a charismatic, eloquent speaker?

What if Obama couldn't read from a teleprompter?

What if Obama was the one who had military experience that included discipline problems and a record of crashing seven planes?

What if Obama was the one who was known to display publicly, on many occasions, a serious anger management problem?

What if Michelle Obama's family had made their money from beer distribution?

What if the Obama's had adopted a white child?

You could easily add to this list. If these questions reflected reality, do you really believe the election numbers would be as close as they are?

This is what racism does. It covers up, rationalizes and minimizes positive qualities in one candidate and emphasizes negative qualities in another when there is a color difference.

Unit 07 Carrier

Carrier is laying off around 300 members and there could be more the first week of November. Business is slow and orders have decreased at this time. The company anticipates a call back in January, unfortunately this is not a good time around the holidays. The committee will be able to help with any questions and concerns members have.

The grievance load is heavier at this time and we still have some pending arbitration cases. We just won an arbitration case where a member was made whole after being off work for 18 months. Congratulations to our staff for the good job they have done.

The company has just implemented a 90 day attendance points lock in. Everyone should be sure to check their points regularly so they don't have any issues.

If you have been following the Presidential Race, Barack Obama is ahead of John McCain. Jill Long Thompson is running for Governor in the state of Indiana against Mitch Daniels and is in a dead heat race. With 3 weeks to go in this election it is important to talk to other members to be sure we are successful in winning this race.

In Solidarity,
Linda Bennington
Vice President, Local 1999

Unit 09 Quemetco

Hi fellow Union brothers. I'd like to talk to you about voting & the importance of this election. I hear a lot of you talking about voting for John McCain and Mitch Daniels. My question is why? I ask Union members that you vote for your job, your wallet, and your health care. If you do that you cannot possibly vote for the republican ticket. Look at where the candidates stand on the issues that affect you and yours, not the wedge issues, but the real economic issues and see who really has your best interest. The candidates your Union and I recommend are Barack Obama and Jill Long Thompson. They will protect your right to organize as well as every other issue that's important to you. We need everyone to be informed and get out the vote. See you at the polls.

In Solidarity,
Derrick Morris
Acting Unit 09 President

Unit 17 Mid America Extrusions

Work here is slow. We shipped 1,174,409 pounds of aluminum in July, 1,059,000 pounds in August, and 994,000 pounds of aluminum in September. Our monthly budget is for one million pounds. It has been reported to me that our business is down 3% and our competitors business is down 10%.

There are no grievances to report.

Our safety committee met last month and they urge everyone to use their safety shoe benefit for new shoes. The committee stated that worn out shoes are a hazard, while causing pain and discomfort.

We have had two central air conditioners stolen here in two weeks time.

We have had 100% participation in voter registration.

In Solidarity,
Howard W. Davis
Unit 17 President

Debate From Page 9

Sen. McCain and I disagreed when the Supreme Court made it more difficult for Lilly Ledbetter to get paid. We tried to overturn it," Obama said of the ruling. "I supported that effort; John McCain opposed it. If a woman is out there trying to raise a family, a judge has to understand that," he said of sexual pay discrimination.

Senate Republicans successfully filibustered House-passed legislation that overturned the Ledbetter ruling and restored the right to sue. Obama flew back from the campaign trail, while the primaries were still going on, to vote to stop the filibuster.

McCain missed the vote, but later said he would have opposed the bill--and supported the filibuster--because women have unequal pay due to lack of education and qualifications. That prompted the group Moms Rising to present a petition with 29,000 names to McCain's Senate office several weeks later. In the debate, McCain called the equal pay bill "a boon for trial lawyers. □

Union Privilege Offers Tips, Aid For Economic Tough Times

WASHINGTON (PAI)--With millions of homeowners facing mortgage foreclosure, others struggling with mounting debt, unemployment rising and the country headed headlong into its second George W. Bush recession, Union Privilege is stepping forward with a package of tips and aid to help workers and their families through tough times.

Prime among the organization's offerings is mortgage aid, in a time when an estimated 3 million homeowners are at risk. It's also offering no-cost accident insurance for union families, help in budgeting and getting out of debt, refinanced union mortgages and aid to help workers "protect yourselves against the unexpected."

Union Plus mortgages differ from standard mortgages in several ways, the organization, backed by the AFL-CIO, says. Its aid is open to all union members. The toll-free mortgage hotline is 1-866-490-5361. Key differences between Union Plus mortgages and standard mortgages include:

- Interest-free loans to cover house payments for jobless union workers for six months, thus letting them get back on their financial feet. The organization has already written some \$3.5 million in mortgages.

"Unemployment, disability and strike benefits are available to make Union Plus mortgage payments," the organization notes. It also has "full disclosure" for adjustable rate mortgages, unlike the sub-prime mortgages that got so many thousands of homeowners into trouble.

- A cut in mortgage closing costs by elimination of "junk fees" and capping fees at \$100. And first-time union home buyers get \$500 in groceries from unionized grocery stores, courtesy Union Plus.

The accident insurance covers cases that employer-provided insurance omits, notably for unionists' families, or when employer insurance stops. Called UnionSecure, and jointly run by Union Privilege and ULLICO, it offers supplemental life and accident insurance to protect family finances, along with up to \$5,000 in free accidental death insurance for a year with no strings attached--including no medical exam.

"If you have life insurance through your employer, ask whether that coverage will continue when you retire or if you leave your job. Your employer may offer continuation options. Otherwise, you may want to purchase your own policy not tied to your job," Union Privilege warns.

Union Plus offers debt counseling and tips on how to get out of debt, including:

- Pay down credit card debt. "Once you have made a commitment to paying down debt, sit down and come up with a plan for payoff," the organization says. It has experts at Union Plus Credit Counseling to help. They suggest:

- Control your credit. "You cannot borrow your way out of financial difficulty. Don't get any deeper into debt. Save the credit card with the most favorable terms

and cut the rest up. Make sure you check the fine print for information about punitive pricing, universal default and two-cycle billing and avoid accounts with those features."

- Adjust your spending. "Make a conscious effort to know the difference between needs and wants. Come up with a written plan for reducing your debt systematically. Develop a daily, weekly, or monthly budget. Record ingoing and outgoing income in a notebook for easy viewing." And tell your family, so everyone is on the same page.

- Examine ways to increase income and cut expenses. They include selling non-essential assets or finding additional work. The experts also recommend transferring balances on credit cards with high interest rates to cards with lower rates.

- Establish priorities. "All your debts equally impact your family's finances--and credit score--so it is important to pay each creditor every month. Consider allocating extra funds to the debts with the highest interest rates. Pay your bills promptly and pay more than the minimum balance if possible."

- "Set aside an amount of money to pay all your minimum monthly payments plus whatever extra you can afford. On all but your debt with the highest interest rate, pay the monthly minimum on time. Add the extra money you set aside to the minimum for that last debt. Continue this until that debt is paid.

Debt From Page 12

"Then, apply what you were paying on that now-paid debt to the next one in line while you continue to pay the minimum amount on your other debts. The amount you pay on each successive debt 'snowballs' as you pay off more and more allowing you to pay off each debt faster and faster. It's a proven method of getting of excess debt," the credit

counselors at Union Privilege say.

• "Contact your creditors. They'll work with you if you do so. Avoiding them just leads to more problems," the counselors add. Many creditors will cut interest rates for consumers who face temporary setbacks or those willing to ask, the counselors note.

• Stay away from payday lenders and similar sharks. "Payday loans and car-title loans' high fees will only dig you further into debt," they warn.

Finally, Union Privilege counselors urge consumers to "learn from their mistakes" and, after reaching manageable debt, to establish emergency savings accounts □



STEEL VOICE

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