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STRONG IN THE STRUGGLE

LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES

1991-1995

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## What is Labor Party Advocates?

**What does it mean to join Labor Party Advocates?** The purpose of Labor Party Advocates is to educate the American public about the need for a Labor Party in the United States. To belong is to affirm one's belief in an idea: that the labor movement in the United States needs its own political party.

**Who can join?** Any trade unionist or other person who believes the United States needs a Labor Party can become a dues-paying member.

**Ensuring fair representation.** The leadership of Labor Party Advocates includes a growing number of elected trade union officials -- from shop stewards on up -- people who actually represent someone. They are the guarantee that the movement for a labor party is a serious and legitimate effort. This group includes all kinds of working people -- female and male, black and white, Latino and Asian.



*LPA's public hearings provide opportunities to discuss issues of importance to the future of the labor movement.*



*Bob Kasen*

*Labor Party Advocates work to build a better future.*

**What about running candidates?** Labor Party Advocates has a single purpose: to organize a Labor Party in the United States.

Labor Party Advocates is neither running nor endorsing candidates for political office and therefore is not interfering in on-going COPE work or other political activity.

But Labor Party Advocates is agitating for a new economic, social and political agenda for working people. And it is serving as an organizing committee for a new labor party.



## What Does Labor Party Advocates Do?

**Organize! Organize! Organize!** The most important objective is to convince as many people as possible to become Labor Party Advocates.

Labor Party Advocates from all over the country are forming organizing committees to help sign up new members. The committees consist of local leaders, activists and rank and filers from several different unions or members of a single local union.

Organizing committees are polling local union membership, drawing up and passing resolutions in support of Labor Party Advocates and sponsoring forums and public hearings where trade unionists and others can both learn more about Labor Party Advocates and discuss vital issues of importance to the future of the labor movement.

**Leading a crusade for a new agenda.** Labor Party Advocates organizing committees are encouraging local union members to challenge the political agenda of corporations and debate how best to restore a proper balance of power among the government, the corporations and the people.

**What would a labor agenda look like?** LPA is taking no official stand on particular issues until our constituent unions and members have their say at a founding convention.

LPA will shape a pro-labor agenda that will include a call for a full employment economy; laws that protect the right of workers to organize and bargain; fair health, pension and education benefits for all; health and safety on the job; a trade policy that raises wages rather than lowering them; and a fair tax structure that ensures that the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share.

## The bosses have two parties. We need one of our own!

If you agree, please complete the sign-up form and become a Labor Party Advocate!

Members receive a membership card and a bi-monthly newsletter with updates on what committees and individual members are doing to further the cause.

Please make checks payable to  
Labor Party Advocates.  
Contributions are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ \$20 Regular Membership/Renewal
  - ☐ \$10 Unemployed/Retired
  - ☐ \$50 Sustaining Member
  - ☐ \$100 Eugene V. Debs 5 Score Club
  - ☐ \$100 John L. Lewis 5 Score Club
  - ☐ \$100 Mother Jones 5 Score Club
  - ☐ \$100 Frederick Douglass 5 Score Club
  - ☐ \$100 Cesar Chavez 5 Score Club
- (all 5 Score Clubs include brass membership card)
- ☐ Please send me more information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Union affiliation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

### Labor Party Advocates of America

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Bob Kasen

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## What Union Leaders are Saying About a Labor Party

**Robert E. Wages, President  
Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers  
International Union**

*Our polls consistently show that workers believe that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats address the needs of working people and that both parties care more about big business than they do about them. Workers know Labor needs its own voice, its own agenda. That's why we're working so hard to organize a Labor Party that will speak for Labor.*

**Baldemar Velasquez, President  
Farm Labor Organizing Committee**

*People like us, people on the outside, we don't have to break with the politicians. We've never been involved with them. We've been completely shut out. A labor party could be a way to put the political and economic issues of our time on the table.*

**Kathy King, Vice-President  
NJ Coalition of Labor Union Women**

*I am one of thousands of people across the country who has joined Labor Party Advocates. I made this choice because I have long felt that unions have lost their political power and they need to regain it.*

**Joanne Bell, President  
Communications Workers of America  
Local 2336, Washington, DC**

*I support Labor Party Advocates because I'm tired of politicians who say they represent us, but on the issues that really matter, vote against us and for Big Business and people with money. It's time working people organized a Labor Party we can really count on -- one that will protect the rights of workers.*

# Who Will Speak for Labor ?



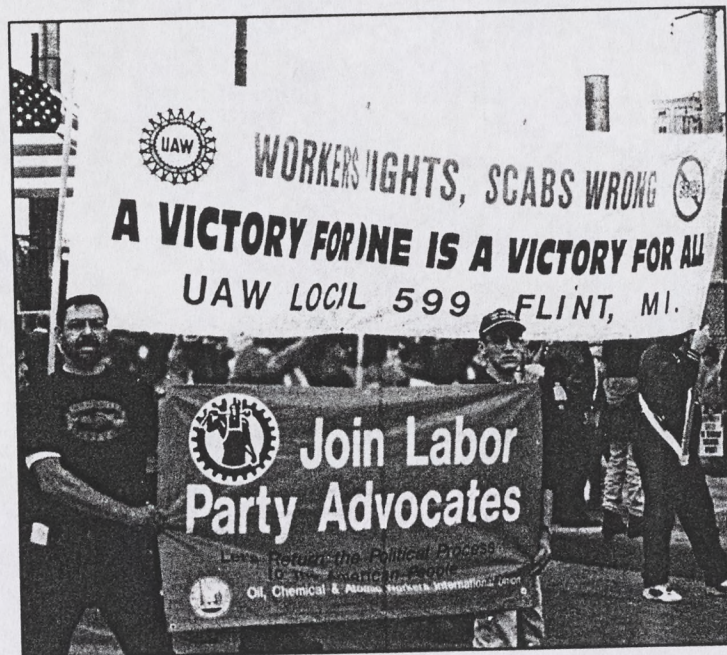
# LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES!

Labor no longer has a voice on the issues important to working Americans.

Instead, it is the corporate agenda that is being heard. Big business manipulation of our two-party system has resulted in a continuing attack on working (and unemployed) Americans.

Our basic rights — to earn a living wage with benefits and to strike without being replaced — have deteriorated while multinational corporations continue massive layoffs, move our jobs overseas and refuse to pay their fair share of taxes.

Recent political defeats — NAFTA, GATT, striker replacement, health care and labor law reform — make it clear that the Democrats and the Republicans do not speak for the interests of working women and men in the United States.



*LPA activists march for workers' rights.*

In fact, no matter which political party controls the White House and Congress, the voice of working Americans is not being heard.

Now more than ever, it is time to tap the labor movement's vast financial resources and experience and,

most of all, the energies of our millions of members to create a political party — developed by and for working people — that will speak for labor.



# LABOR PARTY ADVOCATE

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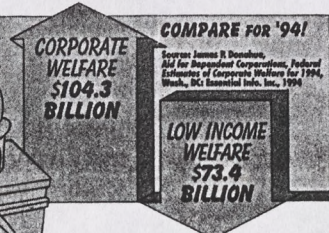
WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 6-9, 1996

## Founding Convention in Cleveland, Ohio To Set Agenda for Historic Labor Party

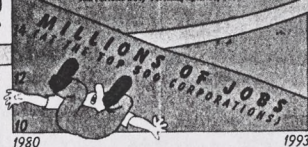
### Who will Speak for Labor?

"WHEN WE NEED FINANCIAL AID IT'S CALLED WELFARE, BUT WHEN THE CORPORATIONS GET WELFARE IT'S CALLED GRANTS & SUBSIDIES. HOW COME?"



"IN THE LAST 15 YEARS, CORPORATE AMERICA THREW AWAY ALMOST 4.5 MILLION OF OUR JOBS. AND THE POLITICIANS DIDN'T JUST LET THEM... THEY HELPED THEM!"

Sources: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 83 Statistical Abstract, various years, and "The Fortune 100" Fortune April 16, 1994.



"ANYONE WHO SAYS NAFTA & GATT WILL MEAN MORE JOBS FOR AMERICAN WORKERS IS A FOOL OR A LIAR!"

DUMB AND DUMBER

## LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES

"We'll Speak for Ourselves!"

This attractive, multi-color poster-pamphlet explains why we're organizing a Labor Party and invites leaders of 36,000 AFL-CIO-affiliated local unions and other bodies to learn more about our campaign. More than 15,000 were mailed in June and the project is expected to be completed by early September. For more information, contact the national office at 202/319-1932. Posters can be purchased for \$2.

The long-running, low key but aggressive campaign to organize a new party anchored firmly inside the American Labor Movement, will culminate next June in Cleveland, Ohio when delegates from across the nation formally launch a grassroots, working class-based political movement.

The founding convention will be held June 6-9, 1996 at the Sheraton Hotel. LPA ruled out several other dates because they would have conflicted with the conventions of several major international unions where LPA has been able to build some important support.

LPA national organizer Tony Mazzocchi said that a "major amount of work must now take place to insure an orderly, participatory and representative attendance at the convention." He said that he expected the rules committee to meet in September to formalize delegates selection rules for the convention which will be a central part of the meeting's call notice to be sent out later this year.

LPA will be working hard in the next few months to raise sufficient funds to insure a successful convention, and will develop committees to help formulate platform ideas for discussion and debate by convention delegates.

Convention details were thoroughly discussed at a meeting of the Conveners Committee in Washington, D.C. June 28.

See *FOUNDING CONVENTION*, P. 4





Philadelphia Central Labor Council delegates are interested in new ways to deal with problems



AFSCME leader Tom Cronin urges support for Labor Party drive



Labor Party idea has sparked great interest, Mazzocchi told Philadelphia unionists June 14

## Philadelphia Labor Council Hears LPA Message

Philadelphia, Pa. trade unionists appeared willing to consider the formation of a Labor Party after hearing Tony Mazzocchi explain why union people throughout the nation are responding positively to the LPA message.

Mazzocchi was a featured speaker at the June 14 meeting of the Philadelphia Labor Council where he urged the unionists to seriously consider joining LPA's drive

to establish a union-based political alternative built around a workers' agenda. The Philadelphia LPA chapter is planning to build on the increased interest generated by the event, reports Jim Moran, interim chapter chair. Next meeting is Sept. 20, 6 p.m., at ILGWU, 35 S. 4th St. The chapter is expected to sponsor an Economic Training Program and other events.

Labor Council President Joe Rauscher invited Mazzocchi to address the delegates.

## Arizona LPA Activists Connect Economy To Building New Labor-Based Alternative

TUCSON, AZ--LPA's economic training program designed to help working people better understand the economic crisis was presented during an all-day session here at the Main Public Library June 10.

Trainers were OCAW leaders Bill Hoyle of Salt Lake City, Utah and Steve Cable from Peoria, Illinois. Hoyle is a member of LPA national executive committee.

The workshop included union members and community activists.

Ray Figueroa of AFSCME, and president of the Tucson Central Labor Council and Carlos (Charlie) Salaz of the Steelworkers, a member of the Labor Council, were among the participants. Dave Candy of the Operating Engineers discussed the issues in his union's lengthy strike



LPA trainers Steve Cable, left, and Bill Hoyle guided Arizona session

against Granite City Construction and Jim Steckel, Teamsters Local 104, a strong LPA supporter, made the 4-hour round trip from Phoenix to participate in the training.

About 30 people took part and everybody received a copy of the workbook, *Corporate Power and the American Dream: Toward an Economic Agenda for Working People*.

A very exhilarating part of the program was when we worked on 'Building an Agenda for Working People.' After seeing so much information about how workers have had their living standards eroded over the past 20 years, while the rich get richer, the chance to present what we would do, our positive solutions, was really exciting and empowering.

To request a training workshop for your LPA chapter, or in your city, contact Bob Kasen at the LPA national office, 202-319-1932.

## New Jersey LPA Plans Play, Public Hearing

NEW JERSEY--Labor Party advocates in this state are planning two major events in October and November to raise awareness inside unions about the campaign to organize a Labor Party next year.

Kathy King, a member of LPA's national steering and convenors committees, reports that the Industrial Union Council has agreed to cosponsor the showing of an original play about LPA on Friday, October 20 at the Meadowlands Art Center in Rutherford. The event is planned to coincide with the IUC's annual convention.

New Jersey LPA is also sponsoring a pre-convention public hearing at the Rutgers Labor Center on Saturday, November 11, says King. Other sponsors of the session are District Council 1 of the Communications Workers of America, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers and the United Electrical Workers. Bill Kane, president of the IUC and a member of LPA, will be one of the keynote speakers.

For more information about both events, contact Kathy at 908-750-5580.

## LABOR PARTY ADVOCATE

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## Free Membership For Strikers

If you're on strike LPA is offering a free membership for a year or until you go back to work. If you're still out of work we will extend the offer.



# LA Unionists Back Labor Party At Spirited Public Hearing

LOS ANGELES, JULY 15—More than 200 union members and other activists turned out today to give their views about why a Labor Party is needed and what the new political movement should stand for at a public hearing sponsored by the Los Angeles chapter of Labor Party Advocates.

The session was chaired by **Dave Campbell**, who chairs the LPA Metro chapter, and moderated by **Paul Ramirez**,

**"We need a labor party to help us fight back"**

*Gil Cedillo, general manager, SEIU Local 660, Los Angeles*

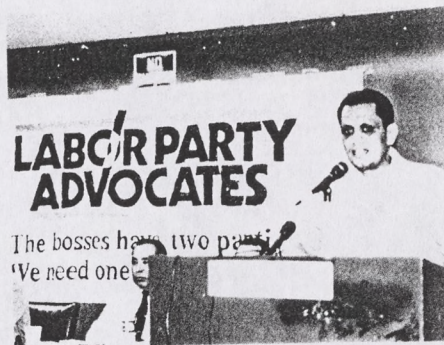
a representative of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union.

Featured speaker was United Electrical Workers Representative **Humberto Camacho** who called for a new party to "change the corporate agenda, and put the people's agenda up front. We need a program to get our rights. In a Labor Party there are no bosses."

Invited keynote speaker **Dolores Huerta**, First Vice President of the United Farm Workers, sent a message of support and explained an emergency meeting forced her to cancel her appearance.

**Gil Cedillo**, General Manager of SEIU Local 660, a scheduled keynote speaker who was detained by an emergency meeting of his local's stewards, said his union was prepared to challenge the County Board of Supervisors (two Republicans and three Democrats) who voted unanimously to eliminate 18,000 public service jobs. "We need a Labor Party," said Cedillo forcefully.

Two speakers, **Gary Garner** of UAW Local 751 in Decatur, Ill., and **Bob Scheibly** of the Papermakers local in Decatur, who worked for the Staley Corporation for 29 years, called for support for a third party built around working people's interest. Said Scheibly: "I'm in favor of a labor party because we need somebody to speak for all of us and LPA



**Gil Cedillo, SEIU Local 660**

is a good place to start."

**Andrew Moynagh**, President of the Tricounties Central Labor Council in Santa Barbara said, "The American dream has been lost and people simply

## Bay Area Chapters Elect Officers

**BAY AREA, CA**—California LPA activists have elected officers of two chapters in this area, reports LPA organizer **Leo Seidlitz**.

The East Bay chapter elected **Mike Munoz**, Organizing Director of the Bay Area Council of Carpenters, and **Virginia Jones** of CWA District 9 as co-vice chairpersons. Others elected on Aug. 5 were: **Gail Bateson**, CWA Local 189, Recording-secretary; **Bill Balderston**, Oakland Education Association, treasurer; **Don Crosatto**, Machinists District 910, Executive Board At Large; **Neil Lahaie**, United-Taxi Cab Drivers, Executive Board At Large; **Dan Rush**, UFCW Local 120, chair, organizing and outreach committee; **Charles Ridgell**, SEIU Local 250 Organizer, chair, Pre-convention Discussion Council, and **Kay McVay**, Vice-President, California Nurses Association, chairperson, Forum and Speakout Committee.

The Golden Gate chapter elected **Stan Smith**, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trade Council, AFL-CIO as chairperson. **Millie Phillips** of IBEW Local 1245 was elected Vice Chairperson and **Sue Jean Halverson**, president of AFSCME Local 3215, was elected Recording Secretary-Treasurer.

Munoz reports that in Santa Rosa, about

have stopped participating in politics." He closed with a quote from **Doug McCarron**, head of the Southern California District Council of Carpenters: "Economic justice is the most important criteria for political action."

**Jim Lafferty**, representing the National Lawyers Guild, testified that there are three issues-- immigration rights, labor law reform and defense of civil liberties-- that cry out for support for a labor party.

Others who gave testimony were: **Cliff Fried**, Vice-President, United Professional and Technical Employees/CWA Local 1919, **Frederico Martin**, President, AFSCME Local 3235, and **Carlos Mora**, a member of the Student Association of Graduate Employees (SAGE/UAW).

**John O'Brien**, a veteran gay rights activist said in part: "Build LPA and take back this country. It's a shame to walk out my front door and see homeless people eating out of garbage cans to survive."

**Jean Morrison**, a member of California National Organization of Women, defended affirmative action: "You must take this fight to your neighbors, relatives and friends," she urged.

**Luisa Gratz**, President of the ILWU Local 26 urged the crowd to participate in politics and **Joe Mendez** of the OCAW, a longtime political activist, said he's troubled more and more by the "people who are supposed to be representing us."

**Jose Luis Ortega Guzman**, President of a striking bus drivers' union in Mexico City, spoke about the issues facing his membership and the need for labor solidarity.

You can purchase a video of the proceedings for \$10 by contacting **Ralph Cole** at JUSTICEVISION, 1425 W. 12th Street, #262, Los Angeles, CA 90015. Phone: 213-747-6345.

For more information about the LA Metro chapter, contact **Kathleen O'Nan** at 213-660-2891

--- **Joe Hancock**, UFCW Local 770 and **John Trojan** NALC Branch 2207

50 miles north of here, **John Hazess**, financial secretary of Carpenters Local 751 is spearheading a drive to form an LPA chapter. **Munoz**, who addressed an organizing meeting of area labor activists earlier, said he was confident a chapter would be formed very soon.

For more information contact **Leo Seidlitz**, 415-543-2699.



## Western Pa Chapter Works Hard to Push Labor Party

PITTSBURGH-- The Western Pennsylvania LPA chapter here has been aggressively pushing the LPA message during the past several months, reports Ed Grystar, the chapter's president, and a member of LPA's national steering committee.

Grystar and Terry Havener, Vice President of the Johnstown Regional Labor Council met with officers and Executive Board of the United Mine Workers, District 2 on May 22. Nick Molnar, President, and Carson Bruening, Secretary-Treasurer, are both LPA members.

In July, the Butler County United Labor Council, AFL-CIO, authorized \$100 to help LPA mail the four-color poster-pamphlet to local unions.

Grystar spoke to 15 members of OCAW Local 6-147 in Oil City, Pa. in early May.

On June 14, Jim Collins of UE addressed 25 members of the Pittsburgh chapter of SOAR (United Steelworkers retirees).

Eighteen union activists participated in a six hour LPA-initiated economic training workshop on June 17.

LPA was the topic of an interview by "Heatpath", quarterly publication of the Insulators and Asbestos Workers Local 2 of Pittsburgh. Grystar was interviewed for the story by Bill Young, editor of the publication which circulates to about 400 union members of the local. Grystar reports that he expects to be invited to address the local's political action committee soon.

LPA representatives will address delegates of the Allegheny, Johnstown and Lawrence County Central Labor Councils in September about the campaign to organize a Labor Party.

Finally, Brother Grystar, who is an active jogger, bicyclist and swimmer, is back in action after suffering a mild heart attack a few months ago. At least we assume the problem was mild judging from the way Ed has resumed working for SEIU Local 585 and LPA although he assures us he's pacing himself a lot better these days. At least we hope so. He can be reached at 412-828-5100, Ext #14, or care of SEIU Local 585, 237 6th Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15238.

Page Four

## Founding Convention of U.S. Labor Party Set for Cleveland, Ohio June 6-9, 1996

*Continued from page one*

Attending that session were: Bob Clark, Secretary-Treasurer, United Electrical Workers; Rose Ann DeMoro, Executive Director, California Nurses Association; Bill Shortell, President, Machinists Local 1746; Eddie Kornegay, Jr., President, Teamsters Local 922; Bob Wages, President, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; (for Don Holmstrom, President, OCAW Local 2-477); Chris Townsend, UE Political Director, and Mazzocchi.

The conveners offered several ideas for raising funds ranging from charging a registration fee to the convention, running regular advertisements in the newspapers of unions where LPA has support, encouraging local unions to make contributions to LPA and raising money to fund specific LPA projects.

The LPA leaders also viewed a 30-second commercial spot developed for LPA and expected to be tested in perhaps three cities, San Francisco, Chicago and

New York. The commercial is targeted for viewing on cable tv channels and would run with an 800 number for interested viewers to contact for more information or join the LPA's campaign to build a Labor party. The television ads are reasonably priced and the response to the essential message, "Stop the Screwing of American Workers" was well received.

The conveners focused heavily on rules for the convention. LPA is expected to examine the rules of other parties like the New Democratic Party in Canada and the British Labor Party in England and several others during the next several weeks and several other ideas all aimed at insuring a fair, representative and, most of all, democratic convention.

LPA is expected to name a small group of people to help structure the way a program is to be developed with special emphasis on making sure LPA members can contribute to the process. This issue of the newsletter asks LPA members to send in ideas for program discussion.

There was considerable discussion by the conveners about how LPA should relate to other party formations. The conveners agreed that until a Labor Party defines itself at the founding convention it would be premature to align LPA with other organizations moving to develop independent political parties.

Conveners unable to attend the meeting were: Pat Agostino, President, Puget Sound Coalition of Labor Union Women; Eleanor Chavez, New Mexico; Kathy King, Vice President, New Jersey Coalition of Labor Union Women; Harold Mitchell, President, AFSCME Local 100, Cleveland, Ohio; Mike Munoz, Organizing Director, Bay Area Council of Carpenters; Joel Myron, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, Southland, Michigan; Tim Schermerhorn, Transportation Workers Local 100, New York City and Stan Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO.

### California LPA chapter Reaches Out on Cable TV

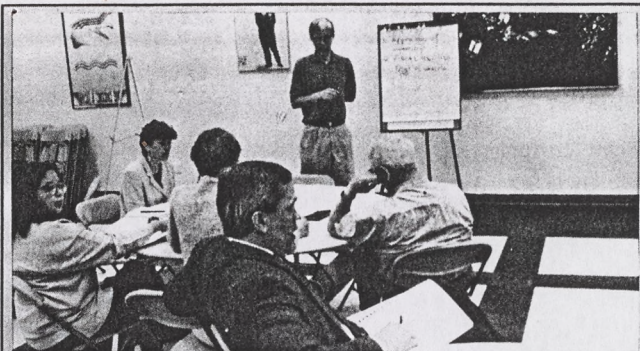
Maya Shone reports that the LPA Tri-County chapter (Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo, California) has been featured on two cable access television shows and the LPA-sponsoring local union, SEIU Local 620, has published two articles on LPA in its monthly newsletter. The chapter introduced LPA to area unionists and other community members on June 28. Andy Moynagh, head of the Building and Construction Trades Council was a featured speaker.

### Sanders Big Hit at LPA Meeting in Connecticut

Bill Shortell, chair of the Connecticut LPA chapter, reports that 150 activists turned out June 17 to hear Bernie Sanders, the only independent member of Congress. The reception was excellent, said Shortell, who added that the chapter has developing plans for another major event this fall to build interest in LPA and independent politics.

LABOR PARTY ADVOCATE/ August 1995





**ECONOMIC TRAINING PROGRAM** has triggered considerable interest across the country from people committed to building a working-class-based political party. LPA sponsored program uses worker-trainers to lead small-group discussions about the current economic picture and the connection to politics. LPA programs have been held in Arizona, Maryland, California and New York City. A 20,000-member teamsters local in Chicago has scheduled a session in August and others are planning for training. For more information, contact the LPA national office, 202-319-1932 and we will help you set up a program.

## LPA Activists Urge UAW Convention Delegates to Consider Labor Party Idea

**DETROIT-** Delegates to the UAW national convention in Anaheim, CA. in June passed out about 1,000 copies of an LPA pamphlet. The response was very positive.

Two UAW unions in Michigan, Local 600 in Dearborn, and Local 1700 in Sterling Heights, submitted resolutions of support for LPA. Both resolutions were published in a book of proposed resolutions that reached over 1,600 delegates to the convention.

There was so much discontent with both the Democrat and Republican parties that the *Detroit News* had to mention it in an article on the convention. But the newspaper erred when it seemed to be saying the LPA urged abandonment of the Democratic Party. We didn't call for that position, but we did call on the UAW to help found a labor party.

UAW members and leaders of the labor party movement are not alone. Let's have a big delegation from the UAW to the founding convention next June.

--Margaret Guttshall, alternate delegate to the UAW convention from UAW Local 1981.

## Chicago LPA Plans Future Activities

**CHICAGO-** LPA supporters here are planning the next steps to build a representative chapter in this city following a successful breakfast meeting with Tony Mazzocchi on June 2, reports organizer **Frank Rosen**. The meeting drew unionists from the UAW, Teamsters, UE, Amalgamated Transit Workers, ACTWU and the Transportation Workers.

In another development, **James K. Tribble**, and **Ronald Willis**, leaders of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers here, said in their union newspaper that the Democrats weren't producing for working families and the Union might have to find a party that will do more for working people.

## Seattle Chapter Sets Work Plan

**SEATTLE--**Trade unionists and others have formed an LPA chapter here and are working on several events to help recruit new members and spread the word about the campaign to organize a Labor Party next year.

At an initial meeting here, chaired by **Pat Agostino**, Pres. of the Puget Sound chapter of CLUW, keynote speaker **Joe Massimino** of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees (HERE) said: "...only an independent Labor Party can stop the downward slide of wages and working conditions in the U.S."

The meeting was well represented by many of the area's leading unionists, including members of IBEW Local 46, HERE Local 8, SEIU District 925, IBT Locals 117, 174 and

763, ATU Local 587, Operating Engineers Local 286, ILWU Local 19, APWU Seattle, AFSCME Local 1488, 1199 NW Hospital Nurses, SEIU Local 6, CWA Local 7800, IAM Local 289, Roofers Local 54, AFT Local 1789, Painters Local 1094, TNG Local 82, WFSE Local 374 and OPEIU.

The Seattle chapter meets monthly. For more information, call **Pat Agostino** at 206-937-9948.

--Diane Sukol

## NY LPA Members Rally Behind Staley Workers

**Dave Watts**, president of UPIU Local 7837 in Decatur, Ill., and a member of Labor Party Advocates, spoke at a successful Staley workers solidarity meeting on June 27. The effort was organized by members of New York LPA.

An estimated 120-130 people attended the meeting and more than \$4,500 was raised to support the Staley workers, in what WBIA radio station said was the most exciting labor meeting in New York City in years.

CWA Local 1180 President **Arthur Cheliotis** opened the meeting explaining the need for solidarity with the Staley workers and noted that the Labor Movement was built on the principle that "an injury to one is an injury to all." Brother Cheliotis also stressed the need for the labor movement to build a labor party that will address the problems of working people and their families.

Participants enthusiastically greeted Watts who described the two-year struggle in Decatur. The only thing that matters to the multinational corporations is profit, said Watts, who added that the need for a labor party is demonstrated "every time workers are stabbed in the back." Watts ran as a labor candidate for city office in Decatur earlier this year.

--Fran Akrivos, steward, GCIU Local 1-P

## Rhode Island Sets New LPA Chapter

**RHODE ISLAND-**Trade unionists and community activists looking for a new approach to politics have formed a chapter of Labor Party Advocates in this state.

At a meeting on July 11 in providence, the chapter was launched with formal endorsements from the executive committees of Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 217 and American Flint Glass Workers Local 1007.

The chapter elected the following officers: **Steven J. Dennis**, an employment attorney, chairperson; **Paul McNeill, Jr.**, Vice-President SEIU Local 401, vice-chairperson, and **Andrew Slipp**, American Flint Glass Workers Local 1007, recording-secretary.

For more information please contact **Dennis** at 401-453-1355.



## UE Board Backs Founding Convention, Union Gives Financial, Staff Help to LPA

The General Executive Board of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) has endorsed the decision of Labor Party Advocates to hold the founding convention of a new party next year. UE was an early endorser of LPA's campaign to organize a labor-based alternative to the two major political parties.

"UE looks forward to working closely



UE Secretary-Treas. Bob Clark, second from the right, presents check to help fund LPA activities to OCAW Pres. Bob Wages, far left. Looking on are UE Political Dir. Chris Townsend, right, and LPA national organizer Tony Mazzocchi.

with LPA in the movement to free working people from the two-party trap by offering a genuine alternative," said a GEB resolution. "As working people face the most anti-labor Congress in more than 50 years, the building of a labor-based political party to advance and defend our interests is of the utmost importance."

Board members agreed that UE should encourage members to join LPA to give the union a voice in the founding convention. "LPA is one the move," said UE General Secretary-Treasurer **Bob Clark**, an LPA board member. "We've got our work cut out for us," added District 11 President **Carl Rosen**: We should be prepared to do work, and put a lot of money into this"-once convention arrangements have been finalized.

District Two President **Phil Mamber**, a member of the Greater Boston LPA steering committee, suggested that other UE members be encouraged to get involved in the regional committees now in formation.

"Labor Party Advocates has put discussion of a labor party back into the labor movement," said UE Political Action Di-

rector **Chris Townsend**. "The current LPA campaign represents the most extensive discussion of the formation of a labor party in more than a generation," he said.

In June, Clark presented a \$3,000 check to LPA during a convenors meeting in Washington, D.C. and said there would be more contributions. UE has also decided that a significant portion of Townsend's time in the next year would be devoted to LPA, Clark said.

*(Editor's note: Most of this report appeared in the June 16 issue of UE News).*

## New LPA Chapter Forms in Upstate NY

**ALBANY, NY**--The newly-formed Capital District Chapter of Labor Party Advocates is considering several ideas to recruit new people to LPA's campaign to organize a Labor Party next year.

**Glen Goliber**, the chapter's secretary-treasurer, said LPA has aggressively worked to spread the word in Kingston, Upper New York State, Western Massachusetts, Oneonta and Utica since its founding in May. Goliber said that **Ken Rice**, president of the Upper Hudson Valley Labor Council in Kingston is an LPA member and is expected to press for an endorsement.

"We've attracted a lot of interest and expect to get a lot more," said Goliber. He noted that the chapter will consider sponsoring an economic training workshop and perhaps a public hearing to attract more interest to the formation of a Labor Party.

**Dave Patrick**, president of SEIU Local 200D here, and a prime mover of the new LPA chapter, was elected president of the group last May. Local 200D has helped fund the chapter and has aggressively supported LPA almost from its inception. Patrick and Goliber are members of the national executive committee.

**Emery Miller** of the GCIU is vice-president of the chapter.

For more information, contact Goliber at 518-489-4749.

**Your Energy + \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$=  
Our Own Party in 1996**

## AFSCME Council 24 Will be at LP Founding

**WISCONSIN**--In mid-July, Labor Party Advocates persuaded the annual convention of the Wisconsin State Employees Union, Council 24, to send at least two representatives to the founding convention next June in Cleveland, Ohio. Council 24 is affiliated with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, (AFSCME), AFL-CIO.

**Ron Kaminkow**, Vice-President of AFSCME Local 24 in Madison, reports that after vigorous debate, delegates backed a resolution that said in part that "Democrat and Republican parties have shown themselves unwilling or unable to defend the interests of working people" creating a "political vacuum" manifested by workers refusing to participate in the process and the triumph of "anti-union, right-wing 'populist' demagogues."

Council 24 rejected a similar resolution last year, said Kaminkow who said the outcome reflected a "major victory" for the progressive forces in the Council. Local 634, he added, is expected to vote to send two representatives to the founding convention.

## New York Labor Council to Consider LPA Endorsement

**CORTLAND, N.Y.**--The Midstate Central Labor Council is expected to consider an endorsement of Labor Party Advocates this Fall following a well-received appearance by LPA national organizer Tony Mazzocchi last Spring.

**Howard Botwinick**, LPA's area coordinator and member of the national steering committee, refused to speculate on what the Council will decide, but added that there appeared to be "a lot of interest" after Mazzocchi laid out the case for forming a labor party.

Botwinick says that in the past few months he represented LPA at two Cornell Labor Studies programs in Albany and Syracuse and spoke on a Buffalo radio show. "The response has been terrific," he notes.



## LPA Chapter Chartering Guidelines

adopted by LPA Interim Executive Committee  
January 21, 1995

The purpose of LPA is to recruit, organize and educate around the need for a Labor Party in the United States.

LPA chapters will not endorse candidates for political office or otherwise take positions on issues.

There shall be at least 20 dues-paying members and the endorsement of LPA by at least one official union body in the chapter's geographical area.

Officers shall include a chairperson, vice chairperson and recording secretary-treasurer at a minimum.

Finances must be audited in accordance with standard accounting practices and reported to the national organization.

National LPA will issue chapter charters and determine a local chapter's jurisdictions.

National LPA also has the right to revoke charters.

To apply for a chapter charter, send the following to the LPA office in Washington, DC:

- \* Names of 20 dues-paying members in your area
- \* Endorsement of one official union body in your area
- \* Names and addresses of officers (chairperson, vice-chairperson and recording secretary-treasurer)

## LPA Call For Program Ideas

Labor Party Advocates is calling for ideas for a wide-ranging program to be discussed and thoroughly debated at the founding convention in Cleveland next June.

LPA is putting together committees to craft a program to be submitted to convention delegates.

Send your ideas to LPA, P.O. Box 53177, Washington, DC 20009-3177. We will make sure the appropriate committee receives your comments.

## So Join Us and Help Labor Build Its Own Strong Political Party

"...We cannot borrow other people's power. We cannot rely upon the power of any political party, or community organizations or other organized constituencies. While we must reach out and embrace other progressive forces for change, we must above all build our own power by creating a strong grassroots political voice for working people in the country that speaks to their concerns and promotes a common agenda."

-- from *A New Voice for American Workers: Rebuilding the American Labor Movement*, a summary of proposals supporting John J. Sweeney, Richard Trumka and Linda Chavez-Thompson for top leadership of the AFL-CIO.

## The Bosses Have Two Parties. We Need One of Our Own !

Please make checks payable to Labor Party Advocates.  
Contributions are not tax-deductible.

☐ Please send me more information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Union affiliation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign me up as a member of LPA and send me the Labor Party Advocate newsletter. I am enclosing:

☐ \$20 regular membership/renewal

☐ \$10 unemployed/retired

\$100 Five Score Club (includes brass membership card). Indicate one of the following:

☐ Cesar Chavez

☐ Mother Jones

☐ Eugene V. Debs

☐ John L. Lewis

☐ Frederick Douglass

Mail to:

**LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES**  
P.O. Box 53177  
Washington, DC 20009-3177







# LABOR PARTY ADVOCATE

VOL 4 NO 3

AUGUST 1995

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 6-9, 1996

## Founding Convention in Cleveland, Ohio To Set Agenda for Historic Labor Party

### Who will Speak for Labor?

"WHEN WE NEED FINANCIAL AID IT'S CALLED WELFARE, BUT WHEN THE CORPORATIONS GET WELFARE IT'S CALLED GRANTS & SUBSIDIES. HOW COME?"

CORPORATE WELFARE  
**\$104.3 BILLION**

COMPARE FOR '94!

Source: James R. Donahue, Aid for Dependent Corporations, Federal Estimates of Corporate Welfare for 1994, Wash., D.C. Essential Info, Inc. 1994.

LOW INCOME WELFARE  
**\$73.4 BILLION**

"IN THE LAST 15 YEARS, CORPORATE AMERICA **THREW AWAY ALMOST 4.5 MILLION OF OUR JOBS**. AND THE POLITICIANS DIDN'T JUST LET THEM... THEY HELPED THEM!"

Sources: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, US Statistical Abstract, various years, and "The Fortune 500," Fortune, April 18, 1994.

MILLIONS OF JOBS  
(AT THE TOP 500 CORPORATIONS)  
1980 1993

"ANYONE WHO SAYS NAFTA & GATT WILL MEAN MORE JOBS FOR AMERICAN WORKERS IS A FOOL OR A LIAR!"

STUPID IS AS STUPID DOES

## LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES

"We'll Speak for Ourselves!"

This attractive, multi-color poster-pamphlet explains why we're organizing a Labor Party and invites leaders of 36,000 AFL-CIO-affiliated local unions and other bodies to learn more about our campaign. More than 15,000 were mailed in June and the project is expected to be completed by early September. For more information, contact the national office at 202/319-1932. Posters can be purchased for \$2.

The long-running, low key but aggressive campaign to organize a new party anchored firmly inside the American Labor Movement, will culminate next June in Cleveland, Ohio when delegates from across the nation formally launch a grassroots, working class-based political movement.

The founding convention will be held June 6-9, 1996 at the Sheraton Hotel. LPA ruled out several other dates because they would have conflicted with the conventions of several major international unions where LPA has been able to build some important support.

LPA national organizer Tony Mazzocchi said that a "major amount of work must now take place to insure an orderly, participatory and representative attendance at the convention." He said that he expected the rules committee to meet in September to formalize delegates selection rules for the convention which will be a central part of the meeting's call notice to be sent out later this year.

LPA will be working hard in the next few months to raise sufficient funds to insure a successful convention, and will develop committees to help formulate platform ideas for discussion and debate by convention delegates.

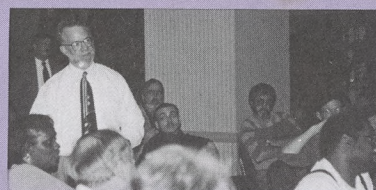
Convention details were thoroughly discussed at a meeting of the Conveners Committee in Washington, D.C. June 28.

See *FOUNDING CONVENTION*, P. 4

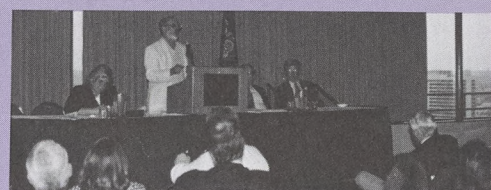




Philadelphia Central Labor Council delegates are interested in new ways to deal with problems



AFSCME leader Tom Cronin urges support for Labor Party drive



Labor Party idea has sparked great interest, Mazzocchi told Philadelphia unionists June 14

## Philadelphia Labor Council Hears LPA Message

Philadelphia, Pa. trade unionists appeared willing to consider the formation of a Labor Party after hearing Tony Mazzocchi explain why union people throughout the nation are responding positively to the LPA message.

Mazzocchi was a featured speaker at the June 14 meeting of the Philadelphia Labor Council where he urged the unionists to seriously consider joining LPA's drive

to establish a union-based political alternative built around a workers' agenda. The Philadelphia LPA chapter is planning to build on the increased interest generated by the event, reports Jim Moran, interim chapter chair. Next meeting is Sept. 20, 6 p.m., at ILGWU, 35 S. 4th St. The chapter is expected to sponsor an Economic Training Program and other events.

Labor Council President Joe Rauscher invited Mazzocchi to address the delegates.

## Arizona LPA Activists Connect Economy To Building New Labor-Based Alternative

TUCSON, AZ-LPA's economic training program designed to help working people better understand the economic crisis was presented during an all-day session here at the Main Public Library June 10.

Trainers were OCAW leaders Bill Hoyle of Salt Lake City, Utah and Steve Cable from Peoria, Illinois. Hoyle is a member of LPA national executive committee.

The workshop included union members and community activists.

Ray Figueroa of AFSCME, and president of the Tucson Central Labor Council and Carlos (Charlie) Salaz of the Steelworkers, a member of the Labor Council, were among the participants. Dave Candy of the Operating Engineers discussed the issues in his union's lengthy strike



LPA trainers Steve Cable, left, and Bill Hoyle guided Arizona session

against Granite City Construction and Jim Steckel, Teamsters Local 104, a strong LPA supporter, made the 4-hour round trip from Phoenix to participate in the training.

About 30 people took part and everybody received a copy of the workbook, *Corporate Power and the American Dream: Toward an Economic Agenda for Working People*.

A very exhilarating part of the program was when we worked on 'Building an Agenda for Working People.' After seeing so much information about how workers have had their living standards eroded over the past 20 years, while the rich get richer, the chance to present what we would do, our positive solutions, was really exciting and empowering.

To request a training workshop for your LPA chapter, or in your city, contact Bob Kasen at the LPA national office, 202-319-1932.

## New Jersey LPA Plans Play, Public Hearing

NEW JERSEY--Labor Party advocates in this state are planning two major events in October and November to raise awareness inside unions about the campaign to organize a Labor Party next year.

Kathy King, a member of LPA's national steering and convenors committees, reports that the Industrial Union Council has agreed to cosponsor the showing of an original play about LPA on Friday, October 20 at the Meadowlands Art Center in Rutherford. The event is planned to coincide with the IUC's annual convention.

New Jersey LPA is also sponsoring a pre-convention public hearing at the Rutgers Labor Center on Saturday, November 11, says King. Other sponsors of the session are District Council 1 of the Communications Workers of America, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers and the United Electrical Workers. Bill Kane, president of the IUC and a member of LPA, will be one of the keynote speakers.

For more information about both events, contact Kathy at 908-750-5580.

## Free Membership For Strikers

If you're on strike LPA is offering a free membership for a year or until you go back to work. If you're still out of work we will extend the offer.

## LA Unionists Back Labor Party At Spirited Public Hearing

LOS ANGELES, JULY 15--More than 200 union members and other activists turned out today to give their views about why a Labor Party is needed and what the new political movement should stand for at a public hearing sponsored by the Los Angeles chapter of Labor Party Advocates.

The session was chaired by Dave Campbell, who chairs the LPA Metro chapter, and moderated by Paul Ramirez,

## "We need a labor party to help us fight back"

Gil Cedillo, general manager, SEIU Local 660, Los Angeles

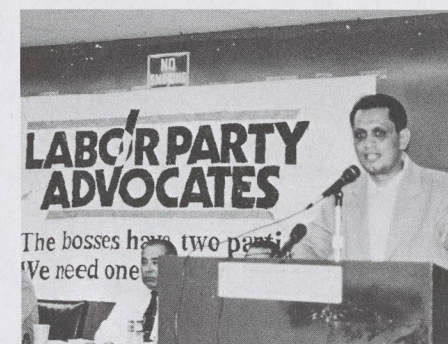
a representative of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union.

Featured speaker was United Electrical Workers Representative Humberto Camacho who called for a new party to "change the corporate agenda, and put the people's agenda up front. We need a program to get our rights. In a Labor Party there are no bosses."

Invited keynote speaker Dolores Huerta, First Vice President of the United Farm Workers, sent a message of support and explained an emergency meeting forced her to cancel her appearance.

Gil Cedillo, General Manager of SEIU Local 660, a scheduled keynote speaker who was detained by an emergency meeting of his local's stewards, said his union was prepared to challenge the County Board of Supervisors (two Republicans and three Democrats) who voted unanimously to eliminate 18,000 public service jobs. "We need a Labor Party," said Cedillo forcefully.

Two speakers, Gary Garner of UAW Local 751 in Decatur, Ill., and Bob Scheibly of the Papermakers local in Decatur, who worked for the Staley Corporation for 29 years, called for support for a third party built around working people's interest. Said Scheibly: "I'm in favor of a labor party because we need somebody to speak for all of us and LPA



Gil Cedillo, SEIU Local 660

is a good place to start."

Andrew Moynagh, President of the Tricounties Central Labor Council in Santa Barbara said, "The American dream has been lost and people simply

## Bay Area Chapters Elect Officers

BAY AREA, CA---California LPA activists have elected officers of two chapters in this area, reports LPA organizer Leo Seidlitz.

The East Bay chapter elected Mike Munoz, Organizing Director of the Bay Area Council of Carpenters, and Virginia Jones of CWA District 9 as co-vice chairpersons. Others elected on Aug. 5 were: Gail Bateson, CWA Local 189, Recording-secretary; Bill Balderston, Oakland Education Association, treasurer; Don Crosatto, Machinists District 910, Executive Board At Large; Neil Lahaie, United-Taxi Cab Drivers, Executive Board At Large; Dan Rush, UFCW Local 120, chair, organizing and outreach committee; Charles Ridgell, SEIU Local 250 Organizer, chair, Pre-convention Discussion Council, and Kay McVay, Vice-President, California Nurses Association, chairperson, Forum and Speakout Committee.

The Golden Gate chapter elected Stan Smith, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trade Council, AFL-CIO as chairperson. Millie Phillips of IBEW Local 1245 was elected Vice Chairperson and Sue Jean Halverson, president of AFSCME Local 3215, was elected Recording Secretary-Treasurer.

Munoz reports that in Santa Rosa, about

have stopped participating in politics." He closed with a quote from Doug McCarron, head of the Southern California District Council of Carpenters: "Economic justice is the most important criteria for political action."

Jim Lafferty, representing the National Lawyers Guild, testified that there are three issues-- immigration rights, labor law reform and defense of civil liberties--that cry out for support for a labor party.

Others who gave testimony were: Cliff Fried, Vice-President, United Professional and Technical Employees/CWA Local 1919, Frederico Martin, President, AFSCME Local 3235, and Carlos Mora, a member of the Student Association of Graduate Employees (SAGE/UAW).

John O'Brien, a veteran gay rights activist said in part: "Build LPA and take back this country. It's a shame to walk out my front door and see homeless people eating out of garbage cans to survive."

Jean Morrison, a member of California National Organization of Women, defended affirmative action: "You must take this fight to your neighbors, relatives and friends," she urged.

Luisa Gratz, President of the ILWU Local 26 urged the crowd to participate in politics and Joe Mendez of the OCAW, a longtime political activist, said he's troubled more and more by the "people who are supposed to be representing us."

Jose Luis Ortega Guzman, President of a striking bus drivers' union in Mexico City, spoke about the issues facing his membership and the need for labor solidarity.

You can purchase a video of the proceedings for \$10 by contacting Ralph Cole at JUSTICEVISION, 1425 W. 12th Street, #262, Los Angeles, CA 90015. Phone: 213-747-6345.

For more information about the LA Metro chapter, contact Kathleen O'Nan at 213-660-2891

--- Joe Hancock, UFCW Local 770 and John Trojan NALC Branch 2207

50 miles north of here, John Hazess, financial secretary of Carpenters Local 751 is spearheading a drive to form an LPA chapter. Munoz, who addressed an organizing meeting of area labor activists earlier, said he was confident a chapter would be formed very soon.

For more information contact Leo Seidlitz, 415-543-2699.

## LABOR PARTY ADVOCATE

August 1995 Vol. 4 No. 3

*Labor Party Advocate* is a publication of Labor Party Advocates (LPA). Please direct editorial inquiries to P.O. Box 53177, Washington, D.C. 20009-3177, or call Bob Kasen, (202) 319-1932. Fax number is (202) 319-1930. LPA welcomes your comments and suggestions.



## Western Pa Chapter Works Hard to Push Labor Party

**PITTSBURGH--** The Western Pennsylvania LPA chapter here has been aggressively pushing the LPA message during the past several months, reports **Ed Grystar**, the chapter's president, and a member of LPA's national steering committee.

Grystar and **Terry Havener**, Vice President of the Johnstown Regional Labor Council met with officers and Executive Board of the United Mine Workers, District 2 on May 22. **Nick Molnar**, President, and **Carson Bruening**, Secretary-Treasurer, are both LPA members.

In July, the Butler County United Labor Council, AFL-CIO, authorized \$100 to help LPA mail the four-color poster-pamphlet to local unions.

Grystar spoke to 15 members of OCAW Local 6-147 in Oil City, Pa. in early May.

On June 14, **Jim Collins** of UE addressed 25 members of the Pittsburgh chapter of SOAR (United Steelworkers retirees).

Eighteen union activists participated in a six hour LPA-initiated economic training workshop on June 17.

LPA was the topic of an interview by "Heatpath", quarterly publication of the Insulators and Asbestos Workers Local 2 of Pittsburgh. Grystar was interviewed for the story by **Bill Young**, editor of the publication which circulates to about 400 union members of the local. Grystar reports that he expects to be invited to address the local's political action committee soon.

LPA representatives will address delegates of the Allegheny, Johnstown and Lawrence County Central Labor Councils in September about the campaign to organize a Labor Party.

Finally, **Brother Grystar**, who is an active jogger, bicyclist and swimmer, is back in action after suffering a mild heart attack a few months ago. At least we assume the problem was mild judging from the way Ed has resumed working for SEIU Local 585 and LPA although he assures us he's pacing himself a lot better these days. At least we hope so. He can be reached at 412-828-5100, Ext #14, or care of SEIU Local 585, 237 6th Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15238.

## Founding Convention of U.S. Labor Party Set for Cleveland, Ohio June 6-9, 1996

*Continued from page one*

Attending that session were: **Bob Clark**, Secretary-Treasurer, United Electrical Workers; **Rose Ann DeMoro**, Executive Director, California Nurses Association; **Bill Shortell**, President, Machinists Local 1746; **Eddie Kornegay, Jr.**, President, Teamsters Local 922; **Bob Wages**, President, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; (for **Don Holmstrom**, President, OCAW Local 2-477); **Chris Townsend**, UE Political Director, and **Mazzocchi**.

The conveners offered several ideas for raising funds ranging from charging a registration fee to the convention, running regular advertisements in the newspapers of unions where LPA has support, encouraging local unions to make contributions to LPA and raising money to fund specific LPA projects.

The LPA leaders also viewed a 30-second commercial spot developed for LPA and expected to be tested in perhaps three cities, San Francisco, Chicago and

New York. The commercial is targeted for viewing on cable tv channels and would run with an 800 number for interested viewers to contact for more information or join the LPA's campaign to build a Labor party. The television ads are reasonably priced and the response to the essential message, "Stop the Screwing of American Workers" was well received.

The conveners focused heavily on rules for the convention. LPA is expected to examine the rules of other parties like the New Democratic Party in Canada and the British Labor Party in England and several others during the next several weeks and several other ideas all aimed at insuring a fair, representative and, most of all, democratic convention.

LPA is expected to name a small group of people to help structure the way a program is to be developed with special emphasis on making sure LPA members can contribute to the process. This issue of the newsletter asks LPA members to send in ideas for program discussion.

There was considerable discussion by the conveners about how LPA should relate to other party formations. The conveners agreed that until a Labor Party defines itself at the founding convention it would be premature to align LPA with other organizations moving to develop independent political parties.

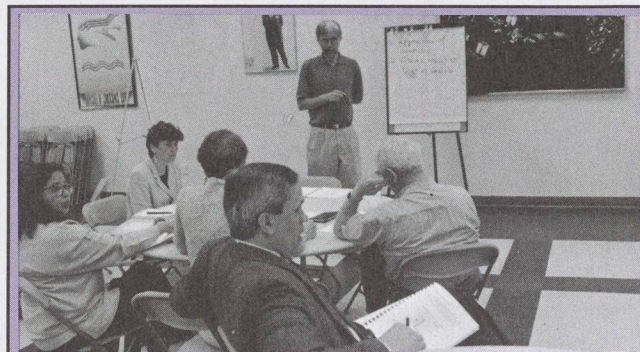
Conveners unable to attend the meeting were: **Pat Agostino**, President, Puget Sound Coalition of Labor Union Women; **Eleanor Chavez**, New Mexico; **Kathy King**, Vice President, New Jersey Coalition of Labor Union Women; **Harold Mitchell**, President, AFSCME Local 100, Cleveland, Ohio; **Mike Munoz**, Organizing Director, Bay Area Council of Carpenters; **Joel Myron**, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, Southland, Michigan; **Tim Schermerhorn**, Transportation Workers Local 100, New York City and **Stan Smith**, Secretary-Treasurer, San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO.

### California LPA chapter Reaches Out on Cable TV

**Maya Shone** reports that the LPA Tri-County chapter (Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo, California) has been featured on two cable access television shows and the LPA-sponsoring local union, SEIU Local 620, has published two articles on LPA in its monthly newsletter. The chapter introduced LPA to area unionists and other community members on June 28. **Andy Moynagh**, head of the Building and Construction Trades Council was a featured speaker.

### Sanders Big Hit at LPA Meeting in Connecticut

**Bill Shortell**, chair of the Connecticut LPA chapter, reports that 150 activists turned out June 17 to hear **Bernie Sanders**, the only independent member of Congress. The reception was excellent, said Shortell, who added that the chapter has developing plans for another major event this fall to build interest in LPA and independent politics.



**ECONOMIC TRAINING PROGRAM** has triggered considerable interest across the country from people committed to building a working-class-based political party. LPA sponsored program uses worker-trainers to lead small-group discussions about the current economic picture and the connection to politics. LPA programs have been held in Arizona, Maryland, California and New York City. A 20,000-member teamsters local in Chicago has scheduled a session in August and others are planning for training. For more information, contact the LPA national office, 202-319-1932 and we will help you set up a program.

### LPA Activists Urge UAW Convention Delegates to Consider Labor Party Idea

**DETROIT-** Delegates to the UAW national convention in Anaheim, CA. in June passed out about 1,000 copies of an LPA pamphlet. The response was very positive.

Two UAW unions in Michigan, Local 600 in Dearborn, and Local 1700 in Sterling Heights, submitted resolutions of support for LPA. Both resolutions were published in a book of proposed resolutions that reached over 1,600 delegates to the convention.

There was so much discontent with both the Democrat and Republican parties that the *Detroit News* had to mention it in an article on the convention. But the newspaper erred when it seemed to be saying the LPA urged abandonment of the Democratic Party. We didn't call for that position, but we did call on the UAW to help found a labor party.

UAW members and leaders of the labor party movement are not alone. Let's have a big delegation from the UAW to the founding convention next June.

*--Margaret Guttshall, alternate delegate to the UAW convention from UAW Local 1981.*

### Chicago LPA Plans Future Activities

**CHICAGO-** LPA supporters here are planning the next steps to build a representative chapter in this city following a successful breakfast meeting with **Tony Mazzocchi** on June 2, reports organizer **Frank Rosen**. The meeting drew unionists from the UAW, Teamsters, UE, Amalgamated Transit Workers, ACTWU and the Transportation Workers.

In another development, **James K. Tribble**, and **Ronald Willis**, leaders of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers here, said in their union newspaper that the Democrats weren't producing for working families and the Union might have to find a party that will do more for working people.

## Seattle Chapter Sets Work Plan

**SEATTLE--**Trade unionists and others have formed an LPA chapter here and are working on several events to help recruit new members and spread the word about the campaign to organize a Labor Party next year.

At an initial meeting here, chaired by **Pat Agostino**, Pres. of the Puget Sound chapter of CLUW, keynote speaker **Joe Massimino** of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees (HERE) said: "...only an independent Labor Party can stop the downward slide of wages and working conditions in the U.S. "

The meeting was well represented by many of the area's leading unionists, including members of IBEW Local 46, HERE Local 8, SEIU District 925, IBT Locals 117, 174 and

763, ATU Local 587, Operating Engineers Local 286, ILWU Local 19, APWU Seattle, AFSCME Local 1488, 1199 NW Hospital Nurses, SEIU Local 6, CWA Local 7800, IAM Local 289, Roofers Local 54, AFT Local 1789, Painters Local 1094, TNG Local 82, WFSE Local 374 and OPEIU.

**The Seattle chapter meets monthly. For more information, call Pat Agostino at 206-937-9948.**

*- Diane Sukol*

### NY LPA Members Rally Behind Staley Workers

**Dave Watts**, president of UPIU Local 7837 in Decatur, Ill., and a member of Labor Party Advocates, spoke at a successful Staley workers solidarity meeting on June 27. The effort was organized by members of New York LPA.

An estimated 120-130 people attended the meeting and more than \$4,500 was raised to support the Staley workers, in what WBIA radio station said was the most exciting labor meeting in New York City in years.

CWA Local 1180 President **Arthur Cheliot** opened the meeting explaining the need for solidarity with the Staley workers and noted that the Labor Movement was built on the principle that "an injury to one is an injury to all." Brother Cheliot also stressed the need for the labor movement to build a labor party that will address the problems of working people and their families.

Participants enthusiastically greeted Watts who described the two-year struggle in Decatur. The only thing that matters to the multinational corporations is profit, said Watts, who added that the need for a labor party is demonstrated "every time workers are stabbed in the back." Watts ran as a labor candidate for city office in Decatur earlier this year.

*-- Fran Akrivos, steward, GCIU Local 1-P*

### Rhode Island Sets New LPA Chapter

**RHODE ISLAND-** Trade unionists and community activists looking for a new approach to politics have formed a chapter of Labor Party Advocates in this state.

At a meeting on July 11 in providence, the chapter was launched with formal endorsements from the executive committees of Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 217 and American Flint Glass Workers Local 1007.

The chapter elected the following officers: **Steven J. Dennis**, an employment attorney, chairperson; **Paul McNeill, Jr.**, Vice-President SEIU Local 401, vice-chairperson, and **Andrew Slipp**, American Flint Glass Workers Local 1007, recording-secretary.

**For more information please contact Dennis at 401-453-1355.**



## UE Board Backs Founding Convention, Union Gives Financial, Staff Help to LPA

The General Executive Board of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) has endorsed the decision of Labor Party Advocates to hold the founding convention of a new party next year. UE was an early endorser of LPA's campaign to organize a labor-based alternative to the two major political parties.

"UE looks forward to working closely



UE Secretary-Treas. Bob Clark, second from the right, presents check to help fund LPA activities to OCAW Pres. Bob Wages, far left. Looking on are UE Political Dir. Chris Townsend, right, and LPA national organizer Tony Mazzocchi.

with LPA in the movement to free working people from the two-party trap by offering a genuine alternative," said a GEB resolution. "As working people face the most anti-labor Congress in more than 50 years, the building of a labor-based political party to advance and defend our interests is of the utmost importance."

Board members agreed that UE should encourage members to join LPA to give the union a voice in the founding convention. "LPA is one the move," said UE General Secretary-Treasurer **Bob Clark**, an LPA board member. "We've got our work cut out for us," added District 11 President **Carl Rosen**. We should be prepared to do work, and put a lot of money into this"-once convention arrangements have been finalized.

District Two President **Phil Mamber**, a member of the Greater Boston LPA steering committee, suggested that other UE members be encouraged to get involved in the regional committees now in formation.

"Labor Party Advocates has put discussion of a labor party back into the labor movement," said UE Political Action Di-

rector **Chris Townsend**. "The current LPA campaign represents the most extensive discussion of the formation of a labor party in more than a generation," he said.

In June, Clark presented a \$3,000 check to LPA during a convenors meeting in Washington, D.C. and said there would be more contributions. UE has also decided that a significant portion of Townsend's time in the next year would be devoted to LPA, Clark said.

(Editor's note: Most of this report appeared in the June 16 issue of UE News).

## New LPA Chapter Forms in Upstate NY

**ALBANY, NY**--The newly-formed Capital District Chapter of Labor Party Advocates is considering several ideas to recruit new people to LPA's campaign to organize a Labor Party next year.

**Glen Goliber**, the chapter's secretary-treasurer, said LPA has aggressively worked to spread the word in Kingston, Upper New York State, Western Massachusetts, Oneonta and Utica since its founding in May. Goliber said that **Ken Rice**, president of the Upper Hudson Valley Labor Council in Kingston is an LPA member and is expected to press for an endorsement.

"We've attracted a lot of interest and expect to get a lot more," said Goliber. He noted that the chapter will consider sponsoring an economic training workshop and perhaps a public hearing to attract more interest to the formation of a Labor Party.

**Dave Patrick**, president of SEIU Local 200D here, and a prime mover of the new LPA chapter, was elected president of the group last May. Local 200D has helped fund the chapter and has aggressively supported LPA almost from its inception. Patrick and Goliber are members of the national executive committee.

**Emery Miller** of the GCIU is vice-president of the chapter.

For more information, contact Goliber at 518-489-4749.

**Your Energy + \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$=  
Our Own Party in 1996**

## AFSCME Council 24 Will be at LP Founding

**WISCONSIN**--In mid-July, Labor Party Advocates persuaded the annual convention of the Wisconsin State Employees Union, Council 24, to send at least two representatives to the founding convention next June in Cleveland, Ohio. Council 24 is affiliated with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, (AFSCME), AFL-CIO.

**Ron Kaminkow**, Vice-President of AFSCME Local 24 in Madison, reports that after vigorous debate, delegates backed a resolution that said in part that "Democrat and Republican parties have shown themselves unwilling or unable to defend the interests of working people" creating a "political vacuum" manifested by workers refusing to participate in the process and the triumph of "anti-union, right-wing 'populist' demagogues."

Council 24 rejected a similar resolution last year, said Kaminkow who said the outcome reflected a "major victory" for the progressive forces in the Council. Local 634, he added, is expected to vote to send two representatives to the founding convention.

## New York Labor Council to Consider LPA Endorsement

**CORTLAND, N.Y.**- The Midstate Central Labor Council is expected to consider an endorsement of Labor Party Advocates this Fall following a well-received appearance by LPA national organizer Tony Mazzocchi last Spring.

**Howard Botwinick**, LPA's area coordinator and member of the national steering committee, refused to speculate on what the Council will decide, but added that there appeared to be "a lot of interest" after Mazzocchi laid out the case for forming a labor party.

Botwinick says that in the past few months he represented LPA at two Cornell Labor Studies programs in Albany and Syracuse and spoke on a Buffalo radio show. "The response has been terrific," he notes.

## LPA Chapter Chartering Guidelines

adopted by LPA Interim Executive Committee  
January 21, 1995

The purpose of LPA is to recruit, organize and educate around the need for a Labor Party in the United States.

LPA chapters will not endorse candidates for political office or otherwise take positions on issues.

There shall be at least 20 dues-paying members and the endorsement of LPA by at least one official union body in the chapter's geographical area.

Officers shall include a chairperson, vice chairperson and recording secretary-treasurer at a minimum.

Finances must be audited in accordance with standard accounting practices and reported to the national organization.

National LPA will issue chapter charters and determine a local chapter's jurisdictions.

National LPA also has the right to revoke charters.

To apply for a chapter charter, send the following to the LPA office in Washington, DC:

- \* Names of 20 dues-paying members in your area
- \* Endorsement of one official union body in your area
- \* Names and addresses of officers (chairperson, vice-chairperson and recording secretary-treasurer)

## LPA Call For Program Ideas

Labor Party Advocates is calling for ideas for a wide-ranging program to be discussed and thoroughly debated at the founding convention in Cleveland next June.

LPA is putting together committees to craft a program to be submitted to convention delegates.

Send your ideas to LPA, P.O. Box 53177, Washington, DC 20009-3177. We will make sure the appropriate committee receives your comments.

## So Join Us and Help Labor Build Its Own Strong Political Party

"...We cannot borrow other people's power. We cannot rely upon the power of any political party, or community organizations or other organized constituencies. While we must reach out and embrace other progressive forces for change, we must above all build our own power by creating a strong grassroots political voice for working people in the country that speaks to their concerns and promotes a common agenda."

-- from *A New Voice for American Workers: Rebuilding the American Labor Movement*, a summary of proposals supporting John J. Sweeney, Richard Trumka and Linda Chavez-Thompson for top leadership of the AFL-CIO.

## The Bosses Have Two Parties. We Need One of Our Own !

Please make checks payable to Labor Party Advocates.  
Contributions are not tax-deductible.

☐ Please send me more information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Union affiliation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign me up as a member of LPA and send me the Labor Party Advocate newsletter. I am enclosing:

☐ \$20 regular membership/renewal

☐ \$10 unemployed/retired

\$100 Five Score Club (includes brass membership card). Indicate one of the following:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cesar Chavez       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother Jones  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eugene V. Debs     | <input type="checkbox"/> John L. Lewis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frederick Douglass |  |

Mail to:

**LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES**  
P.O. Box 53177  
Washington, DC 20009-3177



## ENDORSERS (Partial Listing)

**Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, AFL-CIO**

**Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, AFL-CIO**

**United Electrical Workers Union**

**San Francisco Building Trades Council, AFL-CIO**

**San Fran. Labor Council, AFL-CIO**

**California State Council of Carpenters, AFL-CIO**

**White River Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO**  
South Central Indiana

**District Council #8, Bay Counties Painters Union, AFL-CIO**

**Bay Counties District Council of Carpenters, Locals 22, 34, 152, 180, 217, 713, 751, 2236**

**Web Pressmen/Repress Workers Union 4-N, Graphic Communications International Union**  
San Francisco, California

**Carpenters Local 1359, Toledo, Ohio**

**Teamsters Local 922, Washington, DC**

**United Transportation Union Local 1402, Collinsville, Illinois**

**General Committee of Adjustment, Union Pacific Railroad Eastern Region, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers**  
Hazelwood, Missouri

**Santa Cruz County Central Labor Council**

**Service Employees International Union Local 415**  
Santa Cruz, California

**Ironworkers Local 377**  
San Francisco, California

**Office Professional Employees International Union Local 3**  
San Francisco, California

**AFSCME Local 444**  
Oakland, California

**Graphic Communications International Union Local 15N, Columbus, Ohio**

**National Association of Government Employees (SEIU) Local R 14-164**  
Bexar County, Texas

**\* Patricia Agostino**  
President, Puget Sound CLUW  
Seattle, Washington

**\* Judy Ance**  
CWA Local 6355  
Kansas City, Kansas

**\* Joanne Bell**  
President, CWA Local 2336  
Washington, DC

**\* Walt Blusewicz**  
President, Teamsters Local 877  
Linden, New Jersey

**\* Bill Breihan**  
President, United Steelworkers Local 1343  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**\* Cody Bryan**  
Branch Treasurer, National Association of Letter Carriers Local 130  
Tacoma, Washington

**Dave Campbell**  
Secretary-Treasurer, OCAW Local 1-675  
Long Beach, California

**\* Eleanor Chavez**  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**\* Arthur Chelotes**  
President, CWA Local 1180  
New York, New York

**Robert Clark**  
Sec.-Treasurer, United Electrical Workers  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**\* Thomas Cronin**  
President, AFSCME District Council 47  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**\* Jeff Crosby**  
President, IUE Local 201  
Lynn, Massachusetts

**\* Marty Curtan**  
VP, National Association of Letter Carriers  
Branch 5996  
Aurora, Colorado

**\* Mark Dimondstein**  
President, APWU Local 711  
Greensboro, North Carolina

**Jed Dodd**  
General Chairman, Penn. Federation, BMWF,  
AFL-CIO  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**\* Mike Duffy**  
SEIU Local 362  
Orlando, Florida

**\* Kay Eisenhower**  
SEIU Local 616  
Oakland, California

**\* Carl Finamore**  
Chief Steward, IAM Local 1781  
San Francisco, California

**\* Larry D. Gebhard**  
General Chairman, UTU Local 1402  
Collinsville, Illinois

**\* Judy Goff**  
President, Central Labor Council of Alameda County

**\* Ed Grystar**  
President, Butler County (Pennsylvania) United Labor Council, AFL-CIO

**John Hadzess**  
Secretary-Treasurer, Carpenters Local 751  
\* President, Sonoma/Lake/Mendocino Counties Central Labor Council

**\* Sue Jean Halverson**  
President, AFSCME Local 3218  
San Francisco, California

**\* Ali Hebshi**  
SEIU Local 102  
La Mesa, California

**\* Robert J. Irvin**  
President, American Train Dispatchers Dptmt  
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers  
Cleveland, Ohio

**Walter Johnson**  
Sec.-Treasurer, San Francisco Labor Council,  
AFL-CIO

**\* Ron Kaminkow**  
President, AFSCME Local 634  
Madison, Wisconsin

**\* Bill Kane**  
President, New Jersey Industrial Union  
Council, AFL-CIO

**\* Gary Kennedy**  
Chief Steward, UTU Local 965  
Dallas, Texas

**\* Kathy King**  
Vice President, NJ CLUW

**\* Otis King**  
President, Pittsburgh chapter  
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

**Ed Kornegay, Jr.**  
President, Teamsters Local 922  
Washington, DC

**\* Gene Lantz**  
United Auto Workers Local 848  
Dallas, Texas

**\* Russ Leone**  
Secretary-Treasurer, UAW Local 600  
Dearborn, Michigan

**\* Owen Marron**  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer,  
Central Labor Council of Alameda County

**Bob Martin**  
President, Alameda County Association of Retired Union Members, AFL-CIO

**Timothy J. McCormick**  
President, Santa Cruz County Central Labor Council; General Manager, SEIU Local 415

**\* Ann McLemore**  
President, Pittsburgh CLUW

**\* Emery B. Miller**  
President, GCIU Local 259  
Albany, New York

**\* Harold Mitchell**  
President, AFSCME Local 100  
Cleveland, Ohio

**\* Jim Moran**  
Director, Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health

**\* Bill Moriarity**  
President, American Federation of Musicians  
Local 802  
New York, New York

**\* Andrew J. Moynagh**  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer Santa Barbara-San Luis Obispo Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

**\* Kevin Mulligan**  
President, CWA Local 7777  
Englewood, Colorado

**Mike Munoz**  
Director of Organizing, Bay Area Carpenters  
Oakland, California

**\* Bill Onasch**  
Amalgamated Transit Union  
Kansas City, Missouri

**\* Carolyn Park**  
United Auto Workers Local 600  
Detroit, Michigan

**\* David Patrick**  
President, SEIU Local 200D  
Albany, New York

**\* Danny Peterson**  
President, Teamsters Local 385  
Orlando, Florida  
\* **Paul Pipkin**  
National Association of Government Employees (SEIU)  
San Antonio, Texas

**Anthony "Tony" L. Ramos**  
Executive Secretary (retired)  
California State Council of Carpenters

**Carl Rosen**  
Pres., United Electrical Workers District 11  
Chicago, Illinois

**\* Sal Rosselli**  
President, SEIU Local 250  
Oakland, California

**Ernie Roussele**  
Secretary-Treasurer, OCAW, AFL-CIO  
Lakewood, Colorado

**William Scanlan**  
President, Carpenters Local 751  
Santa Rosa, California

**\* Bill Shortell**  
President, IAM Local 1746  
Southington, Connecticut

**\* Chris Silvera**  
Secretary-Treasurer, Teamsters Local 808  
New York, New York

**Stanley Smith**  
Secretary-Treasurer, San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

**Paul S. Swanson**  
Mobilization Coordinator, BMWF  
Denver, Colorado

**\* Jon Thomas-Weger**  
Sec. Bernalillo County Central Labor Council  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**\* Pablo Trujillo**  
Recording Secretary, IAM Local 794  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**\* Frank Valdez**  
TX State Employees Union CWA Local 6186  
San Antonio, Texas

**\* Steve Valencia**  
IBEW Local 266  
Tucson, Arizona

**\* James Vallas**  
Vice-President, SEIU Local 585  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Robert E. Wages**  
President, OCAW, AFL-CIO  
Lakewood, Colorado

**Mark D. Waldemer**  
Gen. Chairman, Gen. Cmmt. of Adjustment,  
Union Pacific Railroad Eastern Region,  
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers  
Hazelwood, Missouri

**Richard Warden**  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
Bay Cities Metal Trades Council

**\* Dave Watts**  
President, UPIU Local 7837  
Decatur, Illinois

**\* Stan Yasaitis**  
President, AFSCME Local 82  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**\* Dave Yettaw**  
President, United Auto Workers Local 599  
Flint, Michigan

\* Organization for identification purposes only

# Labor Party Advocates

P.O. Box 53177

Washington, DC 20009-3177

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED







Windy, some rain  
High: mid-50s  
Low: mid-40s

Details, A-15

# The Sunday Review



Hayward, California

Sunday, January 15, 1995

\$1.25

## 700 cheer labor party proposals

### Brown fires up Hayward crowd

By Meredith May  
STAFF WRITER

HAYWARD — Disgusted with the Democrats and ideologically opposed to the Republicans, more than 700 labor advocates packed Carpenters Union Hall on Saturday to discuss forming a third political party for the working people.

Former California governor Jerry Brown told the predominantly retirement-age crowd that a labor party is the only kind of political force that would stand up for the little people, because both Democrats and Republicans are "puppets of big business."

He said it would be up to a labor party to put an end to the "unofficial Clinton doctrine" of keeping 10 million Americans out of work so inflation stays down.

"Capitalism can't work with full employment because when the people go back to work, that puts pressure on wages and prices. So instead, the feds keep jacking up the interest rates," Brown said.

The ex-governor said the labor movement put \$20 million into the Democratic presidential campaign for five reasons — to pass a "strike-breaker law," to get an increase in

### On the road

Tom Goff cruises the RV show at the Alameda County Fairgrounds and talks to 66-year-old Sam Privett, who tells him: "Do what you want to do when you want to do it, because tomorrow may not come, the way this crazy world is." Sam retired from running a Chevron station in San Leandro. He and his wife, Bettie, have driven their motor home, a 28-foot Bounder, through the Dakotas, Wyoming, Nebraska and shared the revelations of new country and the back roads colored blue on the maps. Join them on A-3.

the minimum wage, for worker reform and to stop NAFTA and GATT.

"Well, with Clinton you're 0 for 5. Do you want your money back?" he asked.

The cheering audience waved populist newspapers and their union hats in the air — a resounding yes for the refund idea.

Union leaders at the meeting said those labor defeats coupled with the Republican takeover of Congress

Please see **Labor**, A-15

## Labor: Not happy with status quo

Continued from A-1

have them rethinking their allegiance to the Democratic Party.

Despite a historically high wimp-out rate for third political parties all the way from Teddy Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party to the eco-hip Green Party, members of Labor Party Advocates say this movement isn't joking around. At a time when voting is becoming more and more a matter of checking a box for Tweedledum or Tweedledee, they say, the nation is ready for a true alternative.

"In the last election, 125 million eligible voters didn't vote. That's our target group right there. We think we represent the silent majority," said Leo Seidlitz, Northern California organizer for Labor Party Advocates.

"This is the first regional meeting for Labor Party Advocates, but there will be many more around the nation, and we plan to have our founding convention at the end of the year," Seidlitz said.

For the past three years, Labor Party Advocates in Washington, D.C., has been slowly building support for a 1996 working people's agenda.

Saturday's forum was co-sponsored by the labor and building trades councils of San Francisco, Alameda, Napa, Solano and San Mateo counties. The California Labor Federation is also considering joining the movement.

"The time is right for a third party, because neither one is addressing the economic and social crises of this country in a realistic way," said Richard Fallenbaum of Berkeley. The Peace and Freedom Party member paid a \$20 registration fee Saturday and joined Labor Party Advocates.

"If they do become a party, I'll switch. I think labor is a central issue, and the other parties like the Greens can join it. The Greens failed because they were too narrowly focused," Fallenbaum said.

Seidlitz rejected the notion that a third party would steal away Democratic voters and indirectly ensure Republican power in much the same way third-party candidate Ross Perot split the conservative vote to help Clinton win the election.

**"In the last election, 125 million eligible voters didn't vote. That's our target group right there. We think we represent the silent majority."**

**Leo Seidlitz**

Northern California organizer  
for Labor Party Advocates

"In an L.A. Times poll, 55 percent of the people said they wanted a third party. I believe we represent the interests of the overwhelming majority of the U.S. population," Seidlitz said.

From what he heard Saturday, the idea of a Labor Party fits right in with Marvin Cain's anti-government views.

"Ever since Kennedy was shot, I haven't trusted our government. I support a movement to get rid of career politicians. I say they should all have only three-year terms, and their salaries should be the same as the people in the trades," said the East Bay Municipal Utility District worker from San Leandro.

**LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES**  
660 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105



# Nader: 'LPA a Rising Force on the Move'

(Editor's Note: Consumer activist Ralph Nader's column *In the Public Interest* appears occasionally in major national newspapers. The following piece was distributed to coincide with this year's Labor Day celebration.)

A few years ago when I first heard that workers were holding meetings around the country to lay the basis for a Labor Party, I was skeptical. Even though one of the founding lights of this effort, Tony Mazzocchi, former vice-president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, was known to be energetic, strategic and mindful of the careful groundwork needed, it still did not seem that organized labor would ever allow a break with the democratic Party.

A year and a half of Clinton has changed my mind. The hope that after 12 years of Reagan and Bush, a Democratic President would start representing working people at least as much as corporate lobbies has come crashing down. Out the door has gone Clinton's promises.

The federal minimum wage, frozen from 1981 to 1989 and now at \$4.25 an hour remains the same. Clinton was expected to ask Congress, at least to adjust it for inflation, as are Congressional salaries, but he has put it off two years running and no change is in sight.

Labor law reform, long overdue, was another Clinton pledge. Forget it. He has a study commission on the subject, but any proposed legislation by the White House to give American workers the effective organizing rights that other western industrial nations have long possessed is just a pipe dream.

Also reflecting the disinterest by the White House is the bill in Congress to ban striker replacement. It is legal to strike in this country, but if workers can be replaced, what is that right to strike worth? Clinton gave it lip service, used very little muscle and saw the bill go down under Republican and some conservative Democratic Senators on a cloture vote.

In contrast, Clinton's energies have been gung ho on NAFTA and now the proposed World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement which trade unions and their rank and file oppose. Oh, how zealous he can become when the global companies give him his marching orders. Now he is scheming to



Ralph Nader

whip the WTO through Congress under fast-track procedures that prohibit any amendments to this international layer of autocracy over our modest democratic practices and consumer, environmental and worker safety laws.

Here comes the Labor Party Advocates (LPA) to explore whether enough working people believe that a Labor Party should be formed. Polls of workers show deep disillusionment with the Democratic Party and other polls show that 50% of them believe it is time for the labor movement to organize an independent party of working people.

LPA believes the Democratic Party has been irrevocably changed. In a recruitment booklet, it writes that the Party "once was a real grassroots organization, sustained by an active membership and able to deliver votes to candidates who stuck up for its platform. Today it is little more than a fund-raising umbrella for a self-perpetuating club of politicians who feel a greater obligation to their campaign contributors, regardless of party, than they do to the voters who elected them."

With wages (adjusted for inflation) stagnant or declining for the past 20 years, with companies using more temporary workers to avoid paying health insurance, with the shredding of benefits under the threat of industrial layoffs, and with increasing job flight abroad, the LPA is persuading more workers that it is time to go independent. "We have wasted enough of our time, money, and energy working for the Democratic Party," LPA organizers say to their fellow workers.

The LPA is quite heedful of third party history. The early Republican Party was a third party, found its issues and candidate, Abraham Lincoln and rose to power.

Other third parties in our history have won reforms without winning power, have pushed the agenda of the two major parties and have quickened political inter-

est among the citizenry.

Full of ideas and seasoned reality, the LPA is a rising force on the move. Not seeking publicity, it is doing its work carefully in face-to-face discussions with blue-collar Americans.

It is in no hurry to start a Labor Party that fields candidates, because its architects know that a broadly supported agenda of change must precede candidates so that the latter come from fundamental grassroots movements and never forget where they came from.

## Midwest Conference to Focus on Labor Party

TOLEDO, OHIO--Midwest LPA activists are preparing for a two-day conference here December 10 and 11 focused around the theme "Shouldr organized labor build a Labor Party" and related issues.

Jerry Gordon, one of the conference's organizers, said that the leaders of eight local unions in the Mid-West, have agreed to sponsor the session.

Bob Wages, president of the OCAW, will keynote the meeting. Other featured speakers are expected to include Jed Dodd, General Chairman of the Pennsylvania Federation of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, and Rosemary Trump, President of SEIU Local 585 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

For more information, contact Brother Gordon at (216) 382-4597.

## San Francisco LPA Sets Platform Hearing

SAN FRANCISCO- Jack Henning, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, will be the featured speaker at a platform hearing sponsored by the San Francisco chapter of Labor Party Advocates here on September 24. ~~January 14~~

The purpose of the hearing is to develop platform recommendations to be submitted to the founding convention of a Labor Party expected to take place next year in Denver.

For more information, contact Stan Smith, Executive Secretary, San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council at (415) 467-3330. ~~513-2699~~



# LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES

O F A M E R I C A

P.O. Box 1510, Highland Park, New Jersey 08904

LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES  
660 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

April, 1992

Volume 2, No. 1

## A Labor Party Not a Third Party

Robert Wages

President, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union

*(Excerpts from remarks before the AABCG&R Co-ordinating Committee, Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., on February 25, 1992.)*

**B**rothers and sisters. What I want to talk about today is what are we going to do as a movement? Our country has been stolen from us! And we have got to do something about it.

We all know about the 37 to 40 million Americans who are uninsured, and the other 37 to 40 million Americans who are under-insured. Neither party is offering us a solution to this national health care crisis, this national health care tragedy. Neither party is offering us an acceptable way to insure the uninsured. Or, to do something about our abysmal infant mortality rate. Or, to provide our citizens universal access to quality care. Or, to control costs.

But there is a solution to this crisis. All we have to do is look to the north, to our neighbors in Canada. We have got to find legislators and people in this country with gumption enough to put a Canadian-style plan on the table in this country. Dare George Bush to veto it! That is what we have to do if we are going to have fundamental change.

### Tax Fairness

Let me talk briefly about another little tragedy. We have all heard about tax fairness. We heard yesterday that the present House plan sponsored by Representative Rostenkowski signals a difference between the Democratic leadership and the Administration.

Where does it "signal the difference"? Is a buck a day going to stimulate you to buy a car? But the Democratic plan still has capital gains cuts for the good ole boys, doesn't it?

It is time for us to stand up and say, "For God's sake, do you think we are all dumb?" I was born at night, but I wasn't born last night. We have got to start mobilizing our communities, our fellow workers, people with whom we share a kindred spirit. We have got to stand up and say, "You are crazy. You are wrong. You are

not speaking to the issues of working men and women in this country." And we have got to do it with such a force and such an indignation that we take this country back from those who stole it from us.

### A Crusade for a New Agenda

At the OCAW's 1991 convention, we debated and adopted a resolution to establish and engage in a crusade for a new political, social, and economic agenda. We also took the step to say that it's time to start talking about a labor party in this country. A party that stands for workers, and a party that will stand with workers. A party to which we can turn when we need help.

So we started a program in our union called Labor Party Advocates. It is not a third party. We are not after a third party. We will settle for two real parties. That is what we have to be about. Labor Party Advocates is a process to get the discussion going. We are not going to start a labor party tomorrow. We are not going to start one this fall. We may not even start one this decade.

### Talking About a Labor Party

But we have got to start talking about a labor party now in order to bring the debate around to our issues. We have to take the question to our people. And how are we going to do that? The same way we used to organize cities and towns and factories in the 1930s. We have to be unafraid to join hands with those people who are kindred spirits with us. Consumer groups. Public interest groups. The public health community. There are literally thousands of people, starving for leadership, starving for a vision, starving to have someone define the politics in a way that means something to working men and women.

Let's start today. Let's commit ourselves to start a process that is going to engage this country in a new political, social, and economic agenda that stands for something. ♦



# LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES

O F A M E R I C A

## An Invitation from Tony Mazzocchi, Presidential Assistant, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union

I would like to invite you to become a Charter Member with me of a new organization to be called, simply, Labor Party Advocates.

Labor Party Advocates has a single purpose: to educate the public about the need for a Labor Party in the United States. To belong is to affirm one's belief in an idea: that the labor movement in the United States needs its own political party. Labor Party Advocates will neither run nor endorse candidates for political office. It will not interfere with on-going COPE work or other electoral activities. But it will agitate for a new economic, social and political agenda for working people. And it will serve as an organizing committee for a new Labor Party.

In return for joining, you will receive a membership card, a newsletter, and a copy of a short pamphlet entitled *Labor Party Advocates: Questions and Answers*. Your dues money will be used to help recruit other members and help secure broad-based support for the idea of a Labor Party.

Let's face it, the bosses have two parties -- we need one of our own. If you agree, please complete the sign-up form and become a Labor Party Advocate!

### Labor Party Advocates Sign-up Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Union Affiliation (If Any) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Here is my \$20\*. Sign me up as a Charter Member. (Please make checks payable to Labor Party Advocates. Contributions are not tax deductible.)

☐ Please send me more information.

(\*\$10 Membership for unemployed, those earning less than \$10/hr or retired.

Mail to: Labor Party Advocates

**LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES**  
660 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105



LOS ANGELES TIMES, JAN 19, 1995

# The beginning of a new American labor party?

LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES  
660 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**L**ET'S start with the new party's platform: "We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin . . . labor impoverished . . . the fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few . . . from the prolific womb of injustice, we breed the two great classes — tramps and millionaires."

Actually, the new party proclaiming those words in 1892 was the Populists, just on the edge of a hundred years of mostly bipartisan supervision of the corporate state by the Republicans and the Democrats.

But the conditions today are, if anything, even more propitious for the birth of a labor party than they were back then, when the Populists failed in what their most perceptive historian, Lawrence Goodwyn, has called "the last substantial effort at a structural alteration of hierarchical economic forms in modern America."

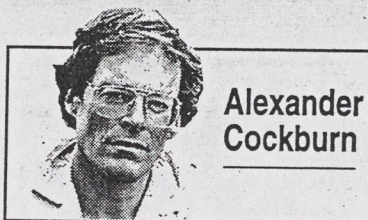
In 1989, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union polled its membership and discovered that 55 percent thought both Republicans and Democrats jointly represented the corporate interest. An identical percentage thought it was time to organize a new party to represent the interests of working people.

The OCAW checked with other unions — blue collar, white collar, government, teachers, right across the spectrum of trades and services — and found these numbers held up.

So the OCAW backed a long-term effort by its former head, Tony Mazzocchi, to see if a critical mass existed for the formation of a new labor party. The notion of Labor Party Advocates was born — the idea of signing up an organizing cadre of people, the human yeast as it were, to raise a new political party into life.

## A tireless effort

Mazzocchi toured the country tirelessly, recruiting organizers. Advocate badges became a familiar sight at labor gatherings. But "critical mass" seemed a long way off.



Alexander Cockburn

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It took the emaciation of labor's hopes after two years of Bill Clinton in the White House and Democrats reigning on the Hill to rekindle excitement, and the Clinton-Gingrich entente to provide the fuel for liftoff.

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For Mazzocchi and Leo Seidlitz, the Advocates' organizer in Northern California, the most rousing sight was the solid working-class presence, people who would normally flee from mutinous political assemblies on a wet weekend.

Plenty of local union officials from labor councils in and around San Francisco turned up, as well as activists from across the Bay Area.

Seidlitz said many of the union folk came into the hall with skeptical faces, heard the platform speeches and lit up. As Mazzocchi puts it, "We aren't organizing around a 'progressive' agenda. We're trying to organize the working class around their economic interests, and many of them are opposed to the 'progressive' agenda. If we don't fill the political void, something much uglier could take over. This is a dangerous moment."

## National convention

The Hayward meeting, first of several regional hearings on a program for the new Labor Party, begins a year that will most likely end with the party's founding national convention.

This is when the established political players will sit up and take notice. The Democrats will start their maneuvers to co-opt the movement. The AFL-CIO, whose general secretary, Lane Kirkland, has already made dismissive comments, will begin to pressure labor leaders around the country to stay away.

But the Labor Party could be harder to muffle than, say, the Progressive Alliance, a short-lived coalition of labor dissidents mustering behind Teddy Kennedy in the sunset of the Carter era. That was a "top-down" affair.

Despite the presence of men like Henning, Labor Party Advocates has thus far been a grass-roots organizing effort.

As Mazzocchi puts it, "I've been active since 1946, and I've never seen a moment like this one."

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Alexander Cockburn is a columnist for *Creators Syndicate*.



S.F. EXAMINER Feb 27, 1995

DICK MEISTER

## Unions organize a third party

**LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES**  
660 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**A**FTER FIVE YEARS of laying the groundwork, organizers feel — and with good reason — that the time finally has come for creation of a Labor Party that would represent most Americans.

The organizers, joined in a group called Labor Party Advocates or LPA, cite some fairly convincing polls taken among union members and others. But their best evidence is what's been going on in Washington, D.C.

The corporate interests that control the economy have been getting most of the serious attention in both Congress and the White House, and among Republicans and Democrats alike. Working people have been getting little more than lip service.

It's no wonder a majority of Americans no longer vote or otherwise participate in the political process. Why should they, when neither major party truly represents them?

"If you're a mouse," notes LPA, "it doesn't make a difference whether you are governed by black cats, white cats, Demo-cats or Republi-cats — they're still cats."

Once, ordinary people could depend on the Democratic Party for representation. But like the GOP, it has become "a fund-raising umbrella for a self-perpetuating club of politicians" whose primary obligation is to the wealthy individuals and businesses that provide the bulk of their campaign funds.

No one knows that better than organized labor, which long has been the single most important force behind the social legislation that has benefited all Americans.

Although the last Congress was controlled by supposedly labor-friendly Democrats, unions could not get a single major bill through. Nor could labor get any effective support from Democratic President Clinton.

Even worse is sure to come, now that the openly anti-labor Republican Party controls Congress.

Forming a Labor Party has become absolutely essential, concludes LPA's national chairman, Denver-based Tony Mazzocchi of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW).

It is certain, anyway, that there are plenty of potential Labor Party members. Recent polls show that at least half of all Americans favor creation of a ma-

ior third party. Well over half those who belong to unions want it to be a labor party, and though the others polled did not specify any particular entity as their favorite, most were identified as working people who might well favor a labor party attuned to their interests.

So far, three national unions OCAW, the United Electrical Workers and the railroad workers' Brotherhood of Maintenance Way Employees, have endorsed creation of a Labor Party. So have the San Francisco, Alameda and San Mateo County Labor Councils, the San Francisco, Alameda and Napa-Solano County Building and Construction Trades Councils, Bay Area District Council of Carpenters and dozens of other labor and building trades councils and union locals around the country.

**S**IGNIFICANTLY, the keynote address at the conference in January which in effect kicked off LPA's organizing drive was delivered by Jack Henning. He heads the California Labor Federation, the AFL-CIO's largest and probably most influential state affiliate.

The session, in a jam-packed union hall in Hayward, was the first in a series scheduled to be held around the country to develop ideas for a platform to be drafted at the Labor Party's founding convention in Denver late this year.

Under the two-party system, Henning told some 400 union and community service group representatives, "Labor is a beggar at the tables of wealth and nothing more."

It's not like that in most other industrial nations, he noted. Here, union advocates must rely on lobbying others who hold political office. Elsewhere, powerful labor parties make it possible for unionists to hold office themselves.

Labor Party organizers, however, expect it will be a long time before they're running candidates for office.

Mazzocchi sees the top priority as first building a movement, one that will thrust into the center of mainstream political debate — now overwhelmingly dominated by the concerns of corporate America — the economic concerns of working America.

"We want to create a political cadence," says Mazzocchi — "a new beat to march to."

*Dick Meister is a veteran San Francisco labor journalist.*



# 700 cheer labor party proposals

## Brown fires up Hayward crowd

By Meredith May  
STAFF WRITER

HAYWARD — Disgusted with the Democrats and ideologically opposed to the Republicans, more than 700 labor advocates packed Carpenters Union Hall on Saturday to discuss forming a third political party for the working people.

Former California governor Jerry Brown told the predominantly retirement-age crowd that a labor party is the only kind of political force that would stand up for the little people, because both Democrats and Republicans are "puppets of big business."

He said it would be up to a labor party to put an end to the "unofficial Clinton doctrine" of keeping 10 million Americans out of work so inflation stays down.

"Capitalism can't work with full employment because when the people go back to work, that puts pressure on wages and prices. So instead, the feds keep jacking up the interest rates," Brown said.

The ex-governor said the labor movement put \$20 million into the Democratic presidential campaign for five reasons — to pass a "strike-breaker law," to get an increase in

## On the road

Tom Goff cruises the RV show at the Alameda County Fairgrounds and talks to 66-year-old Sam Privett, who tells him: "Do what you want to do when you want to do it, because tomorrow may not come, the way this crazy world is." Sam retired from running a Chevron station in San Leandro. He and his wife, Bettie, have driven their motor home, a 28-foot Bounder, through the Dakotas, Wyoming, Nebraska and shared the revelations of new country and the back roads colored blue on the maps. Join them on A-3.

the minimum wage, for worker reform and to stop NAFTA and GATT.

"Well, with Clinton you're 0 for 5. Do you want your money back?" he asked.

The cheering audience waved populist newspapers and their union hats in the air — a resounding yes for the refund idea.

Union leaders at the meeting said those labor defeats coupled with the Republican takeover of Congress

Please see **Labor**, A-15

## Labor: Not happy with status quo

Continued from A-1

have them rethinking their allegiance to the Democratic Party.

Despite a historically high wimp-out rate for third political parties all the way from Teddy Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party to the eco-hip Green Party, members of Labor Party Advocates say this movement isn't joking around. At a time when voting is becoming more and more a matter of checking a box for Tweedledum or Tweedledee, they say, the nation is ready for a true alternative.

"In the last election, 125 million eligible voters didn't vote. That's our target group right there. We think we represent the silent majority," said Leo Seidlitz, Northern California organizer for Labor Party Advocates.

"This is the first regional meeting for Labor Party Advocates, but there will be many more around the nation, and we plan to have our founding convention at the end of the year," Seidlitz said.

For the past three years, Labor Party Advocates in Washington, D.C., has been slowly building support for a 1996 working people's agenda.

Saturday's forum was co-sponsored by the labor and building trades councils of San Francisco, Alameda, Napa, Solano and San Mateo counties. The California Labor Federation is also considering joining the movement.

"The time is right for a third party, because neither one is addressing the economic and social crises of this country in a realistic way," said Richard Fallenbaum of Berkeley. The Peace and Freedom Party member paid a \$20 registration fee Saturday and joined Labor Party Advocates.

"If they do become a party, I'll switch. I think labor is a central issue, and the other parties like the Greens can join it. The Greens failed because they were too narrowly focused," Fallenbaum said.

Seidlitz rejected the notion that a third party would steal away Democratic voters and indirectly ensure Republican power in much the same way third-party candidate Ross Perot split the conservative vote to help Clinton win the election.

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**Leo Seidlitz**  
Northern California organizer  
for Labor Party Advocates

"In an L.A. Times poll, 55 percent of the people said they wanted a third party. I believe we represent the interests of the overwhelming majority of the U.S. population," Seidlitz said.

From what he heard Saturday, the idea of a Labor Party fits right in with Marvin Cain's anti-government views.

"Ever since Kennedy was shot, I haven't trusted our government. I support a movement to get rid of career politicians. I say they should all have only three-year terms, and their salaries should be the same as the people in the trades," said the East Bay Municipal Utility District worker from San Leandro.

**LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES**

660 Howard Street

San Francisco, CA 94105



# Nader: 'LPA a Rising Force on the Move'

*(Editor's Note: Consumer activist Ralph Nader's column in the Public Interest appears occasionally in major national newspapers. The following piece was distributed to coincide with this year's Labor Day celebration.)*

A few years ago when I first heard that workers were holding meetings around the country to lay the basis for a Labor Party, I was skeptical. Even though one of the founding lights of this effort, Tony Mazzocchi, former vice-president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, was known to be energetic, strategic and mindful of the careful groundwork needed, it still did not seem that organized labor would ever allow a break with the democratic Party.

A year and a half of Clinton has changed my mind. The hope that after 12 years of Reagan and Bush, a Democratic President would start representing working people at least as much as corporate lobbies has come crashing down. Out the door has gone Clinton's promises.

The federal minimum wage, frozen from 1981 to 1989 and now at \$4.25 an hour remains the same. Clinton was expected to ask Congress, at least to adjust it for inflation, as are Congressional salaries, but he has put it off two years running and no change is in sight.

Labor law reform, long overdue, was another Clinton pledge. Forget it. He has a study commission on the subject, but any proposed legislation by the White House to give American workers the effective organizing rights that other western industrial nations have long possessed is just a pipe dream.

Also reflecting the disinterest by the White House is the bill in Congress to ban striker replacement. It is legal to strike in this country, but if workers can be replaced, what is that right to strike worth? Clinton gave it lip service, used very little muscle and saw the bill go down under Republican and some conservative Democratic Senators on a cloture vote.

In contrast, Clinton's energies have been gung ho on NAFTA and now the proposed World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement which trade unions and their rank and file oppose. Oh, how zealous he can become when the global companies give him his marching orders. Now he is scheming to



Ralph Nader

whip the WTO through Congress under fast-track procedures that prohibit any amendments to this international layer of autocracy over our modest democratic practices and consumer, environmental and worker safety laws.

Here comes the Labor Party Advocates (LPA) to explore whether enough working people believe that a Labor Party should be formed. Polls of workers show deep disillusionment with the Democratic Party and other polls show that 50% of them believe it is time for the labor movement to organize an independent party of working people.

LPA believes the Democratic Party has been irrevocably changed. In a recruitment booklet, it writes that the Party "once was a real grassroots organization, sustained by an active membership and able to deliver votes to candidates who stuck up for its platform. Today it is little more than a fund-raising umbrella for a self-perpetuating club of politicians who feel a greater obligation to their campaign contributors, regardless of party, than they do to the voters who elected them."

With wages (adjusted for inflation) stagnant or declining for the past 20 years, with companies using more temporary workers to avoid paying health insurance, with the shredding of benefits under the threat of industrial layoffs, and with increasing job flight abroad, the LPA is persuading more workers that it is time to go independent. "We have wasted enough of our time, money, and energy working for the Democratic Party," LPA organizers say to their fellow workers.

The LPA is quite heedful of third party history. The early Republican Party was a third party, found its issues and candidate, Abraham Lincoln and rose to power.

Other third parties in our history have won reforms without winning power, have pushed the agenda of the two major parties and have quickened political inter-

est among the citizenry.

Full of ideas and seasoned reality, the LPA is a rising force on the move. Not seeking publicity, it is doing its work carefully in face-to-face discussions with blue-collar Americans.

It is in no hurry to start a Labor Party that fields candidates, because its architects know that a broadly supported agenda of change must precede candidates so that the latter come from fundamental grassroots movements and never forget where they came from.

## Midwest Conference to Focus on Labor Party

TOLEDO, OHIO--Midwest LPA activists are preparing for a two-day conference here December 10 and 11 focused around the theme "Shouldr organized labor build a Labor Party" and related issues.

Jerry Gordon, one of the conference's organizers, said that the leaders of eight local unions in the Mid-West, have agreed to sponsor the session.

Bob Wages, president of the OCAW, will keynote the meeting. Other featured speakers are expected to include Jed Dodd, General Chairman of the Pennsylvania Federation of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, and Rosemary Trump, President of SEIU Local 585 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

For more information, contact Brother Gordon at (216) 382-4597.

## San Francisco LPA Sets Platform Hearing

SAN FRANCISCO--Jack Henning, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the California Labor Federation, will be the featured speaker at a platform hearing sponsored by the San Francisco chapter of Labor Party Advocates here on September 24, January 14. The purpose of the hearing is to develop platform recommendations to be submitted to the founding convention of a Labor Party expected to take place next year in Denver.

For more information, contact Stan Smith, Executive Secretary, San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council at (415) 467-3330 or 543-2690.



# LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES

O F A M E R I C A

P.O. Box 1510, Highland Park, New Jersey 08904

LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES  
660 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

April, 1992

Volume 2, No. 1

## A Labor Party Not a Third Party

Robert Wages

President, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union

*(Excerpts from remarks before the AABCG&R Co-ordinating Committee, Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., on February 25, 1992.)*

**B**rothers and sisters. What I want to talk about today is what are we going to do as a movement? Our country has been stolen from us! And we have got to do something about it.

We all know about the 37 to 40 million Americans who are uninsured, and the other 37 to 40 million Americans who are under-insured. Neither party is offering us a solution to this national health care crisis, this national health care tragedy. Neither party is offering us an acceptable way to insure the uninsured. Or, to do something about our abysmal infant mortality rate. Or, to provide our citizens universal access to quality care. Or, to control costs.

But there is a solution to this crisis. All we have to do is look to the north, to our neighbors in Canada. We have got to find legislators and people in this country with gumption enough to put a Canadian-style plan on the table in this country. Dare George Bush to veto it! That is what we have to do if we are going to have fundamental change.

### Tax Fairness

Let me talk briefly about another little tragedy. We have all heard about tax fairness. We heard yesterday that the present House plan sponsored by Representative Rostenkowski signals a difference between the Democratic leadership and the Administration.

Where does it "signal the difference"? Is a buck a day going to stimulate you to buy a car? But the Democratic plan still has capital gains cuts for the good ole boys, doesn't it?

It is time for us to stand up and say, "For God's sake, do you think we are all dumb?" I was born at night, but I wasn't born last night. We have got to start mobilizing our communities, our fellow workers, people with whom we share a kindred spirit. We have got to stand up and say, "You are crazy. You are wrong. You are

not speaking to the issues of working men and women in this country." And we have got to do it with such a force and such an indignation that we take this country back from those who stole it from us.

### A Crusade for a New Agenda

At the OCAW's 1991 convention, we debated and adopted a resolution to establish and engage in a crusade for a new political, social, and economic agenda. We also took the step to say that it's time to start talking about a labor party in this country. A party that stands for workers, and a party that will stand with workers. A party to which we can turn when we need help.

So we started a program in our union called Labor Party Advocates. It is not a third party. We are not after a third party. We will settle for two real parties. That is what we have to be about. Labor Party Advocates is a process to get the discussion going. We are not going to start a labor party tomorrow. We are not going to start one this fall. We may not even start one this decade.

### Talking About a Labor Party

But we have got to start talking about a labor party now in order to bring the debate around to our issues. We have to take the question to our people. And how are we going to do that? The same way we used to organize cities and towns and factories in the 1930s. We have to be unafraid to join hands with those people who are kindred spirits with us. Consumer groups. Public interest groups. The public health community. There are literally thousands of people, starving for leadership, starving for a vision, starving to have someone define the politics in a way that means something to working men and women.

Let's start today. Let's commit ourselves to start a process that is going to engage this country in a new political, social, and economic agenda that stands for something. ♦



# LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES

O F A M E R I C A

## An Invitation from Tony Mazzocchi, Presidential Assistant, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union

I would like to invite you to become a Charter Member with me of a new organization to be called, simply, Labor Party Advocates.

Labor Party Advocates has a single purpose: to educate the public about the need for a Labor Party in the United States. To belong is to affirm one's belief in an idea: that the labor movement in the United States needs its own political party. Labor Party Advocates will neither run nor endorse candidates for political office. It will not interfere with on-going COPE work or other electoral activities. But it will agitate for a new economic, social and political agenda for working people. And it will serve as an organizing committee for a new Labor Party.

In return for joining, you will receive a membership card, a newsletter, and a copy of a short pamphlet entitled *Labor Party Advocates: Questions and Answers*. Your dues money will be used to help recruit other members and help secure broad-based support for the idea of a Labor Party.

Let's face it, the bosses have two parties -- we need one of our own. If you agree, please complete the sign-up form and become a Labor Party Advocate!

### Labor Party Advocates Sign-up Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Union Affiliation (If Any) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Here is my \$20\*. Sign me up as a Charter Member. (Please make checks payable to Labor Party Advocates. Contributions are not tax deductible.)

☐ Please send me more information.

(\*\$10 Membership for unemployed, those earning less than \$10/hr or retired.

Mail to: Labor Party Advocates

**LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES**  
660 Howard Street  
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LOS ANGELES TIMES, JAN 19, 1995

# The beginning of a new American labor party?

**L**ET'S start with the new party's platform: "We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin . . . labor impoverished . . . the fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few . . . from the prolific womb of injustice, we breed the two great classes — tramps and millionaires."

Actually, the new party proclaiming those words in 1892 was the Populists, just on the edge of a hundred years of mostly bipartisan supervision of the corporate state by the Republicans and the Democrats.

But the conditions today are, if anything, even more propitious for the birth of a labor party than they were back then, when the Populists failed in what their most perceptive historian, Lawrence Goodwyn, has called "the last substantial effort at a structural alteration of hierarchical economic forms in modern America."

In 1989, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union polled its membership and discovered that 55 percent thought both Republicans and Democrats jointly represented the corporate interest. An identical percentage thought it was time to organize a new party to represent the interests of working people.

The OCAW checked with other unions — blue collar, white collar, government, teachers, right across the spectrum of trades and services — and found these numbers held up.

So the OCAW backed a long-term effort by its former head, Tony Mazzocchi, to see if a critical mass existed for the formation of a new labor party. The notion of Labor Party Advocates was born — the idea of signing up an organizing cadre of people, the human yeast as it were, to raise a new political party into life.

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*Dick Meister is a veteran San Francisco labor journalist.*



# LABOR PARTY ADVOCATE

VOL 3 NO 4

NOVEMBER 1994

WASHINGTON, D.C.

## 'Now More Than Ever' New LPA Call to Action Amidst Signs of Growing Worker Militancy

While alleged political experts from the right, left and center scramble to uncover the "real" meaning behind the sweeping Republican victory on Nov. 8, Labor Party advocates refuse to be, in the words of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, "paralyzed by the analysis" and are simply continuing their work at the grassroots to organize a Labor Party in America. The new slogan: "Now More Than Ever."

The drive to organize a Labor Party is coming at a time when there appears to be some obvious signs that union members, driven to the wall by increasingly aggressive employers, are willing to fight back far more aggressively than in the recent past.

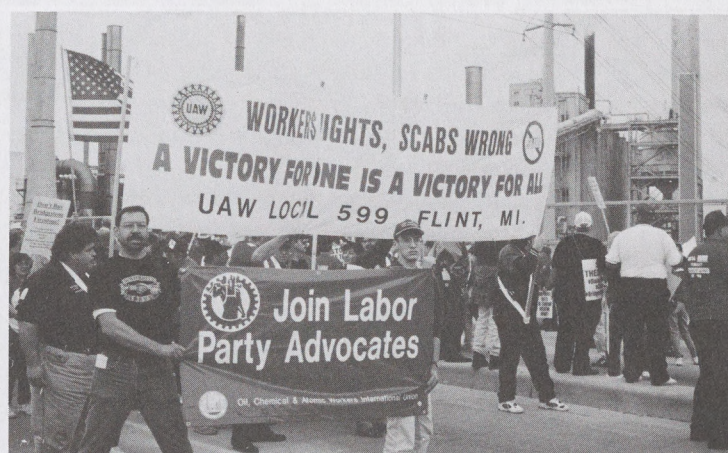
Labor Party Advocates (LPA) was founded on the premise that the traditional two-party political system had been effectively captured by the bosses and that Labor had to find a better way to challenge the longrunning assault on workers' living standards.

**What Mandate, Newt?**  
The real election message was sent by 125 million Americans who stayed home--see page 5

LPA organizers have from the beginning advanced the notion of a political strategy that legitimately embraces the most aggressive, militant realities of labor history as an important foundation for organizing a political party that speaks for working people.

What LPA is struggling to give birth to, say many of the founding activists, is as much a Movement to back up a well-thought out, genuine, democratically decided workers' agenda, as it is a conventional political party whose singular focus is to run candidates for office at various levels of the political process.

For many folks, the organization of a Labor Party is intimately tied to a deeply held belief that the organized



Labor Party Advocates is working to build a political movement to support an agenda developed by working class people for working class people. LPA activists turned up in Decatur, Illinois on Oct. 15 to support Staley, Caterpillar and Bridgestone/Firestone workers who are locked in a tough struggle with their employers. Organizers continue to emphasize LPA's strategy of not being locked into a one-dimensional electoral strategy but rather to focus on developing a comprehensive action agenda around which workers can build an aggressive Movement to achieve their objectives.

Labor Movement must begin aggressively to adopt strategies that capture the imagination of the rank and file who have opted out of politics, not because they don't care, but because they instinctively sense that they and the organizations that represent them have no new ideas and, as important, real power to influence events on issues that matter most to them.

That lack of power has been illustrated dramatically in the past year starting with NAFTA, followed by the failure to win striker replacement legislation and disastrous health care reform results. Despite a Democrat in the White House and control of both houses of Congress by the Democratic Party, Unions were unable to win any of the key, so-called "money" issues that were so important to millions of American workers, organized and unorganized.

Please see *LPA STRATEGY*, page two



# LPA Strategy Aims at Common Sense Alternative

(Continued from page one)

According to the *Washington Post*, the Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO, which rarely agree on anything, came to the same conclusion about the 103rd Congress.

**Said one Chamber official: "While we didn't get everything we wanted by any means, the unions got nothing they really wanted."**

No wonder there's been a lot more openness to organizing a Labor Party among middle level officials and rank and file members of unions. And, recently, there appears to be signs of a growing dissatisfaction at higher levels of the Labor Movement.

Take for example, a letter that **Fred Hanley**, President of the International Union of Operating Engineers, wrote to President Clinton in late September. Hanley said that the members of his 400,000 member Union are becoming disaffected from the Democratic Party, feelings he's picked up based on feedback from his travels across the country. Hanley told Clinton that he was particularly annoyed with the Chamber of Commerce for bragging that it got everything it wanted from Congress while labor got nothing.

Or consider a recent analysis by **Charles Marciante**, longtime president of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO who told his membership that Labor has virtually lost its ability to influence politicians. **"Labor has lost respect...Federally, we've had no major Labor Legislation passed in 15 years, while Dems controlled both houses."**

Neither Hanley or Marciante say they want to break with the Democratic Party. But they are clearly disturbed by the course of events and, we suspect, both labor leaders may be feeling some heat from their membership, or at least are picking up what LPA has found over the past two years, that rank and file members aren't persuaded that either one of the two major parties care about them more than they care about the bosses' concerns.

**It may be, too, that Union leaders are beginning to recognize that the rank and file is restive, deeply concerned by the butt kicking they've been taking for several years and not at all willing to listen to the same old calls to "elect our friends, and defeat our enemies," a**

**call to the political barricades that may have had some value at one time but clearly doesn't mean much these days when it's tough to figure out who our friends in politics are after the election is over.**

We sense that Union members are more and more willing to respond to strategies that challenge the boss directly. Consider, for example, the decision by UAW Local 599's members in Flint, Michigan to challenge General Motors by standing up to the endless overtime that was wrecking people's lives. According to some observers, the workers sent a very big message to corporations all over the country, companies that gauge their success by how many workers they can fire.

The workers were willing to put aside calls for cooperation, work to build a strong rank and file based union and challenge what they deeply believed was terribly unfair treatment. In a word, they took a page from their forebears in Flint who led the sitdowns in 1937 that forced the employer to recognize the Union and laid the foundation for a dignified existence for millions of autoworkers, indeed millions of workers throughout the nation.

Similarly, Staley workers in Decatur, Illinois together with UAW Caterpillar Tractor and members of the URW at Bridgestone Tire Co., have been pitted against stubborn employers in a titanic struggle for more than a year. The Unions and their members have joined forces to take their cases to the country in a persistent, creative fightback that has employed some very militant tactics ranging from sitdowns at the plant gates to corporate campaigns. The signal clearly to the employers in Illinois and elsewhere is simply that workers increasingly won't roll over and play dead for greedy bosses to rob them of every shred of security and personal dignity they have worked so hard to attain over the years.

Some employers have misread what's happening in the country. Perhaps they have grown complacent because they have not been faced with strong challenges from their employees or the Unions that represent their workers in those cases where there are unions.

Or maybe the bosses have grown arrogant because they know that they've been in virtual complete control of the politics of this country for a very long time without much of an imaginative counter by the organized Labor Movement that seemed for so long to be willing to employ the same old, tired strategies in the political arena that clearly weren't working.

**For those of us who are committed to this process, the signs of a growing willingness by more and more rank and file members to draw the line, to not meekly accept the terms of their surrender, is a refreshing indication that working people-like our polls have demonstrated for some time-are prepared to entertain a new, aggressive, militant, multi-dimensional political strategy that offers them some hope that the future can be better than the recent past.**

What keeps so many of us in this game is, simply put, an abiding faith that the people will respond favorably to a strategy that challenges conventional wisdom that is clearly bankrupt.

Working people will respond as they have so many times in Labor history. All we have to do is make sense to them.

Organizing a Labor Party rooted in the Labor Movement, based on democratic principles and an approach that recognizes the great value of a dual non-electoral, electoral strategy, makes a lot of sense.

**That's why there's a growing interest in our work. All we have to do is keep taking our message to workers.**

## LABOR PARTY ADVOCATE

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## Political Survey Finds Support For Third Party Idea Gaining

WASHINGTON—Consistent with the polls conducted by more than 100 local unions over the past two years, a new survey says Americans, disillusioned with President Clinton and uncertain about the Republican Party, are willing to support a new third party.

The survey, by the Times Mirror Center for the People & the Press, portrays a nation filled with resentments and anxieties, cynical toward government, hostile to immigrants, sharply divided along racial lines over the responsibility of the government to help the needy, suspicious of the media, uncertain about the future and increasingly disconnected to either of the two major parties.

The poll released six weeks before the Nov. 8 election was an accurate harbinger of the disaster in store for Democrats.

**Tony Mazzocchi**, a leading figure in Labor Party Advocates, said the poll simply confirms trends picked up by LPA since 1991. "People are scared about the economic situation and frustrated by the inability of the parties to assure them the future will be more secure. They voted against the party in charge because that's who they believe should do something about the economy. If the situation was reversed, and Republicans were running things, voters would have held that party responsible."

The problem is, he added, neither party is honestly addressing the current reality in a vastly changed global economy which has so many vast implications for American workers. Mazzocchi said he is working with others to convene a meeting of trade unionists early next year to begin to seriously examine the economic reality as a first step toward generating a more realistic approach to dealing with the situation.

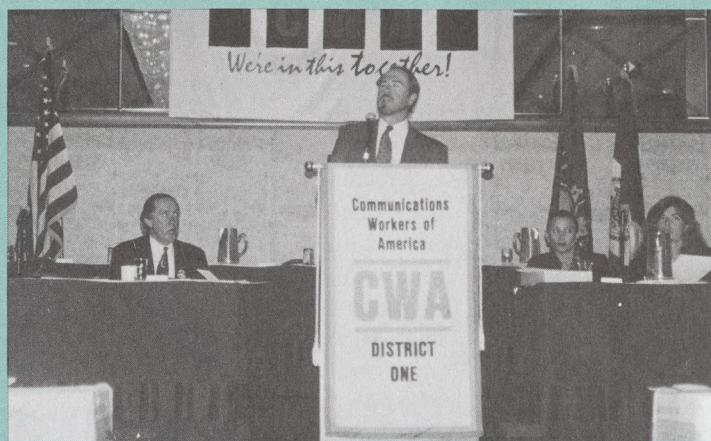
The poll, which was conducted by the Los Angeles Times Mirror, points toward a period of political fluidity and instability—with Republicans divided on social issues, Democrats riven by racial disputes and disagreements about the role of government, and many middle-income independents convinced that neither party knows how to alleviate the economic pressures they face.

"One of the most striking findings of the new survey is the declining role of the parties as a framework around which Americans organize their political thinking," the authors wrote.

The findings were based on 4,809 interviews conducted in July and repeat interviews with 1,500 respondents.

The poll found broad-based support for the concept of a third party. Overall, 53% of those surveyed are open to a new party, while 43% are opposed. That's up from 1982, when Americans were divided 44% to 44% on the question in an ABC/Washington Post poll.

In the new poll, support for a new party is most intense among the young—with more than 60% of those 29 and younger backing the idea. Ideologically, the notion surprisingly draws the widest support from the liberals, with 61% endorsing the idea.



CWA LEADERS in the union's largest region responded positively to OCAW President Bob Wages' explanation of why his union is working hard to organize a Labor Party in the U.S. Invited to address a Leadership Conference by CWA Vice President Jan D. Pierce (seated on the left), Wages told rank and file leaders of the 150,000-member District 1 on Oct. 17 that because neither one of the two major political parties are representing workers' interests "we should go out and organize our own party to speak for us." He was interrupted with applause at least a dozen times in a 30-minute address. LPA activists Kathy King, a CWA staffer, and Tony Mazzocchi played prominent roles in two workshops.

## Boston LPA Activists Take Key Step Toward Organizing Chapter in Area

BOSTON, MA.— More than 100 area activists turned out October 22 to learn more about LPA's campaign to organize a Labor Party and to figure out how to build support for the Movement here.

**Elaine Bernard** and **Tony Mazzocchi** were featured speakers at the session which was chaired by **Jeff Crosby**, President of IUE Local 201 in Lynn, MA. The meeting was held at SEIU Local 285's union hall.

Discussion was very lively, said **Martha Root**, a member of Local 285's Executive Board. "People seemed very interested in learning about LPA and its plans for the future," said Root.

No decisions were made about formalizing a chapter in the area. Later, Crosby said that after the elections he would reach out to people he knew in the Labor Movement to set an informal meeting with Mazzocchi to learn about LPA and the response in other parts of the

country to the idea of forming a Labor Party.

When LPA activists develop a broader interest among unions for this idea, they expect to formalize an LPA chapter here.

## Colorado LPA, JWJ Activists Join Forces

DENVER— The Front Range Colorado LPA chapter and Jobs for Justice joined forces to organize a forum on Nov. 22 titled Taking Back our Future and Organizing for Diversity which drew several hundred people to the Auraria Campus of the University of Colorado here.

**Don Holmstrom**, who co-chairs the Front Range chapter with **Jack Kavanaugh** and **Glynnis Hawkins**, said that OCAW President **Bob Wages** and Colorado AFL-CIO President **Bob Greenewere** the featured speakers. Wages gave a rousing endorsement of the drive to create a Labor Party in America which is needed more than ever following the disastrous results of the Nov. 8 election.



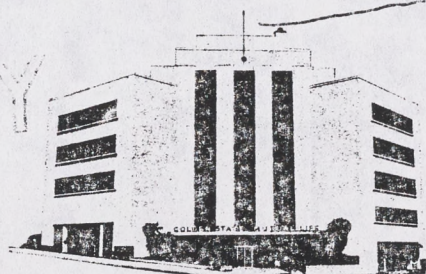


## 336 YEARS BEFORE THE PROCLAMATION



Years before the United States herself came into existence, Negroes were instrumental in shaping the future of what is now her most populous state—California. Part of the story is told here in murals\*, which dramatically illustrate the Negro's role in the exploration and development of America's last frontier. These murals which grace the entrance to GSM's Home Office in Los Angeles, trace the Negro's history—his struggle, his work, his flight—in the territory we know as California from 1527 through 1949. More than a portrayal of past accomplishments, the murals on "The Negro in California History" are an inspiration for future achievement. They represent part of the heritage which we now celebrate and which GSM is honored to share.

\*Painted by: Charles Alston (top panel) and Hale Woodruff (bottom panel).



## GOLDEN STATE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

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## Labor Fumes Bigtime as Chamber of Commerce Gloats over Success

Labor is seething over a *Washington Post* story in late September which said that while the Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO don't agree on many things, they do agree about the work of the Democrat-led 103rd Congress, said reporters David Broder and Michael Weisskopf.

"We didn't win everything we wanted, by any means," said Jeffrey H. Joseph, vice-president for domestic policy of the Chamber. "But the Unions got nothing they really wanted." Some unionists have interpreted Joseph's remarks as unnecessary boasting and are very angry, according to some observers of the labor scene.

Robert M. McGlotten, top lobbyist for the AFL-CIO, said, "For us, it has obviously been a very sparse two years."

## Connecticut LPA Focuses On Issues for Labor Party

**HARTFORD**--About 75 activists turned out Oct. 1 for a conference to speak and learn about the issues that could form the basis for a new party, reports **Bill Shortell**, president of Machinists Local 1714-A in Southington, and chair of LPA's Connecticut chapter.

"The people found strength in our enthusiasms, took shots at Republicans and Democrats and prepared for specific actions to help us gather strength as we build our party," said Shortell.

Four workshops focused on the need for creating new, good jobs, health care reform and International worker solidarity and free trade.

The biggest workshop was concerned about jobs and was led by **David Montgomery** of the National Writers Union and **Laura Mayer** of the Hotel Restaurant Employees. Participants agreed to circulate a "We Need jobs" petition and to support the Martinez and Progressive Caucus/Sanders Bills.

Local 1199 hosted the conference. Shortell paid special tribute to **Rick Melita**, **Mel Tripp**, **John Harrity**, **Al Belisle** and **Julie Gorneault** for helping to build a successful meeting.

For more information about LPA in Connecticut, contact Shortell at (203) 793-1511.

## Los Angeles Activists Laying Foundation For Aggressive LPA Recruitment Drive

**LOS ANGELES**--Labor Party Advocates activists in this city are working hard to build attendance for a major event December 2 which is expected to help organizers lay a solid foundation for a strong LPA chapter in this city.

The forum, set to begin at 7 p.m., will be held at OCAW Local 1-128, 2200 E. 220th Street in Carson, reports **Kathleen O'Nan**, coordinator of the LPA chapter. Speakers include LPA national organizer and founder **Tony Mazzocchi**, **Genora Dollinger**, who led the Women's Brigades during the Flint auto sit down strikes in the 1930s and **Leo Seidlitz**, LPA's organizer in northern California. **Jack Foley**, OCAW's Western Regional Director and Vice President of the Los Angeles Labor Council, will welcome the participants.

O'Nan says that the Los Angeles-Orange County chapter has held three meetings, the first hosted by OCAW Local 1-547 on September 6. The meeting was called by **Dave Campbell** of OCAW Local 1-547. The initial meeting attracted members of the UAW, International Longshoreman's Union, California Teachers Association, United Teachers of Los Angeles, Operating Engineers, OCAW Locals 1-128 and 1-157, Machinists, IBEW, Carpenters, CWA, Teamsters

## LPA Leader to Conn. AFL-CIO: Lets Organize Our Own Party

**CONNECTICUT**--LPA national steering committee member **Bill Shortell**, President of Machinist Local 1714-A told several hundred delegates to the Connecticut AFL-CIO convention this Fall that working people should organize their own Labor Party.

Shortell joined several delegates in an impassioned plea not to endorse U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman, a Democrat, who wasn't helpful when Machinist members were victimized when Pratt & Whitney closed its Southington plant.

Executive Secretary **Hal Alpert** said his endorsement of Lieberman was made "with reluctance and frustration. If there was an independent labor candidate presently running I would agree we should go with that," Alpert said.

and the Newspaper Guild.

Campbell is chair protem, **Marc Rich** of the United Teachers is secretary-treasurer, UAW retiree **Edi Fox** chairs the Publicity Committee, **Joe Mendez**, OCAW Local 1-128 and **Hugo Rasmussen**, a United Teachers retiree share the chair of the Organizing Committee, **Richard Puglisi** is head of the Recruitment Committee and **Joe Hancock** of the United Food and Commercial Workers chairs the Finance Committee.

The chapter is developing plans to launch a recruitment drive early next year with a letter to area Unions asking for a chance to speak to Executive Boards as a first step to taking the LPA message to union meetings, said O'Nan. The chapter is planning on a speakers' bureau and will recruit and train people to talk to union officials and members about LPA. "We've got a very ambitious strategy but we think people are ready to build a Labor Party," said O'Nan. "It will take a lot of work but judging from the response to our first meetings there's a lot of interest in this idea. We're confident that if we just figure out how to reach people in a disciplined way that we'll be successful in beginning to build support in this area," said O'Nan.

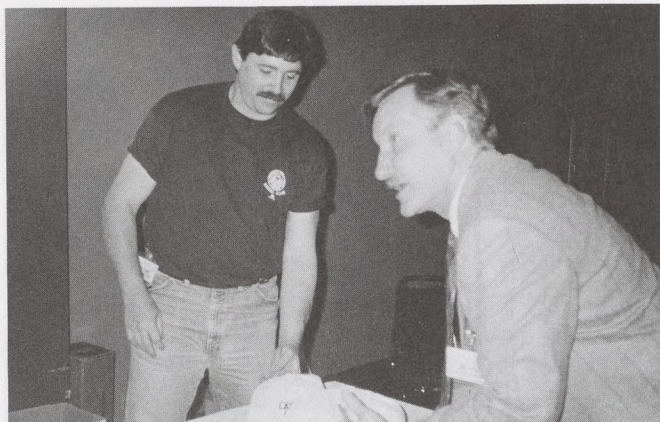
For more information about the December 2 meeting and/or the chapter's work, please contact O'Nan at 213-660-2891.

## OCAW Local Checks Off For Debs Five Score Club

**LOS ANGELES**--Fourteen members of OCAW Local 1-547 who work at the Chevron Refinery in El Segundo have agreed to have their political action checkoff money go to Labor Party Advocates, reports LPA Organizer **Dave Campbell**, a leader of the local union and chair of the LA--Orange County LPA chapter.

Campbell said the checkoff amounts to about \$100 a year and qualifies the participants for memberships in the Eugene V. Debs Five Score Club. "We're working hard on persuading more of our members to participate in this program," said Campbell.





Bill Kane, new president of the N.J. Industrial Council, (IUC) AFL-CIO, became a Labor Party Advocate during the IUC's convention in Cherry Hill in October. IUC represents 235,000 workers in 30 unions. Looking on is Ray Stever, an organizer for OCAW Local 8-149

### **TIRED OF STALE POLITICS**

## **New NJ Industrial Union Council President Bill Kane Joins LPA**

CHERRY HILL, N.J. Oct. 22-- "Tired of politics as usual" and looking for a more aggressive, grassroots-based political strategy to challenge powerful, greedy employers that would destroy workers' living standards, Bill Kane, new president of the New Jersey Industrial Union Council, today joined Labor Party Advocates.

Kane, New Jersey Area Director for the United Auto Workers (UAW), said: "This is a class struggle, brothers and sisters. It is the rich against the rest of us...we need to reinvigorate the labor movement in New Jersey."

The new IUC leader said that unionists have been sorely disappointed by defeats on key issues--NAFTA, striker replacement, health care. Kane added: "In Washington, the Democratic Congress, led by a Democratic President, all of whom we helped get elected, could not come through for the working people of this country and pass legislation which would protect our jobs in the event of a strike. It is clear that labor's is not the agenda of the Democratic Party," said Kane.

He explained that while there are some Democrats who support Labor's goals,... "there are not enough of them to move our agenda." Kane emphasized the Republicans, "with very few exceptions," don't even try to hide their disdain for the labor movement. "They come right out and tell us they don't like us and attempt to block everything that we care about."

Kane held out considerable hope for the future, noting that the NAFTA fight showed that the "labor movement is not quite as dead as we have been told and that we can run a grassroots campaign to educate the public when we want to."

Kane endorsed direct action and emphasized UAW Local 599's recent successful confrontation with General Motors as a time-tested labor strategy that can work. "I will be proud of Local 599 of the USA leads the struggle for jobs in New Jersey," said Kane.

LABOR PARTY ADVOCATE/ November 1994

# **What Mandate?**

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The people who make their living trying to tell the rest of us what happened on Nov. 8 and what message Americans were sending to the politicians are missing the biggest, most unmistakable message of all: 125 million people who could have voted stayed home!

Don't buy the apathy explanation. Americans listened to the debate, considered the emptiness of the rhetoric and found no reason to vote for alternatives they saw as lacking realistic solutions to the problems they face trying to make a decent living with some fair assurance that if they work hard and play by the rules they can look forward to a reasonably secure future for themselves and their children.

The media is filled with screaming headlines detailing the so-called Republican mandate that Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole now command as they craft a brave new world for Gingrich's "normal" Americans.

**But what has been conveniently ignored is that the mandate was in fact 18% of the potential voters!**

Those 125 million Americans who refused to participate represent a third party of truly disaffected American citizens.

The real question for Labor Party Advocates who are working to create a legitimate alternative is how and around what issues to reach those non-voters.

The people who stayed home Nov. 8 saw no reason to be a part of what they must have felt was a charade, an exercise in futility they wanted to part of.

LPA remains committed to the proposition that there are millions of people who would rally around an agenda that was built democratically and genuinely reflected the very real concerns that millions of people have in this nation.

*Now more than ever*, the sisters and brothers who are working so hard to give life to this much-needed, working class-based political alternative, are convinced that the non-voters have shown once again that there is a huge constituency out there waiting to be a part of something which responds honestly to their needs and not the bosses requirements.

*The Editors*

## **California Carpenters Leader: Time Ripe for Real Alternative**

William Scanlan, President of Carpenters Local 751 in Santa Rosa, California, joined LPA in November and said in part: "This last election has proven that the old argument that our work through the Democratic Party at least had a chance of being effective, is no longer valid. For whatever reason the Democrats have alienated and ill-served the working people of this country. The numbers do not lie. The time is ripe for a real political alternative."



## Pittsburgh Chapter Busy Recruiting New LPA Members

**PITTSBURGH, (L)PA**--Western Pennsylvania activists have been aggressively campaigning for a Labor party and have almost doubled membership in LPA over the past several months, reports Ed Grystar, who chairs the LPA chapter in this area.

Eight volunteers distributed more than 2,000 LPA leaflets during the Labor Day parade, Sept. 5 where there was also a table with an LPA banner that attracted several hundred participants, said Grystar. **Mike Alewitz**, a well-known muralist from New Jersey and a member of LPA, lent the chapter the banner.

Three days later, the chapter raised about \$100 at the chapter meeting, said Grystar.

Grystar addressed the Pittsburgh chapter of Coalition of Labor Union Women on Oct. 10. **Ann McLemore**, president of the CLUW chapter and president of ACTWU Local 86-A joined LPA after the meeting.

On Oct. 17, Grystar discussed LPA with about 80 retirees of Bakery Workers Local 12 here. LPA activist **Leon Swimmer**, a former member of Local 12's Executive Board arranged for the meeting where the union's veteran appeared to be interested, said Grystar.

The LPA leader explained the campaign for a Labor Party to 15 members of Steelworkers Local 13694 on Oct. 20.

The chapter bought an advertisement which appeared in the program for the Butler County United Labor Council, AFL-CIO annual dinner on Oct. 21. Grystar is president of the Council. The next day Grystar addressed Bakery Workers Local 12's executive board. Later, two officials joined LPA.

Grystar was a featured speaker at the Nov. 14 meeting of CLUW where a local AFSCME leader joined LPA and at a Nov. 16 meeting of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. A regular LPA chapter meeting took place Nov. 19, said Grystar.

Grystar is scheduled to talk about LPA on Dec. 19 at a membership meeting of the Central Westward County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

## LPA Building Base In Philadelphia

**PHILADELPHIA, (L)PA**--LPA activists here are cautiously optimistic about the prospects of developing a broad-based chapter in this area following two meetings in September, according to **Jim Moran**, who is helping to coordinate the drive here.

Meetings in September and October demonstrated there's an interest in forming a Labor Party, said Moran who added that strategists have decided to keep working to build more support in the Labor Movement before moving to formalize LPA in this city.

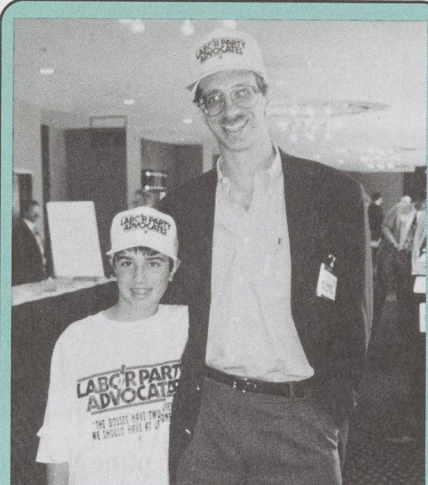
Moran said that he expects to call a small meeting of union leaders for a discussion with LPA founder Tony Mazzocchi very soon. That meeting, said Moran, is expected to help produce part of the wider "constituency we're looking for." He said that LPA organizers are projecting an event next March to include Mazzocchi and perhaps a play about LPA developed for the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers' convention last summer.

**Jed Dodd**, General chairman of the Penn Federation, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, has been working with Moran in designing strategy for LPA's work here. Barbara Rahke, an organizer for the United Auto Workers, attended the second meeting and is expected to play a role in developing support for LPA, said Moran.

## Kansas City Chapter Adds New Members

**KANSAS CITY**--The Kansas City area chapter of Labor Party advocates is closing in on its goal of recruiting 25 new members, says **Bill Onasch**, who chairs the chapter.

The chapter has also been active on several fronts. LPA activists brought the Staley road-warriors to the Missouri AFL-CIO convention where they spoke and had a table, said Onasch. The chapter also sponsored an outdoor rally which drew about 100 participants. **Duke McVey**, president of the Missouri AFL-CIO spoke at the event. LPA supporters walked picket lines with the Soo Line strikers and supported a walk out by



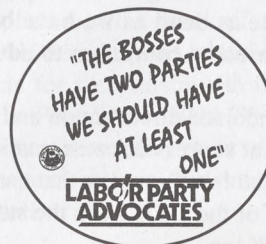
Aaron Scherzer says he's supporting the fight to build a Labor Party because "it's the right thing to do" and not because his father, Eric, has threatened to cut off his allowance. Aaron told us at a recent meeting in Cherry Hill, N. J. that if he had \$20 he'd become an LPA member. Come to think of it Eric, why don't you advance the kid \$100 so he can join the Eugene V. Debs Five Score Club? Eric Scherzer is secretary-treasurer of OCAW Local 8-149 in Rahway, N.J.

GCIU employees of a small print shop in the area.

The chapter also worked hard to support single-payer efforts during the national health care debate. Onasch said, "We helped TV spots on local cable slots on CNN, A&E and Black Entertainment Television, with LPA's name and phone number appearing as the local contact for single-payer support.

LPA activists also worked with the labor movement to campaign to reject the Hancock II proposition which would gut all state services.

Onasch says that the chapter has tentatively scheduled President's Day weekend -February 18 to 21--for our regional conference. The chapter is looking for a major speaker for the event.





## First LPA Public Hearing Set for Jan. 14 in Bay Area

**HAYWOOD, CA.**--John Henning, an LPA member and Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the California Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, will be the keynote speaker at a public hearing here sponsored by the San Francisco chapter of Labor Party Advocates on January 14. The hearing will take place at Carpenters Local 713, 1050 Maddox Road here, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Tony Mazzocchi**, founder of LPA, will also be a featured participant at the hearings.

For more information, call the San Francisco Labor Council at 415-543-2699. Ask for **Leo Seidlitz**.

A hearing scheduled for Sept. 24 was postponed because LPA activists were focused on the elections.

## California Carpenters Council Backs LPA

The Bay Counties District Council of Carpenters in Northern California has endorsed Labor Party Advocates, reports **Mike Munoz**, a Field Representative for the Union in the San Francisco Bay area. The unanimous vote took place on Nov. 16, said Munoz, who is a member of LPA's National Steering Committee.

Seven Carpenter local unions comprise the District Council. Munoz said that Locals 22, 34, 152, 180, and 713 had previously endorsed the campaign for a Labor Party at separate local union meetings after Munoz explained what LPA was about and after considerable discussion from the floor. Munoz said in each instance the vote was unanimous.

Two locals have not yet taken up the issue, said Munoz who added that he is confident those unions will support LPA along with their sister locals in the District Council.

## Detroit Chapter Busy Moving LPA Message

**DETROIT, MI.**--Fred Vitale, secretary of the LPA chapter here, reports that people have been very active in planning for the Labor Educational Conference set to take place in Toledo on Dec 10 and 11.

Vitale noted that at one planning meeting in Cleveland, **Dave Yorick**, president



## LPA Play Big Hit at OCAW Convention

A 30-minute play about Labor Party Advocates proved to be a big hit during the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers national convention. Delegates repeatedly applauded the show and later demonstrated their support by joining LPA and buying t-shirts and other items. LPA is exploring the possibility of using the show to bolster organizing efforts in key cities on the East Coast. OCAW delegates also reaffirmed the Union's commitment to LPA.

of United Rubber Workers Local 7 in Akron and an important leader in the union, "had never heard of LPA, but said he was 'intrigued' by it. "I think that the fact his union is under severe attack has opened him up to LPA," Vitale speculated.

Vitale said that Detroit LPA staffed a table for 10 hours a day for six days during the Genesee County Fair in Flint, Michigan during the summer. About 20 people signed up for more information, said Vitale, but more importantly, LPA was able to build ties for the future with Flint workers. **Ed Bishopp** of UAW Local 600 got the table and staffed it for three days. Also helping were LPAers from Ann Arbor and Detroit.

The chapter is also planning some fund raisers for LPA. **Russ Leone**, secretary-treasurer of UAW Local 600 and **Rick Massengill**, a staff representative of the OCAW, are working with Fred on developing some ideas for raising funds.

## Greensboro Debate Triggers LPA Interest

**GREENSBORO, N.C.**--Tony Mazzocchi, a founder of Labor Party Advocates, and **Roy Braunstein**, national Legislative Director of the American Postal Workers Union debated the issue of a Labor Party at APWU Local 711's union hall here on October 20.

The event drew about 50 trade unionists

from the area, said **Mark Dimondstein**, president of Local 711.

Dimondstein, a member of LPA's national steering committee, organized the debate and credited APWU national president **Moe Biller** for cooperating with the local union.

The lively discussion may be the basis for an effort by Dimondstein and others to establish an LPA chapter in the area. But LPA activists say they won't formalize a chapter until they've had a chance to develop some broad-based support for LPA here and in the surrounding area.

Dimondstein was a prime mover of a successful effort earlier this year to win support for LPA at the North Carolina State APWU convention. The resolution, submitted to APWU's national convention in August, was defeated but supporters say they were encouraged by the generally positive response to the proposal. "We'll keep trying," said Dimondstein.

## Honor Eugene V. Debs; Join LPA 5 Score Club

Fifty people have joined LPA's Eugene V. Debs Five Score Club for \$100. One retired brother is paying for the Debs membership in \$25 installments because he can't afford to write a single check. However, you do it, please consider backing Debs' dream of an independent political movement. An attractive brass card will commemorate your participation in the club. For more information, call the national office at 202 -319- 1932



# Now more than ever. We need our own party!

If you agree, please complete the sign-up form and become a Labor Party Advocate!

In return for joining you will receive a membership card, a newsletter that will keep you up to date on what committees and individual members are doing to further the cause, and a copy of a short pamphlet entitled Labor Party Advocates-Questions and Answers. Your dues money will be used to assist recruitment committees in their efforts to enlist other members, and help secure broad-based support for the idea of a Labor Party.

## Labor Party Advocates Sign-Up Form

Sign me up as a Charter Member.

(Please make check payable to Labor Party Advocates.

Contributions are not tax deductible)

- ☐ \$100 Eugene V. Debs Five Score Club
- ☐ \$ 20 Regular Membership
- ☐ \$ 20 Membership Renewal
- ☐ \$ 10 Unemployed
- ☐ Please send more information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Union Affiliation (If Applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To:

**Labor Party Advocates of America**

**P.O. Box 53177**

**Washington, D.C. 20009-3177**

**Labor Party Advocates**  
**P.O. Box 53177**  
**Washington, D.C. 20009-3177**

## Strategy Makes Sense So Flint Glass Leader Joins LPA Campaign

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

**I am proud beyond words to join Labor Party Advocates.**

**I've waited a decade for a venture not simply as 'right,' but as well thought out as LPA.**

Although I would have become a member anyway, a well organized, well-attended and extraordinarily provocative and stirring meeting in Boston on October 22nd gave me every reason not only to join, but try to encourage institutional change in both my local and my National. A tip of the sombrero to all involved in arranging that meeting.

I am currently the recording secretary of a 500-member local of the American Flint Glass Workers Union. I am a former member of our National Executive Board and a four-time reformist delegate to our national convention.

If I am fortunate enough to be elected a delegate again, I will introduce and lobby vigorously for a motion to endorse LPA.

If I am not as fortunate, I will try to have my delegation do so.

In either event, I will spend the intervening time encouraging members of my union--and others--to join LPA.

In solidarity,  
Andrew Slipp  
Secretary, Local 1007  
AFGWU, AFL-CIO  
P.O. Box 89  
Central Falls, RI 02863



# LABOR PARTY ADVOCATES

P.O. Box 1510, Highland Park, New Jersey 08904

June 1991

Volume 1, No. 2

## Advocates Sign-up New Members Nation-wide

Organizing the organizers marks the first phase of Labor Party Advocates' recruiting. More local union leaders and activists are joining every day. As a group, we are the foundation upon which Labor Party Advocates' success will be built -- its most important organizers. Each of us needs to be doing all we can to recruit new members.

Every dollar collected from members is spent on assisting and expanding the recruiting effort. The goal is to get information about Labor Party Advocates into the hands of as many people as possible. Our dues are paying to mail thousands of appeals, sign-up forms, and brochures to local union members and unorganized workers all over the United States. The more people who hear about Labor Party Advocates, the easier it will be for all of us to recruit in the field.

Many of the initiatives underway around the country are described below. If anything is missing, please write the office about it.

### One-on-One Recruiting Takes Hold

Labor Party Advocates members are doing an incredible job of signing up new members one-on-one all over the country. Half of all new memberships in the last two months were recruited this way. If we each sign up just one member a month for the rest of the year, our first membership drive will be a total success.

### Direct Mail Campaign Begins

In addition to individual sign-ups, a direct mail drive is underway and it includes the names and

addresses of thousands of trade unionists from across the country.

If you have access to a list of likely members, however large or small, please contact the Labor Party Advocate office (or call Carmen Martino (609) 561-6259).

### Polling Efforts Continue

Polling efforts are underway in several union locals in Wisconsin. The vice-presidents of the Industrial Union Council of New Jersey voted unanimously to have their locals participate in a state-wide survey of political attitudes that will include over 200,000 trade unionists. Also, the early polling results from the National Writers Union indicate that over 47% of the rank and file believe it is time to build a labor party.

### Media Coverage Grows

During the months of May and June recruitment was aided by articles about Labor Party Advocates in the labor press, union newsletters, and various other media. Diverse publications such as the BNA's *Daily Labor Report*, *The Washington Times*, the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* and a Japanese daily have run articles about Labor Party Advocates.

### Recruiting Video in Production

Also, a videotaped interview with Tony Mazzocchi discussing Labor Party Advocates and the need for a labor party in the U.S. is in the final stages of production. The video is intended for use in local recruitment drives and it will be made available to Advocate members shortly.



## Recruitment Drive Begins in NYC

On May Day, Tony Mazzocchi participated in the radio talk show "Building Bridges/Community Labor Report," on WBAI in New York City. On May 4th, Tony was the guest speaker at a forum entitled "Labor and Politics in the '90s." With over 200 trade unionists in attendance, Tony explained why we need a labor party in the U.S. and outlined the current objectives of Labor Party Advocates.

A follow-up meeting was held in New York on May 17th. At this gathering, representatives from Labor Party Advocates defined national recruitment goals and discussed a variety of ways in which NYC Advocates could begin recruiting locally. An outline of "Recruitment Strategies" can be found on pages 3 and 4.

Finally, on May 28th, Tony was interviewed on the weekly radio program "Undercurrents." After the show, several listeners called the Labor Party Advocate office requesting more information. Overall, early recruitment efforts in New York City have received a very enthusiastic response. Good things will no doubt follow as our brothers and sisters in the Big Apple intensify their organizing activities throughout the summer.

## Twin Cities Labor Activists Get Word On Labor Party Advocates

(This report was sent to the Newsletter by Brien Link, a member of GCIU Local 113 in Minneapolis)

Despite a May 6th TV appearance by the Northstars in the Stanley Cup playoffs, over one hundred Twin Cities area union activists came out to hear Tony Mazzocchi speak about the need for a U.S. labor party and the plans for Labor Party Advocates. Well represented unions included the Teamsters, IBEW, UE, GCIU and the railroad brotherhood.

Tony shared the results of a poll that show support among Twin City trade union members for a labor party. He was greeted by applause several times when describing the travesty of the two party system. He welcomed the audience to join Labor Party Advocates and spent nearly an hour answering questions about plans for the organization.

One participant, David Riehle, president of UTU Local 650, commented on the betrayal by Democrats in congress who voted to force an end to the recent

railroad strike. He illustrated the problem by quoting 1920's Farmer-Labor U.S. Senator from Minnesota, Magnus Johnson. "The Democrats and Republicans work different shifts for the same cause, except in an emergency, in which case they work overtime together."

Mazzocchi concluded that "the bosses have two parties, it's time for workers to have one." His advice was heeded as two dozen people became Labor Party Advocates on the spot.

Plans are now being made for Minnesota Labor Party Advocates to stay in contact and find ways to sign up new members.

## The "Better Business Climate" and Why We Need a Labor Party

In a speech delivered to the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF) representatives at a conference held in Albany, New York, Advocate spokesperson Joel Carr identified the economic and political factors that have led to labor's decline over the past 40 years and called on PEF representatives to join Labor Party Advocates and help build a better future for workers and their families.

According to Carr, tax cuts, deregulation, wage cuts, the lifting of trade barriers and increased privatization, are successfully increasing profits and investments while corporations are simultaneously lowering wages and attacking worker rights to free association.

He also pointed out that "both political parties have incorporated this recipe of a 'Better Business Climate' (BBC) into their agendas" and that "both parties are bought for by the winners in the BBC game."

Carr challenged the PEF representatives to discard the "straight jacket of the BBC ideology." "Only by breaking out of the Better Business Climate straight jacket can we start to reverse the trends that cheapen and debase our lives and the lives of all working people. We must begin the process of changing the nature and cadence of public debate by having our voices heard, through our own political party, a labor party!"

## Local Recruitment Strategies

This issue of the newsletter has outlined the strategies for recruitment that are being used and evaluated throughout different parts of the country.

Thus far, four successful approaches have been identified. They include:

- Talking-up the idea amongst co-workers and friends and passing out invitations to join Labor Party Advocates;
- Organizing meetings where spokespersons from Labor Party Advocates outline the objectives of the organization and encourage people to join;
- Direct mailings; and
- Local by local recruitment drives tailor-made to fit each local's distinctive "culture" or way of doing things.

Advocates have concentrated on these four methods of recruitment and in some instances they have incorporated different aspects of each into a broadly-based recruitment strategy.

However, because **local by local recruitment** strategies vary widely, it will be useful to summarize some of the more successful efforts that have been initiated.

## Polling Our Unions

Conducting a poll of our local's members is one way to initiate the recruitment process. In locals throughout the country, polls have been conducted and the results indicate that more than 50 percent of the workforce is in favor of building an independent political party dedicated to the interests of working people.

- After conducting a poll a meeting can be called to discuss the results. As part of this process an LPA speaker could be brought in to talk-up the idea of having the local affiliate with the Advocates.
- Similarly, a follow-up to the polling might also include a direct mail drive asking the membership to join Labor Party Advocates.

## Recruit Members at Local Council Meetings

The polling-recruitment process can be utilized to encourage our central labor bodies and multi-union bargaining councils to affiliate with Labor Party Advocates.

## Workshops

Another approach to recruitment, as part of stewards training or general worker education programs, would include developing workshops around the idea of creating a labor party. As noted above, a video project is currently in production and it will be useful in each setting. Work has also begun on a handbook filled with charts and graphs illustrating the disastrous impact of our current economic woes on the lives of American working people. The handbook will provide the basis for a wide-ranging discussion about what we can do to improve the situation.

## Newsletter Appeals

And finally, recruitment efforts can be further enhanced by writing articles about Labor Party Advocates and placing membership ads in our union newsletters and other union sponsored publications.

It should be emphasized that the recruitment methods mentioned here represent part of an ongoing process of experimentation that will expand as our efforts are tested and evaluated. To this extent we all need to be involved in making suggestions and exchanging ideas on how we can expand recruitment and build a broadly based national organization that will eventually lead to the formation of a U.S. labor party. If you would like more information on how to go about recruiting in your local, please call (609-561-6259) or write to Labor Party Advocates, P.O. Box 1510, Highland Park, NJ 08904.

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## A Special Note of Thanks

Thank you Ed Ott in New York, and Brien Link in Minneapolis, for organizing successful LPA meetings in your respective cities.

Also, a thank you to Gene Lantz from Dallas, Texas for signing up 8 new members and talking-up LPA at a UAW editors' conference in Michigan several weeks ago. Gene has gone one step further in his recruitment efforts by writing an article about LPA and it will be published in his local's next newsletter.

And to everyone who has been "out and about" signing up new members thank you and keep up the good work!



# Labor mulls own political party

**Frustration with Dems prompts unions to consider alternatives**

**By Phillip Dine**

*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

The growing anger among local and national labor leaders at House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt — long an ally of organized labor — over his position on U.S.-Mexico free trade is no secret.

Gephardt, D-Mo., supported President Bush's request for "fast-track" authority to negotiate an agreement with Mexico.

But there's a story beneath the surface that's bigger than Gephardt or free trade.

It's the growing disillusionment of labor with both political parties, Democrats and Republicans alike. Talk is even being heard about the possibility of an independent labor party.

"There's a high level of frustration among labor with many leaders of the Democratic Party," said Bob Kelley, president of the St. Louis Labor Council. He noted wryly that "Democratic leadership appears to be becoming an oxymoron."

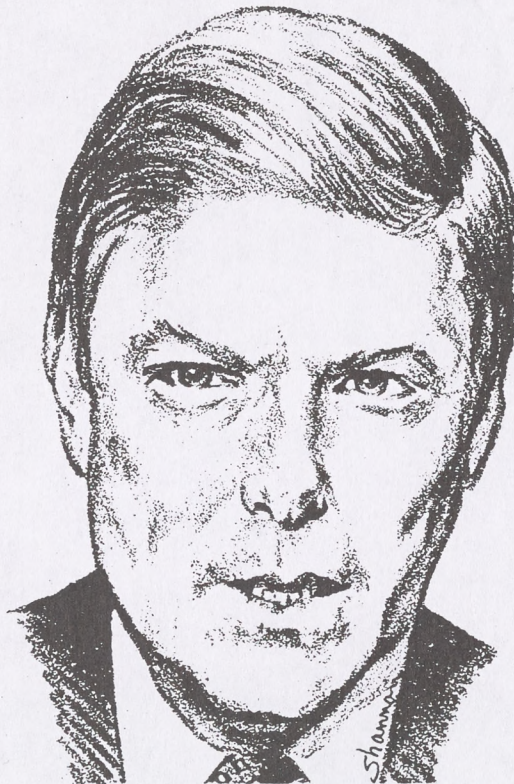
"I have to tell you," Kelley added, "I have heard more talk about a labor party or a labor-farm coalition than I have in the past 15 years.

"And the guys who are doing the talking aren't the fringe, left-wing radicals who used to do the talking. It's more the moderate, the middle-of-the-road centrists."

Duke McVey, president of the Missouri AFL-CIO, concurs.

"Some skeptics say we have one party — it's just two divisions of it," McVey said. "There's a frustration out there from working people that they're getting the shaft, maybe need to do their own thing.

"Basically, the Democratic Party has not delivered on a national basis. As time goes on and things get worse, the feeling from working people may be that they should articulate their own concerns."



Jack Shannon/Rocky Mountain News

**House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt**

Both men, it should be noted, are powers in state Democratic affairs, and Kelley is a member of the Democratic National Committee.

While most of the political frustration among workers is still at a talking stage, things are starting to happen.

In New Jersey, for instance, 16 people from the labor movement are running independent campaigns for the legislature this fall.

"Regardless of party, labor was not being treated fairly and more and more people are becoming aware in New Jersey that they should be able to produce candidates of their own," said Jim Kirk, legislative affairs coordinator for the New Jersey AFL-CIO.

"We have a Democratic governor, a Democratic Senate and a Democratic General Assembly — and right now they're doing the wrong things by us and sticking it to us, primarily in the health-care field."

Nationally, the most active proponent of a political entity for labor is Tony Mazzocchi, secretary-treasurer of the Denver-based Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union. He is leading an effort to recruit members for a new organization called Labor Party Advocates.

For 10 years Mazzocchi had considered such an effort, but hesitated to act until he felt "it was absolutely clear that we had no alternative." In January, he began signing up members. For now, it's a non-electoral group focused solely on recruiting.

"Hopefully, ultimately we will have a labor party," he said. "When we have about 5,000 local union leaders signed up, we will call a convention, draw up the constitution of a party."

At that point, the group will "shape the parameters of a debate. We really want to build a labor agenda," Mazzocchi said.

After spending "millions of dollars and countless hours as volunteers" helping Democrats and occasional Republicans win elections, workers get layoffs, higher taxes, plant closings, rising health-care costs and no protection for their jobs during strikes, he said.

"Our position is, the bosses have two parties, we want one," said Mazzocchi.

"The agenda of corporations is the agenda of America at this time. The Democrats will come around on some issues, but on issues of substance, the Democrats will always run to the corporate donors."

Polling in OCAW and 25 other unions has shown strong dissatisfaction toward the Democratic and Republican parties, he said. "Most people reject both parties. A Mormon in a small town in Utah will answer it the same way as an urban worker in St. Louis."

*Scripps Howard News Service*



### **One-Page Sign-up Sheet Now Available**

Several Labor Party Advocates have suggested that a one-page sign-up form would be helpful in many circumstances. Such a leaflet is attached to this issue of the newsletter. Feel free to make as many copies as you need and to distribute it as widely as possible.

Anyone who would like a copy of the four-page recruitment letter from Tony Mazzocchi enclosed with the last issue of the newsletter should write the Labor Party Advocates office for a copy (or call Carmen Martino 609-561-6259).

### **Labor Party Advocates Plan For Solidarity Day**

On August 31st trade unionists from across the country will be attending Solidarity Day in Washington D.C. Plans are being made to reserve a place where Labor Party Advocates can meet and get to know each other. While our Solidarity Day activities have yet to be fully defined, it will obviously be a good day for each of us to go out and sign-up a new member. The long bus, car, train, and plane rides are ideal times to recruit new members. Anyone interested in doing one-on-one recruiting while taking part in the day's events, can call Carmen Martino (609-561-6259), or write to Labor Party Advocates, P.O. Box 1510, Highland Park, NJ 08904, for sign-up forms and further information. A complete list of LPA Solidarity Day activities will be described in the July newsletter.

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Labor Party Advocates  
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Highland Park, NJ 08904