

STEEL VOICE



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GOP Suffers Big Yellow Taxi Syndrome

Leo Gerard

Republicans are suffering grievously from the syndrome that singer Joni Mitchell memorialized in the hit "Big Yellow Taxi" in 1970. The chorus says it all:

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
Till it's gone
They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot

Republicans bellyached for years that government must shrink. It had to be smaller. Cut the budget come hell or high water, they yammered. Well, darn if the sequester hasn't brought hell and high water to Republican districts across America. Now Republican lawmakers can't stop carping about how small government shouldn't occur in their districts. Don't



it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till you vote to kill it?

Paradise was among the first to go. Specifically, the paradise of American parks. The National Park Service, complying with the mandate that it slash about 9 percent of its budget through September, reduced hours, cut staff and stopped providing some services such as campgrounds, based on recommendations from each park superintendent.

Among the campgrounds shut down are those at Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota. The state's Republican Senator John Thune is

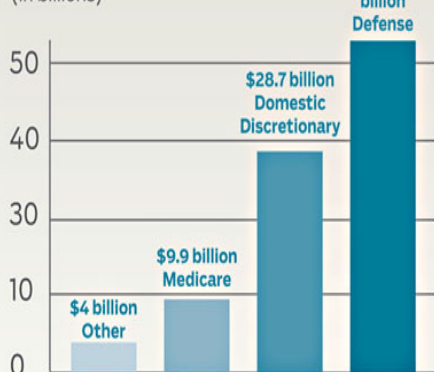
feeling particularly grumpy about that. He accused the Park Service of closing his campgrounds instead of cutting wasteful and duplicative spending, examples of which he neglected to offer.

He's singing the whiny sequester tune popularized by Republicans who refused to raise taxes on the rich to reduce the impact of \$1 trillion in indiscriminate, across-the-board budget cuts they demanded. They all said they wanted smaller government. They huffed and they puffed and they threatened to take

➡ See TAXI, Page 15.

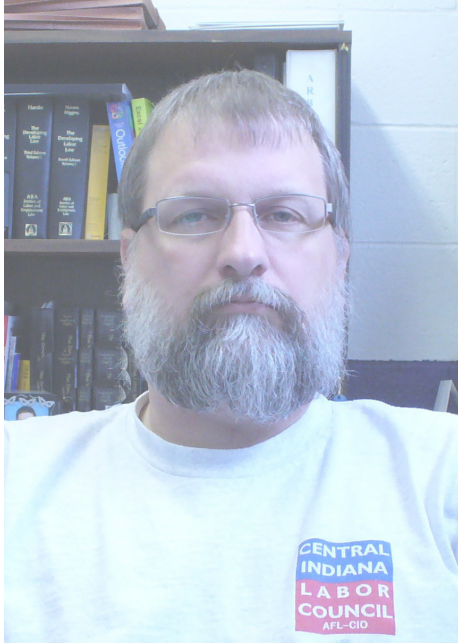
2013 Sequester Cuts

(in billions)



My View

Kelly Ray Hugunin,
Local Union Representative



Brothers and Sisters:

New attacks are being made on Social Security. Instead of focusing on what can be done to improve Social Security's viability, congress is looking for way's to reduce what are senior citizen's count on in Social Security payments.

President Obama's proposed budget calls for changing the way the annual cost of living adjustments for Social Security and other federal programs are calculated. Shifting to "chained CPI" from the current inflation measure could reduce the federal debt by \$230 billion, but it would also mean that seniors would get smaller increases in their Social Security payments each year.

Initially, the reduction in the growth of Social Security checks would be quite small ... between \$38 and \$45 in the first year, for the average retired worker. But over time, that would grow into the hundreds of

dollars.

Someone who started collecting the average Social Security benefit for a retired worker in 1999 would receive \$12,972 in 2012. But let's say the Social Security Administration had already been using chained CPI – that person would get only \$12,336 this year, according to the National Academy of Social Insurance. That's nearly 5% less.

The difference gets bigger over time. According to the National Women's Law Center, a retiree who was collecting \$17,520 last year would see 6.5% less, or \$1,139, by age 85, if chained CPI were in effect. A decade after, their payments would be 9.2% smaller, or \$1,612. These calculations do not include the supplemental payments, the details of which were not released until Wednesday.

Nearly two in three Social Security recipients rely on Social Security for at least 50% of their income. And Social Security makes up at least 90% of the income received by 36% of seniors.

All the while nothing is being done to close tax loopholes that allow corporations to pay a reduced amount of taxes, if any at all.

According to a Senate subcommittee investigating how multinational companies exploit the intricate U.S. corporate-tax code, Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard both used accounting strategies to hold down their U.S. tax bills while shifting profits in and out of the country. They claim they have done nothing illegal and much of the activity appears to comply with the letter of current tax regulations, though some of the

practices used by H-P are regarded as potentially abusive and subject to challenge.

The report says that from 2009 to 2011, Microsoft used an offshore subsidiary to shift nearly \$21 billion in revenue offshore. Investigators said that saved the company as much as \$4.5 billion in taxes on goods sold in the U.S. In recent years, H-P effectively shifted up to \$9 billion annually in offshore profits through loans from overseas subsidiaries, and avoided U.S. corporate tax.

I cannot believe that it is acceptable to the citizens of this nation to reduce the federal deficit on the backs of the retired and elderly while allowing corporations to get by with not paying their fair share in taxes.

In Solidarity
Kelly Ray Hugunin



Treasurers Corner

To all of our members within the local, some of you at your units are still having some trouble filling out your lost time vouchers. Also if you do move please give us your new address as soon as possible. If you have any questions I can be reached at (317) 525-9835 cell or (317) 426-4189 Fax.

Thank You,
Sister In Solidarity
Anna "Vickie" Burrus
Treasurer

Federal Lawmakers Back Up States' Attack On Public Workers Pensions

Mark Gruenberg

WASHINGTON (PAI)—Right-Wing federal lawmakers, led by Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., are backing up state government attacks on state and local workers' pensions through a measure that, if passed, would make the pensions virtually unaffordable.

The attacks, all in the GOP-run Tea Party-dominated House would, in the name of "transparency," drastically change assumptions that governments and unions must now make when figuring out whether a pension plan is solvent.

The combined impact of the changes, if approved, would be to force the pension plans to stop benefits, or worse, Fire Fighters Legislative Director Barry Kasinitz told his union's legislative conference delegates, meeting in D.C. in mid-March.

The issue is important to millions of workers and their families. Federal data show state and local governments combined employ 16.39 million workers. Another speaker at the IAFF legislative conference calculated that Social Security does not cover some 70% of those workers. Originally, all were excluded.

That means millions of state and local workers and their families depend on the workers' pensions for their retirement income. Unions negotiate the pensions in contracts over the years. Non-unionists are at the mercy of employing governments.

The federal attack comes as states ranging from New York to Illinois to

New Jersey and cities from Baltimore to San Diego to Little Rock use budget troubles and red ink to cut public workers' pensions. Often those governments haven't made their required payments to workers' pension funds, while the workers have, speakers said.

Kasinitz said Nunes' bill would virtually make a public pension plan not financially viable, by definition. And it would really penalize governments who go ahead, anyway.

Nunes and other Tea Partyites first attacked pensions frontally in 2011, but IAFF and other unions led a belated education campaign that killed the scheme. Now Nunes, his 49 GOP co-sponsors and lone Democrat Mike Quigley of Illinois want to attach their anti-pension bill to another piece of legislation, behind closed doors, Kasinitz said.

Nunes' bill says any public pension plan must be absolutely "risk free" and orders it to report its rate of return on its investments to the federal government. It now reports, publicly, to state and local officials. The bill also orders a plan to assume it can earn 2% yearly, at most, on its investments – regardless of how well the plan actually performs.

"There's not a pension plan in America that would qualify" as risk free "under that 2% standard," Kasinitz said.

"And if you don't meet that standard, the legislation says that we (the feds)

take away your tax exemption for state and local bonds," which the governments issue – anticipating tax revenues – to finance everything from workers' pay to snow plows.

"They want to create a false report" about a pension plan's vulnerability "to create a crisis," Kasinitz told delegates, urging them to lobby against the legislation.

Another piece of GOP pension legislation would ban the feds from "bailing out" any state and local government – such as the city of Detroit, whose pension funds are severely underfunded – that declares bankruptcy.

That same measure, Kasinitz said, would also "call on every state to abolish its defined benefits pension plans for public employees." Those "traditional" pensions, with their guaranteed monthly retirement payouts, could be replaced with alternatives that pay less, either the public pension version of 401(k) plans, or "cash balance" plans.

Meanwhile, some half a dozen states will be the top battlegrounds in this year's fights over public workers' pensions, Jordan Marks of the National Public Pension Coalition told the IAFF members.

Illinois tops the list, he said. It has a \$91 billion difference between available current state – not local – pension money and estimated future

⇒ See PENSION, Page 8.

Judge allows challenge to Michigan's right-to-work law

Chad Livengood - Detroit News Lansing Bureau

Mason — A Ingham County judge on Wednesday rejected Attorney General Bill Schuette's request to dismiss a lawsuit challenging the week-old right-to-work law on grounds the public was unlawfully locked out of the Capitol during heated debate on the bill in December.

Circuit Judge William Collette said he would allow the suit brought by the ACLU of Michigan and labor unions to move forward.

Collette said the plaintiffs face an "uphill battle" to prove the Open Meetings Act was violated when the Michigan State Police temporarily blocked protesters from entering the Capitol during debate on the controversial legislation. The plaintiffs want the right-to-work law invalidated if the

judge finds the state police and Legislature illegally blocked the public from watching the legislative process. "The judge made it clear that the plaintiffs have a high bar to prove their claims," Schuette spokeswoman Joy Yearout said. "We're confident that the law will be upheld and stand when it's all said and done."

Collette is allowing the plaintiffs to start gathering evidence and deposing Michigan State Police and Capitol officials about their decision to close the Capitol for more than four hours on Dec. 6, attorney Michael Pitt said.

Republican legislative leaders and their staff also could be questioned, Pitt said.

The state police have said they closed the Capitol on the first day of debate on the controversial right-to-work legislation because of safety reasons. GOP legislative leaders have said the decision to lock-out protesters was the state police's call, not theirs.

Pitt said the plaintiffs, which include labor leaders, have photographs showing empty hallways inside the Capitol as hundreds of protesters were locked outside the front entrance and lawmakers held heated debates on the bills.

"There was absolutely no safety risk we can see from those photos," Pitt said after a Wednesday morning hearing.

➡See MICHIGAN, Page 7.



Social Security Myth Buster

Chuck Jones, President

Today, you and I are facing the gravest threats we've seen in modern history concerning Social Security. There are many myths about Social Security and how Social Security Benefits affect the nations economy and national deficit. Here are a few facts about Social Security.

In the ongoing debate about our nation's fiscal problems, too many of our elected leaders want to cut into Social Security benefits rather than trimming wasteful forms of government spending.

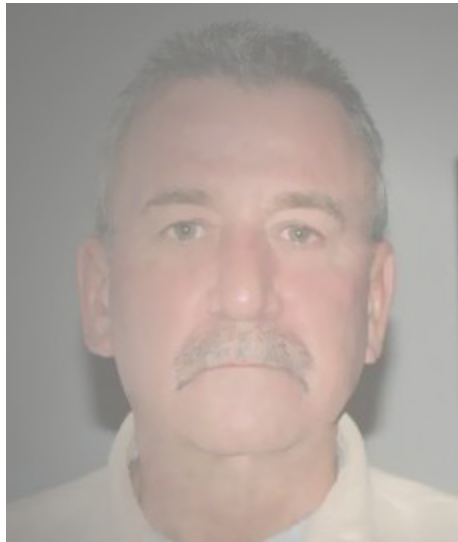
- The federal government does not fund Social Security – American workers do. Social Security is funded directly by payroll contributions divided equally between workers and their employers.

- With a \$2.7 trillion trust fund projected to grow to \$3.7 trillion by 2022, Social Security is far from going broke. While Social Security is paying out more in benefits than it currently collecting in contributions – the program is NOT in the red. Because the interest Social Security makes off its Treasury bonds in the trust fund is more than enough to make up the difference.

- Undocumented workers are not (and never have been) eligible to receive Social Security Benefits. In fact, undocumented workers contribute \$7 billion a year in Social Security contributions even though they cannot claim benefits from the program. This is according to the Social Security Administration.

- Social Security is not a

burden on our youth. Today's youth and working families are struggling as a result of high unemployment, stagnant wages and a shift from traditional pensions to 401 K plans. These are the folks who will likely need strong retirement, disability and



survivorship protections as they grow old and raise families of their own.

We should be talking more about preserving and strengthening Social Security for the young and old alike, instead of pushing for cuts to the benefits of future generations.

For the sake of American seniors, especially those who depend upon these benefits for the majority of their income, Social Security must be put on stable financial ground so that those who work and pay into the system will be guaranteed the benefits they have earned.

Medicare should be strengthened and improved to guarantee affordable, high quality care to both current and future generations. Recipients should have choices and access to

their doctors and other health care providers. And more should be done to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of care by emphasizing value and cracking down on fraud, waste, and abuse.

The retirement security of America's seniors is being threatened. The decline of pensions, financial scams, the increasing cost of living, and the list goes on. Social Security and Medicare must be protected and strengthened for current beneficiaries and for your kids and grandkids.

So please contact your Congressman and tell them that you know the future of Medicare and Social Security could be altered. Tell them you want responsible solutions that will protect and strengthen these programs, not shortsighted changes that will hurt all of us.

Local News

Most people don't know what Right to Work really means. But I hope as union members we have informed you enough to know that this new law is not in the best interest of working men and women. When we sit down with the Company to negotiate a contract everything we do is to try and better the lives of our members. Union dues are paid by the members in order to afford the business of the Unions, such as Grievance Handling, Arbitrations, and Contract Negotiations, just to name a few. As we ratify these new contracts there have been some members that have decided that they don't want to pay their union

⇒ See LOCAL, Page 16.

Made In The USA!

Peggy Scotten, Recording Secretary

Union Brothers and Sisters

Made in the USA!! What does that mean to you? Let's give this some REAL thought.

There are many challenges in our work place today. Our Union is under attack by our own government. With our Legislature passing Free Trade Agreements and "Right to Work", "What will we the people have left?" The corporations here in America want you to believe it's your union's fault that US trade and jobs have left the country, but it's Corporate Greed!!! It's not enough that they have made BIG bucks overseas now they want to punish the middle class and take away what we have!!

Out on the shop floor I see and hear the many complaints going on in our work place. Taking pride in what we do and doing our jobs to the fullest of our abilities has been used against us. I can only speak to you in words

from the heart, I want a FAIR shake!! I want my efforts to COUNT!! Companies think because we are Union it's a BAD thing! They think that since I do the job of two people (because of company cuts backs) I need to work harder and longer hours!!

Companies love to hear stories about how our union has failed us!! They love to hear about Union Brothers and Sisters fighting among each other... they want to encourage you to get mad at the person next to you because they are struggling with their job!! Companies don't want you to help the person next to you. They choose to let the managers harass you. They do not care if someone is treated differently than you and they do the HAPPY, HAPPY dance when they can embarrass and frustrate you!! We need to send them the message that if you mess with one you mess with us all!!

I AM UNION AND I AM PROUD!!

Companies want you to believe the unions do not represent your best interest. If at this time in your life if you have never been treated unfairly for whatever reason, good for you. But how many of you have a memory of when the table was turned?? Companies think and want you to think unions are a waste of time and money, yet they continue to show you everyday how they do business for Corporate America!! They are the ones who sold America out and want you to once again pay the price!! Are you a person who sees a person being discriminated against but looks the other way?? Well I am the person who does not!!

I WILL NOT LIE DOWN, I WILL NOT GO QUIETLY, I WILL NOT SUBMIT, I WILL NOT ROLL OVER, I WILL NOT COMPLY I WILL NOT SHUT UP I WILL NOT SIT DOWN I WILL STAND UP AND I WILL FIGHT BACK AGAINST ATTACKS ON WORKERS RIGHTS!!



Steelworkers Win Health Care Premium Cut In New Pact At Newport News Shipyard

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (PAI)—A 15% cut in the workers' share of health care premiums and an average 14% pay raise over its 52-month term are the key features of a new contract that Steelworkers Local 8888 negotiated with Huntington Ingalls Industries, owner of Newport News Shipbuilding.

The pact, ratified in mid-March by a 9-to-1 ratio, covers 11,000 workers at the nation's only shipyard whose workers build nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. The pact also increases pensions, said USW Vice President Fred Redmond, the lead negotiator.

"At times it got rough, but we stayed on course, stuck to our members' pri-

orities and navigated to a place that created a win-win situation for our union and the company," said Redmond. Local 8888 President Arnold Outlaw added that members "wanted a real pay raise that wasn't going to be eaten up by higher health care costs. Fortunately, we found a way to accomplish that."



➤ MICHIGAN From Page 4.

After the initial Dec. 6 protests and a court order to open the doors, the state police changed its handling of the union protesters, allowing them to come and go from the Capitol as more than 12,000 remained outside protesting.

Legislature's lame duck session.

On Wednesday, Collette ordered the Attorney General's office to respond to the lawsuit by Monday.

"Our answer will be a detailed rebuttal of their claims," Yearout said.

"The lawsuit filed by union bosses and politicians bought and paid for with their special interest dollars is a blatant and disgusting attempt to line their own pockets by oppressing working class Michigan families," McNeilly said Wednesday in a statement.



The ACLU's lawsuit also alleges Republican lawmakers filled the public galleries with their staff members to block the public from watching the proceedings.

Two right-to-work laws went into effect last Thursday banning public and private sector union contracts from requiring financial support of the union as a condition of employment. Police and firefighters were exempted from the law, a carve-out that is the subject of a separate legal challenge of the law.

Lawmakers rushed the legislation to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk in five days in December, bypassing the normal public hearing process during the

In addition to the ACLU, the other plaintiffs in the lawsuit include the Michigan Education Association, the AFL-CIO, the Michigan Building & Construction Trades Council and Change to Win, a federation of labor unions that includes Service Employees International, the United Auto Workers and Teamsters.

Three Democratic state lawmakers — Sen. Rebekah Warren of Ann Arbor, Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Detroit and Rep. Brandon Dillon of Grand Rapids — also are plaintiffs.

Greg McNeilly, president of the Michigan Freedom Fund, a group that lobbied for the law, called the lawsuit frivolous.

In a separate legal battle over the new law, Snyder has asked the Michigan Supreme Court to consider the constitutionality of the laws in a bid to stave off protracted court battles with organized labor,

Some constitutional experts argue the public sector right-to-work law doesn't apply to the state's 35,000 unionized state workers because their labor contracts are negotiated by the constitutionally autonomous Michigan Civil Service Commission. The Republican governor wants the high court to decide whether the constitutional right of equal protection has been violated for some union workers by exempting police and firefighter unions from the law. □

↳ **PENSION From Page 3.**

obligations. Gov. Pat Quinn, D-Ill., elected in 2010 with strong union support, is touring the state, Marks said, posing a choice of pensions or roads. Illinois has not made its required contributions. Members of state worker unions are offering to contribute 2% more in salary yearly.

The other states are Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Nevada and Louisi-

ana. But workers have some weapons to fight back with, Marks said. They include educating state lawmakers that public workers don't get Social Security and studies that show converting traditional state pensions to 401(k)s with state matches costs a state more money and takes pension payments out of workers' pockets.

His group, which includes the AFL-CIO, the Fire Fighters, AFSCME, SEIU and both U.S. teachers unions,

can provide more data for education, Marks added.

"Florida's pensions are 87% funded," in one example he gave. "But the state House speaker and state Senate majority leader," both Republicans, "want to move all the workers to a defined contribution plan," like a 401(k). "It's an ideological crusade." □

USW Members Take Action in Support of Mexican Workers Across North America

Between Feb. 18 and 22, USW members from the U.S. and Canada joined unions around the world in demonstrations and rallies at embassies and consulates to protest the constant and systematic violations of human and labor rights by the Mexican Government.

The 'Mexico Days of Action' were a week of protests supported by global union alliances like IndustriALL, Workers Uniting, and the Tri-National Solidarity Alliance that includes the national federations of the AFL-CIO and the CLC in North America. A USW membership del-

egation traveled to Mexico City on Feb. 18 to participate in a protest march with Los Mineros, our alliance union partner in Mexico, to demand justice for the 65 miners killed at the Pasta de Conchos Mine. □



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2. Fill in the requested information to receive Union Plus communications
3. You're automatically entered to win!

Here's what you can win:

- Four Walt Disney World 4-Day Park Hopper with Water Park tickets (2 adult & 2 child tickets)
- Airfare for four
- Four nights Hotel
- 5 days car rental



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 OR text **DISNEY** to **22555** and enter your email address for a chance to win the Union Plus Disney Dream Vacation for 4.

Msg&Data Rates Apply. Reply STOP to opt-out. Reply HELP or contact info@unionplus.org for help. Expect no more than 2 msgs/mo.

Contest begins March 5, 2013, and ends May 15, 2013

No purchase necessary to enter. A purchase will not increase your chances of winning. All Sweepstakes are void where prohibited or restricted by law. This Sweepstakes is provided by Union Privilege and is open to current union leaders, staff and members of affiliated unions who participate in the Union Plus programs. This Sweepstakes is not open to employees of Union Privilege, Walt Disney Company, and their families. To claim the prize you must be a resident of the United States, be 21 years or older and have a valid driver's license in the United States. You may enter only once in the Sweepstakes. Multiple submissions will be removed by Union Privilege. Approximate retail value of the prize is \$3,625.00. The Walt Disney Company is not a sponsor of and not affiliated with this Sweepstakes. Walt Disney World images and logos are the property of The Walt Disney Company.



Letter Carriers Stage Mass Rallies To Preserve 6-Day Service

Mark Gruenberg

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (PAI)—“Neither rain, nor snow nor heat, nor gloom of night,” nor a monthly-record 17-inch blizzard stayed Letter Carriers in Springfield, Ill., from joining tens of thousands of their colleagues nationwide at massive March 24 rallies to preserve 6-day postal service.

Building on their own agency’s motto, engraved on the main Post Office in New York City, the NALC members in the Illinois state capital spent their day off that Sunday telling their customers that the Postmaster General wants to kill Saturday pickups, service and delivery.

And they urged postal service users – the entire country – to let lawmakers know that constituents, also known as voters, oppose that scheme.

News media reported on at least 92 “Save our Saturday service” rallies nationwide. Not all were as snow-bound as Springfield. The rallies stretched from frigid Portland, Maine, to tropical Dededo, Guam.

And the NALC, which is leading postal unions’ campaign against the shut-down of Saturday delivery, picked up support from public officials, led by Gov. Mark Dayton, D-Minn., and the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office (GAO).

Dayton donned a dark blue “Delivering for America” sweatshirt and joined unionists in the Twin Cities. And the GAO, whose past findings led the Postmaster General to announce the Saturday shutdown – and other “cost-saving” moves, such as firing 100,000 workers and letting



another 100,000 go by attrition – knocked the legal props out from his anti-Saturday stand.

It issued a legal opinion saying the money bill that funds the government through the end of this fiscal year, Sept. 30, as well as the money bill that kept it going until now, orders full postal services six days a week. Practically, that includes Saturday.

⇒ See 6-DAY, Page 11.



↳6-DAY From Page 10.

Letter Carriers President Fredric Rolando praised the GAO ruling as a positive development, and Sen. Bernie Sanders, Ind-Vt., a leading pro-worker lawmaker and supporter of Saturday service, wrote to Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe urging him to abide by the law. Donahoe, who plans to shut Saturday after Aug. 5, has been silent.

"The Postal Service, by its own accounting, lost \$2.4 billion in postal operations last year, with the bulk of the \$15.9 billion in red ink attributable to the (health care) pre-funding mandate imposed by Congress on the Postal Service," Rolando explained in a statement. He addressed the rally in Boston.

USPS owes \$11 billion in the health care "pre-funding" scheme. That plan was imposed by a so-called postal reform law that anti-worker GOP President George W. Bush

pushed through the GOP-run Congress in 2006. It forces the Postal Service to prepay 75 years of future retirees' health care benefits, at a rate of \$5.5 billion yearly, in the 10 years that started in 2006.

Despite that huge financial drain, USPS overall losses declined by half in 2012, Rolando noted. And it turned a \$100 million net profit from delivering the mail in the first quarter of fiscal 2013, Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 2012, he added.

"The Postal Service is clearly in transition, but its financial situation is different from what the PMG is trying to portray. Donahoe also said the Postal Service is losing \$25 million a day – another misleading statement. In fact, 80% of that has nothing to do with operations, but rather results from pre-funding, which is required of no other public agency or private company in the country.

"Is the postmaster general misleading

lawmakers in an effort to persuade them to adopt his draconian cuts – cuts that would hurt tens of millions of Americans and small businesses throughout the nation?" Rolando asked.

Dayton denounced not just the Saturday service slash but the other cuts, too.

"I've never heard of anyone whose business is in trouble deciding the way to fix things is to make service worse," he said during the Minneapolis rally, which drew almost 200 people despite – again – a blizzard.

Dan Garhofer, president of St. Paul-based NALC Branch 28, vowed unions would lead the effort to prevent any cuts to mail delivery. "We're going to fight, we're going to scratch, we're going to claw and we're going to do whatever we have to do to make sure 6-day delivery stands," Garhofer said.

The other USPS unions, the Mail Handlers – a Laborers sector – the Rural Letter Carriers and the Postal Workers, also campaign against the Saturday shutdown.

Sanders and congressional Democrats have introduced legislation to end the health care pre-funding mandate, to order the federal government to return billions of dollars in prior USPS pension overpayments and to let the Postal Service enter other lines of business, such as issuing various licenses, notarizing documents and even shipping beer and wine.

The St. Paul Union Advocate contributed material for this story. □



Unit 00 Rexnord

Hello to all;

I just wanted to give everybody an update on what is going on with the grievance load between the Company and the Union. The Union has three grievances slated for arbitration. We have had more than a normal amount of OSS grievances in Maintenance Department. But in the rest of the plant it has been rather quiet. I would like to thank all the Stewards in their departments for taking care of the issues which keeps the grievance load low.

Talking to Kevin Wise he said the work load still looks steady. Department 106/132 is in the process of hiring five people to start up a 3rd shift. Screw machine work is up 20% according to management. In case you haven't heard Adam Clupper will be taking over as plant manager, Adam has been here at Rexnord about five or six years.

Update on negotiations: The committee is finalizing our proposals, which should be done at the April meeting. After we are done with the language proposals we will start getting our proposals together for economics. When we start on economics that is when we will start working on insurance quotes. The committee will be meeting at least once a month from now until we start negotiations with the company. Starting in April we will be having UNIT MEETINGS at least every other month and possibly every month until we have a contract. Please watch the boards for updates. Just remember

this is your future we are talking about, please try to show up for these meetings they are very IMPORTANT.

I just want to remind everybody again SAFETY is very important. If you have any safety issues please bring them to the Safety Committee, your Department Steward, or myself before you go up front PLEASE. The members of the Safety Committee are Allan Smith dept.131, he is the chairman but he is on sick leave right now, Julie Heaton dept. 104, and Gary Canter dept. 103.

In closing I would like to thank everybody for all their hard work, if you need anything please let me know. Just remember we are Union. We are one.

In Solidarity,
Don Zering
Unit President

Unit 07 UTC Carrier

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

First, I would like to say congratulations to all of our retirees. "Best wishes to all."

Secondly, to all of our members this is very important to us regarding our points. Since we have been having issues with Kronos at times, it is in our best interest that we take the responsibility of checking our points twice a month. We know if there are any discrepancies there is the 90 days rule (game). If you need any assistance please contact one of your Union Officers or the Human Resources office.

Third, to all members who wish to take a vacation day or use their SVP, please use a P-144 form. This for your record.

Finally; to all new hires, welcome to Carrier from United Steelworkers Local 1999-07.

In Solidarity,
Anna "Vickie" Burrus
Treasurer/Grievance Committee

Unit 09 RSR Quemetco

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Here at RSR things are fine. Our grievance load is light. We have been able to settle most issues at the second step. We have also been successful in getting some guys some back pay for a missed shift differential payment.

The relationship between the Union and Management here remains good. We recently ratified a new contract and we made some very positive gains. But as a result of our new contract the new "right to be represented for free" kicked in. Fortunately for us here at RSR our USW brothers remain strong. RSR has and continues to be a strong Union shop. I am very proud to be a part of that fact.

In Solidarity,
Derrick Morris
Unit President



OVERWHELMED BY MEDICAL BILLS?

UNION PLUS CAN HELP with **FREE** professional medical bill negotiation

Medical bills continue to be a leading cause of bankruptcy. Even working families covered by health insurance are struggling with overwhelming medical expenses. If you're among them, help is available—and it's free. The Union Plus Medical Bill Negotiating Service provides union members with large out-of-pocket medical bills **FREE** assistance. The service's professional negotiators will work directly with physicians, hospitals and other medical providers on your behalf to lower your costs and arrange payments that are more manageable.

Visit **UnionPlus.org/HealthAdvocate** to learn more, and to apply for the medical bill negotiation benefit.

CLOSE THE LOOPHOLES ON THE FAT CATS

**MILLIONAIRES
SURTAX**

**TAX BREAK FOR
OFFSHORING**

**HEDGE FUND
MANAGERS LOOPHOLE**



Republicans in Congress would rather cut Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare benefits than close tax loopholes for Wall Street and the wealthiest 2%.

AFL-CIO

Cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid would hurt working families. The people helped by these lifelines include:

55.4 million Americans who receive monthly Social Security checks, including **8.6 million workers with disabilities** and **4.4 million children**.

48.7 million Americans who get their health care coverage from Medicare.

64.4 million Americans who get their health care coverage from Medicaid, including **29.8 million children** and **4.2 million seniors**.

LEARN MORE AT

www.aflcio.org/ProtectOurFuture

Source: Social Security Administration and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

⇐TAXI From Page 1.

down the nation's economy until they got it.

Now that it's here, now that it's affecting their constituents, Republicans contend the \$1 trillion in indiscriminate, across-the-board budget cuts they demanded should have been specifically targeted to eliminate only "waste, fraud and abuse."

That's a confusing assertion, though, from the party insisting on smaller government, the party whose members swore loyalty oaths to Grover Norquist, the anti-government lobbyist who infamously said government must be shrunk small enough to drown in a bathtub. Even if every speck of waste, fraud and abuse that anyone could ever uncover were eliminated, it wouldn't add up to \$1 trillion. And it wouldn't shrink government.

Government might be more efficient, but it wouldn't be smaller. Smaller government requires cutting actual services and programs – like Thune's campground.

So far, Republicans haven't wailed about cuts to programs for struggling families such as unemployment benefits, public housing, daycare aid for poor working women, the home heating help called LIHEAP, or the food assistance called WIC that impoverished mothers use to feed their babies.

There has been no Republican backlash about the Energy Department laying off 250 workers and furloughing another 2,600 at the nation's largest Superfund cleanup site, Hanford Nuclear Reservation in

Washington State, where radioactive contamination began with the Manhattan Project and continued for 40 years.

Instead, Republicans protested cuts to programs more likely to affect wealthier constituents. That is, constituents more likely to make campaign donations.

They've griped like crazy about the decision to stop White House tours, about the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) closing 149 control towers at small airports and about the reduction in service at National Parks.

The FAA announcement that it would be forced to close the towers in order to slash \$637 million from its budget as sequestration requires sent Republicans from rural areas into a frenzy.

One after another stepped up to say stuff should be cut, somewhere, you know, but not their control tower. Several suddenly experienced the realization – something Democrats have been saying for years – that slashing federal spending harms the economy.

Here, for example, is Republican Congressman Blake Farenthold of Texas contending the FAA should preserve a tower in his district to prevent damage to business:

"A closure of the air traffic control tower at Victoria Regional Airport will have a negative economic impact on the city of Victoria, Texas and the surrounding region."

Similarly, here's Republican Congressman Dennis A. Ross railing against closure of the tower in his

Florida district because it's needed for the annual SUN 'n FUN Fly-In convention:

"SUN 'n FUN not only provides incredible economic value to Lakeland, but it serves our children by investing \$1.4 million dollars annually in education. It is unacceptable to cut this important funding."

Rep. Ross suggested, instead, eliminating "waste, fraud and abuse to make our government more responsible, effective and efficient."

Like every other Republican who opted for abolishing "waste, fraud and abuse" instead of cutting services to his own district, Ross failed to specify any examples.

Republicans may have some difficulty spotting waste, fraud and abuse because they're a little too close to it. Incensed that visiting constituents will be denied visits to the White House, the GOP-controlled House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform devoted its "government oversight and reform" efforts to producing a video criticizing the sequester-caused White House tour cancellations.

That video definitely qualifies as waste.

Republicans never knew what their districts had gotten from the federal government. Until it was gone. Until after they'd paved it over with the sequester. Now they're stalled in an economically barren parking lot of their own creation. □

⇨LOCAL From Page 5.

dues. These people are freeloaders. They want the same benefits that you receive but they don't want to pay their fair share. They think it is okay to be scabs. What they are really doing is stealing from all of us that do pay our union dues. Since these people have all made the choice to be freeloaders then I have made the choice to inform the rest of the members just who they are:

David Baker- Air System Components Lebanon, Indiana
 Cheryl Brewer- Air System Components Lebanon, Indiana
 Bob Brattain- Cenvco Beech Grove
 Steve Pattingill- Cenvco Beech Grove
 Jamie Crum- RSR Quemetco Indianapolis

I hope when your contract is ratified that you don't make the choice to steal from your union brothers and sisters. When the union loses its dues

paying members, they won't be able to afford to arbitrate and we lose our bargaining power with the companies (during contract negotiations) thus in turn losing our contractual benefits. (Benefits that have taken years and in some cases even decades to acquire.) In the state of Indiana the only benefits that are required by law for the company to afford to you is... Overtime pay after 40 hours within one week and minimum wage (\$7.25)

So you need to determine if the amount you pay in union dues (tax deductible) is adequate for the benefits you receive in your contract or would you rather lose your union and depend on the kindness of the company to provide your benefits?

We have been very busy with contract negotiations so far this year and still have several more to come. Here is a brief run down on some of the Units in Local 1999.

Contracts Ratified - since January 1:

* RSR Quemetco 79 yes 29 no
 Ratified on March 2
 * Cenvco 77 yes 17 no
 Ratified on April 5

Contracts Currently in Negotiations:

* Alexander Extrusions

Contracts Currently in Preparation:

* Colors Inc. Expiration - May 31,
 * Pepsico Expiration - June 2
 * Rexnord Expiration - October 6

Contracts that will be expiring this year:

* Vertellus Expiration - September 1,
 * Diamond Chain Expiration - September 28

If we happen to have a work stoppage at one or more of these facilities, we will need your help and support. □

Unit 10 Sumco

Everyone at Sumco would like to congratulate Rick Griffin on his retirement. Rick started in 1988 and has seen the plant go through multiple sales and owners, the plant fire and even a plant closer and a reopen over a weekend. We wish Rick and his family best wishes in all their future endeavors.

We had 7 members participate in the Steward training at the Union Hall.

We added 7 new members to our ranks as United Steelworkers.

In Solidarity,
 Leo Hedden
 Unit President

Unit 17 Alexandria Extrusion Mid America

The months of January and February were below budget. The month of March was very good with increased orders from old customers and good performance for new customers.

We have stopped production and are in the beginning of our upgrades to

the extrusion Department. We expect to have the upgrades completed by April 22nd. I would like to remind everybody to work safe and wear there PPE.

We are still in negotiations with good progress being made in the last two meetings.

A Company picnic is being planned for this summer. It will be a first after many years. The location and date will be determined later. That is all for now.

In Solidarity,
 Howard Davis
 Unit President

Jupiter Steelworkers Rally For Better Contract

Rob Earnshaw - NWI.Com Consultant

HAMMOND - Jupiter Aluminum Corp. steelworkers rallied in support of a new contract Wednesday outside the facility's main gate.

The contract between United Steelworkers Local 2003 and Jupiter expired Dec. 31 and Jupiter "has taken a very hard stance in negotiations," said Jim Robinson, director of USW District 7.

"We don't think their position is justified," Robinson said. "The big issue is economics, and obviously that includes wages and benefits. They claim that times are tough, but they won't back it up. And the truth is, as everybody is aware, the economy is improving."

Robinson said Jupiter steelworkers make aluminum products for housing – an industry that "is coming back." "It's been gradually improving," he said. "It's time for the United Steelworkers to get a decent raise and improvements in their other economic benefits."

Carlos Luna, president of Local 2003, said Jupiter "needs to realize we're not playing and we're out here because we need the support and they need to negotiate fair."

Robinson said there will be another negotiating session Thursday. "We'll see what comes of that," he said.

Attempts to reach Jupiter for comment

were unsuccessful. □



United Steelworkers District 7
Director Jim Robinson



United Steelworkers Local 2003 members, from left, Eddie Medina, of Scehererville, Jake Cole, of Hobart, and Nick Young, of Knox, rally Wednesday outside Jupiter Aluminum Corp. in Hammond.

Op-Ed: Two Tales Of Jackpots And Taxes

Sam Pizzigati, Editor, Too Much

Want a contrast in how much the rich pay Uncle Sam, compared to the rest of us? Then consider the tax bites taken from one of the largest Powerball lottery winners – a grocery worker from New Jersey – and a hedge fund manager from New York.

Pedro Quezada, 44, won the fourth-largest Powerball pot ever. He'll take his cash as a lump sum, about \$211 million. Taxes? He'll owe 46.2% of his lump in combined state and federal income taxes.

Now look across the Hudson River at hedge fund manager John Paulson. In 2009, he bet that the feds would bail out banking giant Citigroup. He bet right – and cleared \$1 billion. That's five times as much as Quezada got.

Taxes? The profits that hedgies make qualify as "capital gains" and get preferential treatment at tax time. Paulson paid only a 15% tax on his winnings.

So if you do the math, what you come up with is that the poor grocery worker from New Jersey forks over around \$100 million of his one-time victory jackpot. Meanwhile, the rich hedge fund bettor from Wall Street – whose winnings don't create jobs and whose hedge fund can destroy them – antes up around \$150 million to the feds. We don't know what income taxes Paulson must pay to his state of residence.

There's something wrong with that picture. The basic capital gains tax rate

did go up a bit, from 15% to 20%, in the January fiscal cliff deal. But hedge fund managers who cash out big this year will still be paying taxes at half the rate of Pedro Quezada.

It wasn't always this way. Back in the mid-20th century, even one of Wall Street's top tax lawyers advocated and applauded stiff taxes on America's super rich. That's very relevant, as April 15 is fast approaching, and Americans are naturally thinking about taxes. But most of us won't be thinking about taxes the same way Americans once did. Over the past half-century, we've had a profound transformation in our attitudes toward income taxation.

How profound? Consider the tax perspective of Randolph Paul, the corporate tax attorney who helped shape federal tax policy during and after World War II. In those years, he was America's most famed corporate tax lawyer and his answer had the nation's super rich squirming.

Paul probably thought about taxes – and their role in our society – as deeply as any American of his time. Paul lived and died taxes, literally. In 1956, he slumped over and died while testifying about tax policy before a U.S. Senate committee.

Paul's tax career started decades earlier. In 1918, just a few years after the federal income tax went into effect, Paul began specializing in tax law. By the 1930s, he had become one of Wall Street's top tax experts. His clients ranged from General Mo-

tors to Standard Oil of California, and probably no one in America knew the tax code – loopholes and all – any better.

That knowledge made Randolph Paul invaluable to Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. In 1940, Paul helped New Dealers write an excess profits bill. In 1941, right after Pearl Harbor, he joined the Treasury Department and worked to make sure that all Americans, the wealthy included, contributed financially to the war effort.

Paul succeeded. By 1944, the federal income tax had become a major presence in American life. Most Americans, for the first time ever, were paying income tax – and rich Americans were paying the most taxes of all. During the war, the tax rate on income over \$200,000, about \$2.6 million today, jumped to 94%.

Two years after the war, back in private practice, Paul published his masterwork, the ultimate distillation of his thinking about tax policy. *Taxation For Prosperity* presented a carefully argued case for continuing high war-time tax rates on peacetime high incomes.

Taxation For Prosperity drew a distinction between "a mature economy" and a "mature approach to economic problems." The immature in a mature economy, Paul noted, preach "the gospel that taxes are for revenue only."

⇒ See TALES, Page 19.



Women of Steel Coordinator Julie Heaton is continuing to accept donations for the Wailing Women's shelter. Donations of hair care products, make-up, and personal hygiene items are welcomed as well as cash. Donations can be dropped off at the Union Hall.



← Tales From Page 18.

In fact, Paul would argue, taxes in a mature economy offer us "powerful instruments for influencing the social and economic life of the nation." With "well-planned taxes," we could avert a next depression.

By "well-planned taxes," Paul meant progressive taxes, steeply graduated levies that kept as much money as possible in the pockets of "people in the lower brackets." Lower-income people, Paul explained, "have a higher propensity to spend." Their spending keeps "the wheels of industry turning."

For people in higher income brackets, by contrast, a "well-planned" tax system meant high tax rates.

"The people with high incomes can best afford to contribute to the support of the government," as Paul noted, "and the failure to impose sub-

stantial taxes in the upper brackets would seriously injure the morale of the rest of the taxpaying public."

High taxes on people of high income, Paul continued, also "perform the valuable service of preventing more saving than our economy can absorb," soaking up the excess that would otherwise wind up devoted to destabilizing speculation.

Could taxes on the rich ever go too high? That danger, Paul acknowledged, does exist in an economy that "depends upon the profit motive." So taxes on the rich ought always be kept at a level that "fosters economic activity."

But the "need for this incentive," Paul added, fades away "when we reach the highest brackets." At that point, tax rates ought to rise "very sharply" to help "counteract undue concentration of wealth."

In other words, Paul summed up, we need a tax system that keeps "the nation's wealth" from flowing "into the hands of too few."

Over the next two decades, in the 1950s and 1960s, we had a tax system that for the most part played that role. Tax rates on America's rich hovered at high, near World War II-era levels, and average Americans, over the course of these years, prospered as never before.

Since then, we've gone in the opposite direction. Our nation's tax experts — and the elected officials they advise — no longer think about taxes as a tool for combating our "undue concentration of wealth." They see taxes as a matter of raising revenue, pure and simple.

Randolph Paul considered that attitude "immature." We should, too. □

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Day's Wear Your T-shirts

Friday 

↑ Wednesday

