**FOIA Number:** 2013-0306-F

# FOIA MARKER

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**Folder Title:**
Labor - AFL-CIO January 1996 Board Meeting

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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE | DATE | RESTRICTION |
|---|---|---|---|
| 001. memo | Guy Molyneux and Geoff Garin to AFL-CIO re: Responding to Conservative Tax Cut Initiatives (Campaign) (8 pages) | 08/12/1996 | Personal Misfile |

**COLLECTION:**
Clinton Presidential Records
Chief of Staff
Jennifer O'Connor
OA/Box Number: 8148

**FOLDER TITLE:**
Labor - AFL-CIO January 1996 Board Meeting

2013-0306-F
jm1207

### RESTRICTION CODES

**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

January 23, 1996

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Jennifer O'Connor

From: Bill Samuel BS

Re: Vice President's Briefing for AFL-CIO Reception

The AFL-CIO reception follows the first full AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting since the election of new officers. In addition to the election of John Sweeney, Richard Trumka and Linda Chavez-Thompson, the council was expanded from 31 seats to 51 in order to provide for more diversity. (The list of council members is attached - the new members are highlighted)

Foremost on everyone's mind will be the President's State of the Union Address and the budget impasse.

Obviously, the Vice President will want to emphasize State of the Union themes that are most relevant to organized labor: the need to increase jobs and raise incomes and provide health care and retirement security.

The Vice President should thank the AFL-CIO leaders for their grass roots campaign on the budget (see attached ad scripts and sample mailings)

- The AFL has spent over $4 million in television and radio advertising and direct mail to support the Administration's position on the budget impasse. The ads echo the Administration's campaign to preserve Medicare and Medicaid, student loans, and programs that protect workers' health and safety and safeguard pensions.

Because the Vice President might not be going to Bal Harbor, this would be a good time to restate the Administration's commitment to fight anti-labor legislation, including

- repeal of Davis-Bacon statutes, repeal of the striker replacement executive order, and the Team Act (which repeals NLRA Sec. 8(a)(2) ban against company unions)

- Late last year, the Republican's began hearings on legislation to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to eliminate the requirement of overtime pay for more than 40 hours of work. If the Administration has a position on this, it would be good to restate it here.

In a recent speech, President Sweeney outlined the AFL-CIO's agenda on wages and corporate responsibility. Here are highlights from the speech:

According to Sweeney: "Profits are up. Productivity is up. Executive Compensation is up. The stock market is up. Worker wages and health benefits and pensions are down.

"We offer management this challenge:

- o Take your profits and invest them in growing the American economy, American workers, and American wages.
- o Offer your workers the training they need for tomorrows's jobs -- not just the big-shots in the executive suites, but all your employees.
- o Work with your employees and their unions. Give us a voice in decision-making. Give us a chance to improve the quality of our goods and services. That is the path to lasting prosperity -- and we want to walk down that road with you."

For your information, the agenda for the council meeting includes a discussion of the AFL-CIO transition task force reports (organizing, communications, political action and strategic approaches) and updates on legislation and upcoming elections. There will also be a brief discussion on plans for "union summer," during which the AFL-CIO intends to place 1,000 organizers in the field, the "America Deserves a Raise" campaign, and bargaining reports (Detroit News, Bridgestone-Firestone, etc.).

Attachments
AFL-CIO Executive Council list
AFL-CIO Budget Campaign Material:
    TV ad script
    radio ad script
    newspaper ad
Remarks by President Sweeney 12/15/95

## AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

✓Randy Babbitt — Air Line Pilots Association*
Morton Bahr — Communications Workers of America
John J. Barry — International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
George Becker — United Steelworkers
Moe Biller — American Postal Workers Union
Marvin J. Boede — United Association of Plumbing & Pipe Fitting Industry
✓Clayola Brown — Union of Needle and Industrial Trades Employees*
William H. Bywater — International Union of Electronic Workers
Ron Carey — International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Arthur Coia — Laborers International Union of North America
✓Richard Cordtz — Service Employees International Union*
Douglas H. Dority — United Food and Commercial Workers
✓M.A. "Mac" Fleming — Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees*
✓Carolyn Forrest — United Auto Workers*
✓Pat Friend — Association of Flight Attendants*
Robert A. Georgine — Building and Construction Trades Department
Wayne E. Glenn — Paperworkers International Union
✓Michael Goodwin — Office and Professional Employees International Union*
✓Joe Greene — American Federation of School Administrators*
✓Sonny Hall — Transport Workers Union*
Edward T. Hanley — Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees
Frank Hanley — International Union of Operating Engineers
✓Sumi Haru — Screen Actors Guild*
James E. Hatfield — Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics, and Allied Workers
Frank Hurt — Bakery, Confectionery, and Tobacco Workers
✓Carroll Haynes — International Brotherhood of Teamsters*
Gloria T. Johnson — International Union of Electronic Workers
John T. Joyce — Bricklayers Union
George Kourpias — International Association of Machinists
✓James LaSala — Amalgamated Transit Union*
William Lucy — American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
✓Leon Lynch — United Steelworkers*
Doug McCarron — Carpenters (replaces Sigurd Lucassen)
Gerald W. McEntee — American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
✓Andrew McKenzie — Leather Goods, Plastics, Novelty, and Service Workers*
Jay Mazur — Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees
Lenore Miller — Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union
✓A.L. "Mike" Monroe — Painters Union*
✓Arthur Moore — Sheet Metal Workers International Association*
James J. Norton — Graphic Communications International Union
✓Arturo Rodriguez — United Farmworkers*
Michael Sacco — Seafarers International Union
✓Robert Scardelletti — Transportation Communications Union*
Albert Shanker — American Federation of Teachers
Vincent Sombrotto — National Association of Letter Carriers
John N. Sturdivant — American Federation of Government Employees
Gene Upshaw — Federation of Professional Athletes
✓Robert E. Wages — Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers*
✓Jake West — Iron Workers Union*
✓Al Whitehead — International Association of Firefighters*
Steve Yokich — United Auto Workers

Total: 51 seats (includes 10 diversity set asides).

(*) designates new seat

GREER, MARGOLIS, MITCHELL, BURNS
GMMB&A
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

AFL-CIO
TV :30
January 12, 1996 2:43 PM
g:\aflcio\AFL-CIO96-113
"TOO FAR - CHRYSLER"

FINAL RECORDED VERSION

| VIDEO | AUDIO |
| --- | --- |
| CG letterbox<br>Top CG: Rep. Dick Chrysler<br>Bottom CG: Voted for Shutdown | OUR CONGRESSMAN HAS A BAD BUDGET PLAN FOR AMERICA... |
| Slow push in on Capitol Dome.<br>Add headline: "House: keep gov't closed" | AND HE WAS EVEN WILLING TO SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT TO FORCE IT ON US. |
| Dissolve to seniors<br>Bottom CG: Cut Medicaid & Medicare | HE WANTS TO CUT MEDICAID AND MEDICARE FOR OUR PARENTS... |
| Dissolve to students.<br>Bottom CG: Cut Education | CUT EDUCATION AND COLLEGE LOANS... |
| Dissolve to stock exchange.<br>Bottom CG: Tax Breaks for the Rich | ALL TO GIVE A HUGE TAX BREAK TO BIG BUSINESS AND THE RICH. |
| Dissolve to Capitol Dome<br>Add Newt Gingrich photo.<br>Bottom CG: How far will he go? | HOW FAR WILL HE GO? |
| Men in suits walking up stairs.<br>Bottom CG: Shut down the government | HE WENT ALONG WITH NEWT GINGRICH AND SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT... |
| Bottom CG: Kept Paychecks & Perks<br>Add headline: "Don't Touch Our Pay, House Republicans Say" | BUT HE KEPT TAKING HIS OWN PAYCHECK AND PERKS. |
| American flag with man and mailbox.<br>Add woman on phone.<br>Top CG: Call Rep. Dick Chrysler<br>Bottom CG: 1-800-765-4440. | LET'S TELL CONGRESSMAN CHRYSLER TO STOP THE POLITICAL GAMES. |
| Family with sun streaming through door.<br>Paid for by the men and women of the AFL-CIO. | AND STAND UP FOR WORKING FAMILIES... FOR A CHANGE. |

1010 Wisconsin Avenue, NW • Suite 800 • Washington, DC 20007 • (202) 338-8700 • FAX (202) 338-2334
2218 Main Street • Suite 202 • Santa Monica, CA 90405 • (310) 314-4800 • FAX (310) 314-4803

AFL-CIO
Radio :60
"Why – Hoke and LaTourette – Revised"
g:\aflcio\why h&t-r2
January 17, 1996 11:35 AM

Please note: Mr. Martin Hoke (as it looks - long 'o') and Mr. Steven LaTourette (emphasis on "tour")

YOU PROBABLY HEARD ABOUT IT IN THE NEWS.

BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR CONGRESSMEN – MARTIN HOKE AND STEVEN LATOURETTE – VOTED WITH NEWT GINGRICH TO SHUTDOWN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

WHY DID THEY DO IT?

WELL THEY WANT TO FORCE CUTS IN MEDICAID AND MEDICARE...

(SFX: paper tearing or scissors snipping or other cutting effect)

CUTS THAT WOULD HURT OUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS.

THEY WANT TO FORCE CUTS IN EDUCATION AND COLLEGE LOANS FOR MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES...

(SFX: paper tearing)

AND CUTS IN HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTECTIONS PROVEN TO SAVE LIVES...

(SFX: paper tearing)

ALL TO GIVE A HUGE TAX BREAK TO BIG BUSINESS AND THE RICH.

(SFX: cash register "cha-ching!")

CONGRESSMEN HOKE AND LATOURETTE VOTED WITH NEWT GINGRICH TO SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT... TO FORCE CUTS IN MEDICARE, MEDICAID AND EDUCATION.

THAT'S WRONG... AND WE WON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT.

CALL 1-800-765-4440.

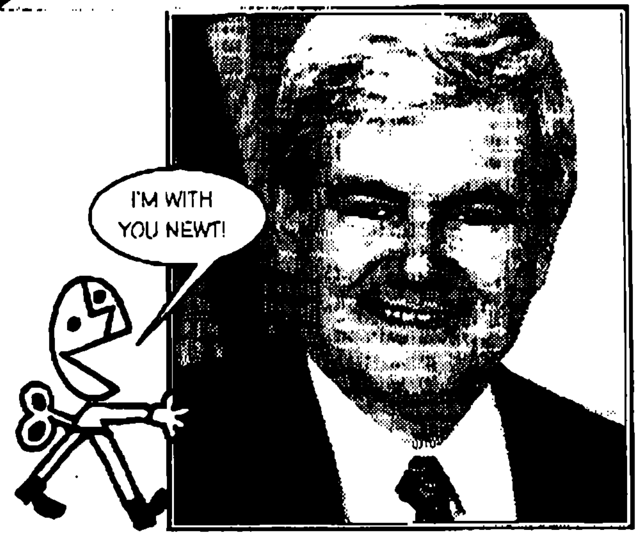
TELL CONGRESSMEN HOKE AND LATOURETTE TO SAY NO TO THE GINGRICH BUDGET...

AND TO STAND UP FOR AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES... FOR A CHANGE.

CALL 1-800-765-4440.

PAID FOR BY THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE AFL-CIO... LEADING THE FIGHT FOR AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES.

Watch for Our Radio and TV Commercials




# Our Member of Congress Voted with Newt Gingrich to Cut Medicare, Medicaid, Education and College Loans to Pay for a Tax Cut for the Rich.

Radical Republicans in Congress, led by House Speaker Newt Gingrich, shut down our government in an attempt to force enactment of their plan to balance the federal budget.

They want to give a tax cut to the wealthy and big corporations, then cut Medicare, Medicaid, education, college loans, health and safety and environmental protections to pay for it.

Their devious strategy failed when President Clinton proposed his own plan to balance the budget in seven years, without increasing Medicare costs to seniors and the disabled, without destroying federal Medicaid quality of care guidelines and without touching college loans.

Unfortunately, OUR Member of Congress supports the Gingrich plan, which is a very bad deal for working Americans!

## Call Our Member of Congress

# REP. JOHN W. JONES

## Toll Free at

# 1-800-96-AFLCIO

## Tell him no cuts in programs for working families to pay for a tax cut for the rich.

PAID FOR BY THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE AFL-CIO.

**American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations**

815 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C 20006
(202) 637 5000



**Remarks by John Sweeney**
**President, AFL-CIO**
**National Press Club**
**December 15, 1995**

→ Bill
Samuel

Thank you for inviting me to speak with you on behalf of American workers and their families.

Two weeks ago, I had the honor of joining President Clinton's journey of peacemaking all across Ireland. Most Americans think of the problem in Northern Ireland as a religious and political divide -- and, of course, it is. But it is important to understand that this generation of "the troubles" began because of an economic divide, as well.

In 1968, large numbers of Catholics began to protest against the discrimination that denied them good jobs in growing industries. They were inspired, in part, by the civil rights struggle in our own country, which was a movement for jobs and freedom.

After more than a quarter-century of struggle, progress is being made. That is why one of our first stops in Northern Ireland was at the Mackie Engineering Works plant in Belfast.

For years, that plant was a symbol of discrimination and division. Now it is a symbol of progress and peace. On the shop floor, Catholics and Protestants work together. At the bargaining table, labor and management are cooperating. Productivity, profits and wages are all rising, and management is investing in new equipment and new jobs.

The lesson is clear: When there is dignity for everyone, everyone wins.

What is happening at Mackie may happen throughout Northern Ireland. Thanks in large measure to President Clinton's brave peacemaking, Catholics and Protestants, Dublin and London, are closer together than at any time in a generation. In that land of pain and poetry, hope and healing may finally prevail over division and despair.

That is why I found more joyous optimism on the streets of Derry and Belfast than I've seen in Detroit or the Bronx. In fact, I felt mixed feelings coming back from the peacemaking in Ireland to the problems here at home.

**Sweeney\National Press Club**
**December 15, 1995**

The conflict at Caterpillar, the newspaper strike in Detroit, the contract talks in New York City and the difficulties here in Washington, from the District Building to Capitol Hill, almost made me miss the relative tranquility of Belfast.

Of course, that journey made me prouder than ever of everything America is doing to make peace in Northern Ireland, the Middle East and the Balkans.

I am here today to talk about what we can do to reach another historic agreement: a new social compact between business and labor. To find new ways to grow the American economy, American companies and American wages in the new world economy. And to bridge the growing gap between the great majority of Americans who are working longer and harder for less and the fortunate few who are prospering as never before.

Andy Warhol used to say that everyone will be famous for 15 minutes. Here at the National Press Club, you give your speakers 20 minutes. I promise you that, before my 20 minutes is up, I'll give you a preview of what labor will do next year and a prediction about the 1996 elections.

To the journalists here today, let me offer this advice: The biggest story of our times will be whether America can find a way to restore the sense that we are all moving and advancing together, not sinking separately.

I am a product of the social compact that lifted America out of the Great Depression and lifted working Americans into the middle class.

My father was an Irish immigrant, a New York City bus driver and a proud member of the Transport Workers Union. Some of my earliest memories are of going to union meetings with him. We'd listen to Mike Quill -- whose brogue was better than some I heard in Dublin and Derry -- explain paycheck economics to workers and their families.

Those were tough times. But working people, business people and public officials shared certain understandings -- a social contract, if you will.

Here's what working people knew: If we got up every morning and did our jobs, then we could earn a better life for ourselves and a better chance for our children.

Here's what business people knew: If they paid their workers fairly and plowed some of their profits back into their communities, they could count on loyal employees and loyal consumers. For companies back then, good citizenship was good business.

And here's what our leaders in government understood -- and President Kennedy said it best -- "A rising tide lifts all boats."

**Sweeney\National Press Club**
**December 15, 1995**

For almost 30 years after winning World War II, we all prospered because we prospered together. We were concerned with raising the standard of living for all Americans -- not just accumulating enormous wealth for a fortunate few. That social compact was a formula for the strongest economy, the largest middle class and the most successful society this world has ever known.

Unfortunately, those days are gone. You all have reported what happened: the oil embargo of 1973; global economic competition; new technologies; and the deregulation of the domestic economy, from transportation to communications.

Business found new ways to compete -- ways that may succeed in the short term but which, I submit to you, are short-sighted and ultimately self-destructive.

They competed, not by American teamwork and American know-how, but by driving down labor costs. Caught in an unforgiving global economy, corporate America too often squeezed the last possible ounce of productivity out of American workers, and then threw them on the scrap-heap of unemployment or old age, with reduced pensions and health coverage.

Consider the stories you've reported on the business page:

Chase Manhattan and Chemical Bank announce a merger that will put 12,000 people out of work ----- and their stock goes up. Does a rising tide now sink all ships --- except for the luxury yachts?

And what's wrong with this picture: Caterpillar is doing great, racking up record profits, enjoying great productivity. So they decide to install a two-tier wage system, schedule work on the weekends without paying overtime and reject pattern bargaining. They force thousands of workers out on strike, commit 300 unfair labor practices and rack up more record profits.

Caterpillar says it did it to stay competitive with Kamatsu. Baloney!
Kamatsu is struggling with a global market share below 3 percent, while Caterpillar has the lion's share. Know why? Because the United States government has spent American tax dollars fronting them into emerging nations in Europe, including Russia, and helping arrange financing for their operations through the World Bank!

And, finally, how about this picture: The state of Arizona and the city of Phoenix bail America West Airlines out of bankruptcy with more than $100 million dollars in tax breaks and revenue bonds. The airline agrees not to contract out hangar jobs and rebounds with 11 straight quarters of profitability and stacks up $300 million in reserves. Then the Teamsters crank up an organizing drive aimed at machinists working for America West. America West shows its respect for our labor laws and thanks the community by illegally firing 500 $35,000-a-year machinists and contracting out their jobs to a company in Everett, Washington, where machinists make only $21,000.

That happened last Friday. How many of you want to fly in an airplane that's just been repaired by a $21,000-a-year rookie mechanic? Raise your hands.

For American workers and their families, these are snapshots from hell. They paint an ugly portrait of an economy that has lost respect for workers and the jobs they do.

In a prophetic article in The New York Times last January, Lou Uchitelle added words to the pictures. "Something is wrong with America's economic boom," he wrote. "After four years of ever-stronger growth, people's wages should be going up faster than their expenses. For most people, they're not, and this is the first time in decades that a recovery has gone so long without putting more money in more pockets. And now, if the recovery runs out of steam in 1995 --- as so many economists predict --- that money might never show up."

You have reported what this means for workers: Between 1947 and 1973, the median paychecks of American workers more than doubled -- and the bottom 20 percent enjoyed the biggest gains. But since 1973, median earnings have fallen by about 15 percent, and the bottom 20 percent have fallen the furthest behind. More than 40 percent of all earnings gains have gone to the richest 1 percent.

Meanwhile, wealth became even more concentrated. The top 20 percent of all households now control more than 55 percent of all wealth. The rest of us -- 80 percent of all American households -- get to split the rest.

Profits are up. Productivity is up. Executive compensation is up. The stock market is up. Worker wages and health benefits and pensions are down.

Now, you're reporting how great gaps in wages and wealth are hurting American companies and the American economy. Think of the hardworking Iowa family Susan Sheehan describes in a recent article in the New Yorker.

Bonita and Kenny Merton live with their two sons in a small home they own in Des Moines. Kenny once had an $11-an-hour job before the factory closed. Last year, he made $17,239 hauling sand sacks. Bonita made $13,977 working full time at Luther Park Nursing home. After 15 years, she's paid $7.40 an hour, gets a ham at Easter, a turkey at Thanksgiving, $10 for her birthday and $20 at Christmas. She pays $36 a month for health insurance, $28 a month for dental coverage and gets no pension. Every year they go further and further in debt and there is no hope of ever doing better. Kenny says, "There ain't no middle class no more. There's only rich and poor."

Now, ask yourself whether families like the Mertons are spending confidently this holiday season. American workers are running out of money, running out of hope and are loaded with debt. That's why retail sales are lagging; why manufacturers are loaded with inventory; and why they cut 32,000 jobs last month. Macy's figured out a new way this week to blame the worker: to compensate for plunging sales, they cut the commissions of their clerks.

And can you imagine in the middle of all of this, the Republicans giving a tax break to the rich by declaring all-out war on the programs and policies Kenny and Bonita depend on just for survival?

You may have seen the television commercials we're running during the current budget battle. In one of them, Father Julio Perez, a priest in Miami, sums it up for all of us when, with his eyes filled with tear,s he says: "I came to America in 1954. What a country we had then. What happened to America?"

America is becoming edgier, angrier and meaner. Until we ease the growing gaps in work, wages and wealth, you will be sending more dispatches from a wounded nation -- more militia movements, more bombings, more hate crimes and more of the quiet anguish of Americans losing their sense of a common destiny and a common purpose. America will become more like the trouble spots where we send our sons and daughters to keep the peace.

So what can we do about it?

Of course, American business must change. But I stand before you today as president of the AFL-CIO because American labor must also change.

That is why I ran for president of the AFL-CIO, and that is why I won. We understand that while the world and the workplace changed, labor stood still and lost ground.

Just as today I challenge business to change, every day on my job I challenge labor to change.

First, we have to reach out to unorganized workers -- because that is the only way we can build a stronger movement. For too long, too many unions have seemed satisfied with a shrinking membership base. As our membership strength has declined, so has our bargaining power. It used to be that strong unions lifted all workers up; now, non-union employers are dragging all workers down.

Here's the truth: Our weakness encouraged employers to take the low road. Only by rebuilding our strength can we bring American business back to the high road of high wages.

That is why I am challenging every union and every level of our labor movement to do what the fastest-growing unions do: Put at least 30 percent of our resources into organizing. That is why we will be training at least a thousand organizers a year, pouring $20 million into organizing programs -- and organizing from the Sunbelt to the Rustbelt and from health care to high tech.

That is why we are rebuilding our grass roots political strength, training candidates and training political organizers. Yesterday, I told a gathering of 30 Democratic senators they can also expect an end to checkbook politics: we're going to demand a voice for the working people of this country in setting strategies, defining messages and issues and a hand in running campaigns.

Second, we have to reach out to management -- from a position of strength -- because that is the only way we can build a stronger, high-wage economy.

We can no longer afford the luxury of pretending that productivity, quality and competitiveness are not our business. They are our business, our jobs and our paychecks. Too many workers have suffered because of failed and foolish, short-sighted management policies. We need to follow the example of workers and their unions in companies and government agencies and school systems across the country who are winning a voice in improving the products they make and the services they deliver.

As labor becomes stronger and smarter, we will really be in a position to offer management this challenge:

•Take your profits and invest them in growing the American economy, American workers, and American wages.

•Offer your workers the training they need for tomorrow's jobs -- not just the big-shots in the executive suites, but all your employees.

•Work with your employees and their unions. Give us a voice in decision-making. Give us half a chance to improve the quality of our goods and services. That is the path to lasting prosperity -- and we want to walk down that road with you.

We will offer this challenge with the confidence that we are prepared for conflict or cooperation -- and the choice is management's to make.

Here's an example. In the Boeing contract just ratified by 32,000 Machinists in Washington, Oregon and Kansas, management agreed to give the workers and their unions a voice in decisions to contract out work --- adequate notice, a chance to bid competitively, retraining and meet-and-confer language. It's a tremendous agreement. The only trouble was, we had to strike for 69 days to get it!

**Sweeney\National Press Club**
**December 15, 1995**

Our challenge to management is to avoid conflict, not promote it. Let's spend our time and our money and our energy pursuing higher profits and higher wages.

Next year, we will begin to offer these challenges not only to the leaders of labor and business but to all Americans.

Early next spring, the AFL-CIO will begin to hold hearings on falling living standards in communities across the country. We will ask working men and women what is happening to their jobs, their paychecks and their family budgets. We'll take our show on the road -- from Iowa to New Hampshire, from the South to the Midwest and the Far West -- to put the issue of wages at the center of political debate.

We want to get even more of the suggestions that already are pouring in from unlikely sources, like this letter I got last week from Rusty Hills in East Lansing, Michigan. He says, "As a conservative Republican, I suspect you and I part company on most political issues. But as a fellow Catholic, I believe strongly in just wages and an equitable distribution of profits." He goes on to make a recommendation: that we bargain wages by comparing the percentage increase in executive compensation to percentage increases for workers over the past 10 years.

In every speech I give, from the Press Club to the picket lines, I try to make this simple point: America needs a raise. Next year, we'll be asking every candidate for public office to tell working Americans how they'll get them a raise.

Then in June, we're going to start a Union Summer, as we send a thousand college students and young workers to organize voter registration and living wage campaigns across the country. We're going to begin a dialogue with working America -- union members and future members, alike.

And, come September, we'll have a Union Fall, as we organize and mobilize working Americans around the fundamental issue of raising wages and increasing incomes. If Americans vote on the issue of who can lift the poor and secure the middle class, I am confident they will make the right choices for president and Congress.

Here's my prediction for 1996: If the Republicans continue to pursue their extremist economic agenda and Bill Clinton continues to stand tall against it, we will win back the House and re-elect our president. Somebody said the Republicans won the last election by saying, "They took it from you and gave it to them," meaning poor people. We can win this one by saying, "They tried to take it from you and give it to themselves."

If we take that message to every workplace and every polling place, then we will win. And we can begin to close the gap between those who do the work of America and those who control their lives and livelihoods.

I believe that, in the words of the Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney, whose writings inspired so many fighters for peace and justice: "History says don't hope on this side of the grave. But, once in a lifetime, the longed-for tidal wave of justice can rise up -- and hope and history rhyme."

Soon, you will see our labor movement "rising up," like "the longed-for tidal wave of justice." And working men and women will once again make "hope and history rhyme."

-30-

For information: Denise Mitchell 202/637-5340 file?

yep
AFL-CIO
polls

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

| Name | Date |
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| Karl Kacine | 3/11/99 |
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Counsel