FOIA Number: 2013-0306-F

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Subgroup/Office of Origin: National Economic Council

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Folder Title:
AFL-CIO : AFL-CIO Conference

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S	17	3	1	1

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Tel. (202) 456-7845
Fax. (202) 456-2239

DATE:
TO: Barry
FAX NUMBER: 66210
FROM: BB
Number of Pages to Follow: 7
NOTES: Here's a start.

Talking Points
Post-Meeting Press Conference
February 18, 1997

- The Executive Council and I have just concluded warm and productive meeting. I thanked the Council for the energetic role the labor movement played in the 1996 elections. In November, one in four voters came from a union household. That's a powerful, powerful voice. And it's a voice that will grow even stronger this year as we watch the rise of John Sweeney's lean, mean recruiting machine.

- I also congratulated the Council on beating back the most anti-union Congress in recent memory.

The labor movement's hard work produced real accomplishments for America's workers. A higher minimum wage. Portable health insurance. Strengthened environmental protection. Pension reform. And a new commitment to education and job training.

- Right before I met with the Council today, I met with a small group of workers who have been organizing unions in their workplaces. They told me why they wanted a union in the first place -- and the obstacles they encountered when they tried. [Examples from meeting]

- The right to organize is a fundamental right in this country. But it's a right that too often is violated. I told the Council that this must change -- and that this White House would take action to give that right new teeth. The President and I stand on the side of working people who want to exercise the right to unionize.

- So we're going to send a message to companies that want to do business with the federal government: how you treat your employees and how you treat unions counts with us. If you want to do business with the federal government, you'd better get your house in order, you'd better clean up your act.

Because today we're going to start changing the rules on federal contracting to make it clear that part of having the kind of integrity and business ethics and performance capability we expect of a federal contractor is having a satisfactory record of labor relations and employment practices and policies. That means following the law. If you want to do business with the federal government, you'd better maintain a safe workplace and respect civil, human, and, yes, union rights. We'll be watching.

- Believe it or not, the old practice has been that federal contractors can get reimbursed for the costs of trying to persuade employees not to join unions, and for the cost of fighting unfair labor practices allegations.

But today we're going to start changing those rules because they're just plain wrong. The larger principle is clear: the right to organize and the right to strike are fundamental rights -- and nobody's tax dollars to be spent undermining these rights.

- I also gave them the Administration's commitment on flextime and proposed measures to silence labor's voice in the political process. And I reiterated President Clinton's pledges to veto any bills that gut worker protections, permit sham unions, or repeal the Davis Bacon or Service Contract Acts.

- Also, I told the Council that over the next year, I want to spend more time talking to workers across the country about their experiences on the job and in trying to organize. If employees work hard and play by the rules, they ought to be able to share in the prosperity of the country. And unions are a crucial part. They are critical to helping reverse the trend toward inequality. And they are essential to making sure that every worker has the chance to lead a decent life.

- I told them I would join them in letting people know what I have known all my life -- what my father learned in his days as Labor Commissioner in Tennessee: Workers who are in unions earn more, get better benefits, can be more productive, and are safer on the job than workers who aren't unionized.

Unions matter -- perhaps more than at any time in our history. In other words, the state of our Union depends, in part, on the strength of our unions.

###

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

RECEIVER TELECOPIER NUMBER: ____________________

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FROM: Bill Samuel

DATE: ____________________ TIME: ____________________

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Draft #2

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS FAX CALL: __________

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Introduction

On Tuesday, February 18, you will speak to the AFL-CIO Executive Council's mid-winter meeting in Los Angeles - the first February council meeting not held in Bal Harbour, Florida since the AFL and CIO merged in 1955. You last spoke to the council on December 16, 1996.

[As in the past, your remarks will include assurances that the Administration will stand firm on key legislative issues like the TEAM Act, OSHA, and Davis-Bacon. In addition, you will announce new Administration policies on issues that are important to labor, including comp time and FMLA; campaign finance reform and union political activity; Fair Labor Standards Act coverage for workers under the new Welfare Reform law; and a change in federal procurement policy that would require contractors to remain neutral during unions organizing drives and require contractor compliance with labor laws.

Finally you will acknowledge labor's plan to educate American workers about the positive role of unions by talking about how unions help raise living standards and lead to a more equal distribution of income. While the AFL-CIO leadership agrees that the political climate is not right for a debate about labor law reform, they would like the Administration to begin speaking more positively about labor's role in society. They believe that this will improve the climate for organizing and, eventually, change the political climate so that a serious discussion about labor law reform can take place].

This memo contains (1) an outline of the agenda for the Executive Council meeting and (2) a summary of key labor issues and talking points.

Attached to this memo are (1) a brief description of each Executive Council member and what is important to his or her union and (2) a summary of the AFL-CIO's major program initiatives for 1997 and its "American Working Families Agenda.

Summary of AFL-CIO Meeting Agenda

The purpose of the this Executive Council meeting is to review the federation's plans for implementing its 1997 agenda, which includes organizing (Monday's agenda), political action (Tuesday), economic education (Wednesday), and communication (Thursday).

Senator Tom Daschle and Representative Dick Gephardt will be speaking Tuesday morning. Also on Tuesday, the council will discuss its plan for the 1998 election cycle (the Political Committee is chaired by Gerry McEntee); its 1997 legislative agenda; and reports on economic policy, energy policy, and the balanced budget.

On Wednesday, Gene Sperling, Charlene Barshevsky and Acting Labor Secretary Cynthia Metzler will address the council.

Key Labor Issues and Talking Points

A. Welfare Reform - Welfare to Work

1. The AFL-CIO opposed the President's decision to sign the welfare reform bill, but they are now focused on making sure that welfare recipients are covered by the minimum wage and other labor protections (OSHA, FMLA, EEOC, etc.)

TALKING POINT

The Administration is committed to moving people from welfare to work. It's also committed to making sure workers get at least the minimum wage for their efforts. Workers shouldn't be paid a subminimum wage, whether or not they come off the welfare rolls. But the Administration is still studying precisely how the FLSA and other worker protection laws play out in the welfare context. We expect to have a final answer on the minimum wage question within the next few weeks.

2. Several unions have expressed concerns that the welfare to work proposal will not create new jobs but will lead instead to the displacement of low wage public sector workers.

TALKING POINT

The Administration is committed to maintaining the job security of currently employed workers even as we create new job opportunities for people moving from welfare to work. The welfare law specifies that no workers may be displaced by TANF work program participants. And under the President's welfare to work proposal, the Administration will work closely with Congress and other *stakeholders to develop a program that creates new jobs and does not displace any currently employed workers.*

B. Privatization

o Unions that represent public employees (AFSCME, SEIU, CWA, UAW) are opposed to proposals from several governors that their state be allowed to privatize (contract out) employment service activities.

TALKING POINT

o No decision has been made by the Department of Labor, which is studying this issue and consulting with various stakeholders including representatives of organized labor.

o The Labor Secretary's Task Force on Excellence in State and Local Government found that the benefits of privatization are often over-estimated - and can just as easily be achieved through improved labor-management cooperation between state officials and their employees.

C. Social Security

o The AFL-CIO has announced that it will mount a public campaign to oppose privatizing social security. Union representatives on the Social Security Advisory Council took the position that social security's funding problems could be solved by:

- maintaining the current structure with small adjustments in benefits
- investing 40% of trust fund reserves in the private market
- payroll tax increase of 1.6% needed in 2045

TALKING POINT

There is no immediate crisis in social security, but there are long term financing concerns that will be easier to resolve if we start in the near term.

We will judge the Advisory Council's recommendations based on the principles that have served Social Security as a public trust for over 60 years:

> *Social Security must provide real benefits and a secure retirement, not only for today's retirees but for future generations as well.*

> *Social Security's integrity must be maintained, and it must remain an*

effective safety net.

D. FY 98 Budget

1. The major health care unions oppose the Administration's plan to impose Medicaid caps and reductions in payments to disproportionate share hospitals.

   TALKING POINT

   Although Medicaid growth has slowed recently, we need to protect against unlimited growth in the future. The President's plan includes a "per capita cap" that would constrain the rate of growth of per capita expenditures while guaranteeing coverage for eligible populations.

2. Full funding for labor protection agencies (OSHA, NLRB, etc.)

   TALKING POINT

   Last year, the Administration fought hard for adequate funding for worker protection agencies; resulting in a $78 million increase (+6.5%) over the previous year; this included a 9% increase for OSHA and a 3% increase for the NLRB.

   In this year's budget, I am pleased to report that we have requested a further increase of $86 million in the worker protection budget. (+7% for OSHA and +6% for the NLRB)

3. Full funding for mass transit

   TALKING POINT (DOT)

E. Medicare Cuts

- The AFL-CIO opposes the creation of a bipartisan commission to recommend medicare changes, and they oppose making seniors pay for the savings that are needed.

  TALKING POINTS

  The Administration's goal is to extend the Medicare Trust Fund into the middle of the next decade without imposing new costs on seniors. The President supports a bipartisan process - but has not decided on a bipartisan commission - to help resolve medicare's long-term problems.

F. Flex-time Employee Choice

o The AFL-CIO opposed the Administration's employee choice flex-time bill that was sent to Capitol Hill - but not introduced - at the end of the last Congress. Labor argued that the bill did not adequately protect workers from being forced to take involuntary comp time in place of overtime.

TALKING POINT

The Administration understands that overtime laws must protect all workers from coercion and abuse; and we will not sign a bill that does not guarantee real choice for employees.

Last year we put together a bill that provided more flexibility for workers to spend time with their families, while at the same time protecting employee choice. For example, our bill:

> *expanded employee rights under the Family and Medical Leave Act, providing 24 hours of unpaid leave for school activities and routine medical care;*

> *protected the most vulnerable workers from abuse by exempting part-time, seasonal, temporary, garment and construction workers from comp time eligibility;*

> *gave workers control over when they use their comp time by allowing them to take off for any reason if they give at least two weeks notice;*

> *protected employee rights by capping comp time accumulation at 80 hours; providing special protection in bankruptcy and strong remedies, including damages, where overtime was denied a worker who wanted pay instead of comp time.*

o The AFL-CIO opposes both the Senate and House Republican comp time bills as much more extreme. For example, the Senate bill (Ashcroft) includes language that would allow employers to schedule up to 80 hours of work over a two week period without paying any overtime. The House bill (Ballenger) does not include the 80 hour provision but lacks crucial employee protections.

TALKING POINT

The Administration understands that overtime laws must protect all workers from coercion and abuse; and we will not sign a bill that does not guarantee real choice for employees.

We are also committed to the principles of the 40-hour week and time-and-one-

half for overtime and will not sign a bill that threatens these principles..

G. Family and Medical Leave Expansion

- o The AFL-CIO supports expanding the FMLA to include an additional 24 hours for specific family needs and would like the Administration to threaten to veto any comptime bill that does not include the FMLA expansion.

TALKING POINT

The Administration is committed to including the expansion of Family and Medical Leave as part of any comptime or flex-time bill.

H. Paycheck Protection Act (S.9; sponsored by Sen. Nickles).

- o The AFL-CIO strongly opposes the Republican Paycheck Protection Act, which restricts the use of union dues for political activity.

  - Specifically, S. 9 makes it unlawful for a labor union to assess its members (or nonmembers) any dues if any part will be used for political activity, unless the individual has provided written authorization.

  - S. 9 purports to treat corporations equally, by requiring authorization for the use of dues or fees that are a condition of employment if the money is used for political activity. However, it is not clear that this will have any practical application, because corporations do not fund their political activity from assessments, other than from voluntary contributions to their PACs..

TALKING POINT

The Administration supports campaign finance reform, but targeting workers and their unions and making it harder for them to participate in the political process is not reform, and we won't support that.

?

I. TEAM Act

- o The AFL-CIO would like the Administration to reiterate its veto threat of the TEAM Act and any other bills that undermine collective bargaining.

TALKING POINT

We vetoed the TEAM Act last year and we will veto it again.

J. Trade

1. The AFL-CIO wants labor rights included in Fast Track.

<u>TALKING POINT</u>

o *The Administration will continue to push for Fast Track extension with labor and environmental standards as a negotiating objective.*

2. The AFL-CIO was unhappy that at the WTO Minister's meeting in Singapore last year, a proposal to establish a WTO Working Group on core labor standards.

<u>TALKING POINT</u>

o *While we did not get everything we wanted at the WTO Ministerial meeting in Singapore, we made progress on labor rights by getting the Ministers to support the promotion of core labor standards.*

o *Though there remains a difference of views on the precise role for the WTO, we will continue to work on this.*

2. NAFTA Trucks

o The Transportation unions (lead by the Teamsters) are opposed to our decision to lift the moratorium that delayed the opening of the U.S.- Mexican border to trucks and buses. They continue to raise concerns about safety, as well as a belief that, while U.S. labor laws will apply to Mexican drivers operating in the U.S., they will be difficult to enforce.

o No announcement has been made about when the border will open, but the unions have been told that the decision is imminent.

<u>TALKING POINT</u>

We will not open the border until the remaining concerns about safety, security and labor protections are resolved to our satisfaction.

K. ISTEA/ labor protections (Davis Bacon; 13 (c))

o The transportation unions and the building trades are opposing a tentative decision by DOT that may result in the weakening of labor protections for projects funded under the new ISTEA.

> The original ISTEA established a pilot program to leverage federal funds with state, local and private capital. This innovative financing was

accomplished through State Infrastructure Banks (SIBs) and it allowed DOT to waive federal requirements such as Davis-Bacon, Sec. 13(c), civil rights and affirmative action protections when non-federal funds were paid back into a SIB and then reallocated for new projects.

> DOT argues that funds paid back into a SIB lose their federal identity unless the source of the repayment was a subsequent allocation of federal funds.

> The unions argue that but for the original expenditure of federal funds the SIBs would not exist. Therefore all subsequent loans are in essence made with "recycled" federal funds and should be spent in compliance with all federal standards.

> Under the new ISTEA, DOT proposes to permanently authorize SIBs on a national basis.

TALKING POINT

The Administration's ISTEA reauthorization proposal has not yet been finalized; however, we are aware of labor's concerns and we are looking at options to address them.

L. Electricity Deregulation

- The IBEW wants the Administration to help focus attention on the effect of electric utility deregulation on workers and their communities.

- The union, which alleges that 25-30% reductions in employment are common at utilities that are restructuring because of deregulation, has suggested that the Administration consider transition assistance for workers displaced by deregulation.

TALKING POINT

M. Federal/Postal employees

- Federal and postal unions oppose the Administration's proposal to delay retiree COLAs and increase contributions for retirement as part of the FY 1998 budget.

TALKING POINT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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###

POINTS FOR AFL-CIO REMARKS
FEBRUARY 19, 1997

- **Union Earnings.** Weekly earnings for the typical unionized worker were about a third higher than those of the typical non-unionized worker in 1996. [Weekly Economic Briefing, 2/14/97]

- **Earnings Increases.** Economic studies that try to control for factors such as screening, concentration in higher wage jobs, higher skills still suggest that working in a unionized firm raises a worker's earnings by 10 to 15 percent. [Weekly Economic Briefing, 2/14/97]

- **Job Growth.** After a decade of decline, 1 million new manufacturing, auto and construction jobs have been created since President Clinton took office.

- **Wage Growth.** Median family income is up $1,600 since 1993 -- the fast growth since Johnson was President.

- **Enforcement Agencies.** The DOL enforcement agencies and the NLRB have been a priority in our budgets. The FY98 budget proposes nearly an $80 million (7%) increase over the 1997 enacted level for these agencies. This represents a $171 million (17%) above 1993. [DOL enforcement programs include OSHA, PWBA, ESA, Davis-Bacon, MSHA -- CHART INCLUDED BEHIND]

  ⇒**NLRB:** The President's FY98 budget removes a Congressionally imposed rider prohibiting the NLRB from promulgating a rule which would specify the criteria, much like those the Board now uses, by which a bargaining unit could organize individually rather than on a company-wide basis (e.g., fast food chains).

- **Job Training and Job Placement Programs.** FY98 budget includes $6.3 billion for the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), Employment Service, and related job training programs. This is $600 million (10.5%) above the FY97 enacted level.

  ⇒**Dislocated Worker Assistance:** The $1.351 billion request is $65 million (5%) above the 1997 enacted level of $1.286 billion, and $700 million above (more than double) the 1993 level. An estimated 605,200 dislocated workers would be served in 1998.

- **Health Care.** Our budget preserves Medicare and Medicaid, while reforming and strengthening both programs in important ways. It also helps the growing numbers of children and families who lack health insurance. And it invests more in biomedical research, in programs to combat infectious diseases and in programs that serve critically under served populations.

  - **Medicare.** Saves $138 billion over 6 years. Extends the life of the Medicare Trust Fund to 2007. Invests in preventive health care such as diabetes management, colorectal screening, annual mammograms without copayments, and increases reimbursement rates for certain immunizations to protect seniors from pneumonia, influenza and hepatitis. Also establishes a new respite care benefit to assist families of Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's and related diseases. Adds Medigap protections to increase the security of Medicare beneficiaries.

- **Medicaid.** Saves about $9 billion net over 5 years and makes about $13 billion in investments, including proposals to expand coverage for eligible children, and changes in last year's welfare reform law.
  - ⇒ Gives states the option to extend one year of continuous Medicaid coverage to all children who are determined eligible.
  - ⇒ Proposes to work with states and the private sector to reach out to the 3 million children who are enrolled but not eligible for Medicaid.

- **Medicaid and Medicare for Workers with Disabilities.** Plan enables SSI beneficiaries with disabilities to keep their Medicaid when they return to work. Also includes a demonstration program that allows certain SSDI beneficiaries receiving Medicare benefits to maintain their coverage when they return to work.

- **Expanding Coverage for Workers Who Are In-Between Jobs.** President's plan includes an initiative to help provide health care coverage for workers and their families who are in-between jobs. Initiative would help an estimated 3.2 million Americans, including 700,000 children. Plan helps working families continue health insurance coverage, building on Kassebaum-Kennedy's protections against pre-existing conditions.

- **Expanding Health Care Coverage for Children.** In addition to providing health care coverage for 700,000 children whose parents are in-between jobs, budget provides $3.75 billion over 5 years to states to develop innovative programs to provide coverage to children.

- **Pell Grants.** *Largest increase in the Pell Grant award in two decades.* FY98 budget also proposes expanding the eligibility of low-income students (generally age 24 and older) who are financially independent from their parents. Will provide an average increase of more than $800 to 819,000 low-income, independent students pursuing postsecondary education and training and brings 218,000 students into the program who are currently not eligible. Pell Grant recipients will exceed 4 million.

- **HOPE Scholarship.** The annual cost of a public college increased from 9% of the typical family's income in 1979 to 14% in 1994. President Clinton's HOPE Scholarship plan will ensure that low- and middle-income students can get up to a $1,500 tax credit making community college free or nearly so for every student. In 1998, this credit is expected to help 4.2 million middle-income students pay for college.

- **Tax Free Education Savings.** Families who save through an expanded IRA, and then use the savings for higher education, can deduct up to $10,000 of their withdrawals a year, making savings for college virtually tax free.

- **Section 127.** Proposing reinstating through year 2000 the current exclusion from an employee's income of up to $5,250 per year of postsecondary educational assistance provided by an employer for undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, for 1998-2000, small businesses would be given a new incentive to provide educational assistance to their employees through a 10% percent tax credit for amounts paid under an employer-provided educational assistance program for education provided by a third party.

Enforcement Agencies

(Budget Authority in Millions)

	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98
Department of Labor:						
Pension and Welfare Benefit Administration						
Proposed......................	67	64	72	81	85	84
Enacted........................	64	64	69	68	77	N/A
Difference......................	-3	0	-3	-13	-8	N/A
Employment Standards Administration*						
Proposed......................	268	261	290	319	305	314
Enacted........................	260	265	279	265	290	N/A
Difference......................	-8	4	-11	-54	-15	N/A
Occupational Safety and Health Administration						
Proposed......................	294	295	321	347	341	348
Enacted........................	288	297	313	304	325	N/A
Difference......................	-6	2	-8	-43	-16	N/A
Mine Safety and Health Administration						
Proposed......................	191	192	203	212	204	206
Enacted........................	191	195	201	196	197	N/A
Difference......................	0	3	-2	-16	-7	N/A
National Labor Relations Board:						
Proposed......................	173	171	175	181	181	186
Enacted........................	170	171	176	170	175	N/A
Difference......................	-3	0	1	-11	-6	N/A
Health and Human Services:						
Food and Drug Administration						
Proposed......................	802	671	645	884	878	1,057
Enacted........................	783	873	885	878	888	N/A
Difference......................	-19	202	240	-6	10	N/A

* Fiscal years 1993-1995 are adjusted for the Office of the American Workplace which was transferred to ESA in FY 1996.

G:\WORK\FY98EXER\MISC\PROG_BA.WK4
18-Feb-97
05:02 PM

INCOMING TO GS

DOC #
21

DATE
1/27/97

STATUS
Action

AUTHOR/SENDER
Morty Baher

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Letter to GS.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Asking for your help to get the Pores to a conference on Feb 11.

GS COMMENTS

FILE 1

FILE 2

FILE 3

Communications Workers of America
AFL-CIO, CLC

501 Third Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-2797
202/434-1110 Fax 202/434-1139

Morton Bahr
President

Via Fax

January 23, 1997

Mr. Gene Sperling, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
The White House, 2nd Floor, W Wing
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Gene:

We appreciate the hour you spent with us and your understanding of the work of our Commission. Jules and I felt that we established a relationship that should be mutually rewarding for higher education and working families.

The two issues that are so vital at this time are to make the education tax deduction applicable to fulltime adult workers and to expend Pell Grants to active workers, and that the education courses need not be directly related to the work they do.

As you know, over a year ago, the Commission for a Nation of Lifelong Learners was funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in the amount of $1 million to suggest ways in which higher education in this country can be more responsive--with the support of government, business and industry, labor, and philanthropy--to the needs of adult learners, who today form about 45 percent of enrollments on our campuses.

Through a series of public forums and staff investigations, the Commission is gathering expert advice and opinion to frame its report and recommendations for a national agenda to address this topic. As part of this fact-finding effort, nine college presidents from a variety of institutions of higher learning will convene at the American Council of Education offices at 1 Dupont Circle on February 11 to discuss ways in which higher education can be and should be more responsive to the needs of adult learners. Those presidents and their institutional affiliations are provided on the attached sheet. This meeting will be chaired by two Commissioners, me as Chair of the Commission, and Dr. Stanley O. Ikenberry, President of the American Council of Education. The meeting will run from
9:30 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m.

A series of four public forums are also being held across the country to receive testimony from experts and from the general public on a variety of topics pertaining to Commission concerns. The next public forum will be held in Miami at Miami-Dade Community College all day February 6. This meeting will be chaired by me, assisted by Commissioners Jules Pagano, Vice President of American Income Life, and Donald B. Reed, President and Group Executive, NYNEX Corporation. It will deal with the topic of community and citizenship, and the participation of adult learners in them. On March 5, the Commission will hold a public forum on demographics in the Dallas, Texas Community College system, investigating the ways colleges and universities can best serve a population which is increasingly composed of people of an immigrant background, increasingly female, and from groups historically under-represented in higher education. A final public forum, on the economy and its impact on our society and adult learners, will take place at the University of Chicago on March 13, 1997.

The Commissioners will frame their final Report and recommendations for a national agenda to improve higher education learning services to adults. These recommendations will be made public at a national conference of leaders and opinion makers from all walks of life at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. on November 16-19, 1997.

Gene, I believe the conference on February 11 may be the kind of event President Clinton may want to visit.

If you desire any further information and details about these various activities, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Morton Bahr

Morton Bahr
President

Attachment

PRESIDENTS FORUM - FEBRUARY 11, 1997

Dr. Patricia O'Donnell Ewers
President
Pace University

Dr. James A. Hall
President
State University of New York
Empire State College

Dr. Edison O. Jackson
President
Medgar Evers College
City University of New York

Sister Karen Kennelly, C.S.J
President
Mt. St. Mary's College

Dr. T. Benjamin Massey
President
University of Maryland, University College

Dr. Ted Sanders
President
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

Dr. Linda Thor
President
Rio Salado Community College

Dr. M. Peter McPherson
President
Michigan State University

Dr. Judith A. Ramaley
President
Portland State University

INCOMING TO GS

DOC #	DATE	STATUS
7	1/27/97	ACTION

AUTHOR/SENDER

Kathy Wallman

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Inclusion of idea for V.P.'s speech to AFL-CIO.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Kathy wants to explore question of why should companies be allowed to pass through the costs of fighting unionization.

GS COMMENTS

FILE 1	FILE 2	FILE 3

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 21, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR GENE SPERLING

COPY: ELENA KAGAN

FROM: KATHLEEN WALLMAN

RE: AFL-CIO CONVENTION

As you know, the Vice President's office is working on a speech for the Vice President to deliver during Presidents' Day weekend at the AFL-CIO convention. This memorandum outlines an idea that should be explored for inclusion in the speech.

When Elena Kagan and I were in the Counsel's office, the AFL-CIO's General Counsel, John Hiatt, identified a concern that may be worth fixing. He said that he was aware of two situations in which major federal contractors are seeking and receiving reimbursement under their contracts for the costs of resisting union organizing efforts and for litigating unfair labor practices cases.

It may not be possible or appropriate for us to be involved in matters related to the specific contracts that Mr. Hiatt mentioned. However, he has raised a good question: Why should the companies be allowed to pass through the costs of fighting unionization? Other companies that do not hold federal contracts that allow this pass-through have to decide whether the costs of resisting unionization are worth incurring: Can they be absorbed by the enterprise, or can they be passed on to consumers in a competitive market, who may choose to do business elsewhere? Federal contractors' ability to pass through these costs may give them an advantage in negotiating with the unions that other companies don't have.

I would like to explore further whether my supposition that the AFL-CIO has a point here is correct. If Elena is willing, I would like to work with her on this since she is familiar with Hiatt's arguments.

Received
from VP
office,
old

AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
February 17 - 20, 1997
Biltmore Hotel
Los Angeles, California

Sunday, February 16

3:00 Working Women Committee Meeting: Imperial B

3:30 Economic Policy Committee Meeting: Imperial A

4:00 Los Angeles Labor Council "Welcome to LA" Party, Union Station

Monday, February 17

7:30 Article XX/XXI Review Committee Meeting: Imperial A

8:15 Safety and Health Committee Meeting: Imperial B

9:30 Council Convenes: Crystal Ballroom

Review and Adoption of the Agenda

Minutes of December Council Meeting

Welcome: Miguel Contreras, Executive Secretary-Treasurer,
Los Angeles Federation of Labor

Welcome: Art Pulaski, Executive Secretary-Treasurer,
California Federation of Labor

Session I: Building a Movement for American Workers

Overview of Organizing Activities in 1996

Review of AFL-CIO Membership

Significant Organizing Campaigns in 1996

Overview of 1997 AFL-CIO Organizing Program

Organizing Committee Report:
Vice President Arthur Cola

Richard Bensinger, AFL-CIO Director of Organizing
- Changing to Organize Program
  - Elected Leader Taskforce Meetings
  - Organizing Conferences
- Right to Organize Project
- Organizer Recruitment and Training
- Strategic Research for Organizing Campaigns
- Industry Campaigns
- Geographic Campaigns
- Union Summer '97
- Constituency Groups Organizing Projects

Working Women Organize Project: Karen Nussbaum, Director,
AFL-CIO Working Women Department

Major 1997 Campaigns

Organizing Las Vegas Building Trades Workers:
Vice President Robert Georgine

Organizing Workfare Workers:
Vice President Morty Bahr
Vice President Jerry McEntee
Vice President Andy Stern

12:30	Recess Press Conference: Tiffany Room
	Balanced Budget Committee Meeting: Imperial A
	Trade Committee Meeting: Imperial B
2:00	Council Reconvenes
	Organizing California Strawberry Workers: Vice President Arturo Rodriguez Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson
2:30	Gray Davis, Lt-Governor, California
3:00	Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)
4:00	Recess
	International Affairs Committee Meeting: Imperial A
5:00	Finance Committee Meeting: Corinthian
6:00	National Council of Senior Citizens Reception
7:00	National Council of Senior Citizens Dinner

Tuesday, February 18

7:30 Workplace Democracy Committee Meeting: Imperial A
Committee on State and Local Central Bodies Meeting: Imperial B
Economic Policy Subcommittee on Energy Policy Meeting: Imperial C

9:00 Council Reconvenes: Crystal Ballroom

Session II: Building a New Political Voice for Working Families

Senator Tom Daschle

Representative Dick Gephardt

Update on Clinton Administration Appointments: Gerry Shea, Assistant to the President for Government Affairs

Legislative Committee Report: Vice President Ron Carey

Legislative Report: Peggy Taylor, AFL-CIO Legislative Director

Representative Xavier Becerra (D-CA)

Recommendations for the AFL-CIO Political Program:
Vice President Gerald McEntee, Chair Political Committee
Steve Rosenthal, AFL-CIO Political Director

Economic Policy Committee Report: Vice President George Becker

Balanced Budget Committee Report: Vice President Gerald McEntee

Charlene Barshevsky, United States Trade Representative

12:30	Recess
	Press Conference: Tiffany Room
	Union Privilege Board Meeting
2:00	Council Reconvenes
	Albert Gore, Jr. Vice President of the United States
4:00	Recess
	Union Pension Funds Committee Meeting: Imperial B Civil and Human Rights Committee Meeting: Imperial A
5:30	AFL-CIO Reception in Honor of Vice President Al Gore Tiffany Room

Wednesday, February 19

7:30 Full Participation Committee Meeting: Imperial B
Public Affairs Committee Meeting: Imperial A

9:00 Council Reconvenes

Session III: Providing a New Voice for Workers in a Changing Global Economy

Report of the International Affairs Committee:
Vice President George Kourpias

Update on International Affairs Department: Barbara Shailor, AFL-CIO International Affairs Director
- American Center for International Labor Solidarity
- Meeting with International Trade Secretariats
- Update on Singapore Trade Meetings

Neal Kearney, Chair, Council of International Trade Secretariats

Report of the Trade Committee, Vice President Jay Mazur

Recent Contract Victories

Update on Corporate Affairs Programs: Ron Blackwell, Director, AFL-CIO Department of Corporate Affairs

Economic Education for Working Families Update: Bill Fletcher, AFL-CIO Education Director

Report of Committee on Union Pension Funds:
Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka

Capital Strategies Program: Bill Patterson, Director, AFL-CIO Office of Investment

Report of Committee on Workplace Democracy:
Vice President Morty Bahr

	Report of the Strategic Approaches Committee: Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka
	Frontier Hotel Strike Update
12:30	Recess
	Press Conference: Tiffany Room
	AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust Board Meeting
2:00	Council Reconvenes
	Report of Committee 2000
	Report on AFL-CIO Headquarters Renovation
	Article XX/XXI Review Committee Report
	Steve Coyle, AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust
	Update on Field Reorganization: Marilyn Sneiderman, AFL-CIO Field Mobilization Director
	Administrative and Financial Matters
	Report on Union Privilege Program
4:30	Recess
	March and Demonstration in Support of New Otani Hotel Workers
5:30	Reception in Honor of Congressman Dick Gephardt Tiffany Room

Thursday, February 20

7:30 Committee 2000 Meeting: Corinthian

9:00 Council Reconvenes

Report of the Finance Committee: Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka

Report of Full Participation Committee:
Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson

Session IV: Providing a New Voice for Workers in Our Communities

Public Affairs Committee Report: Vice President Doug Dority

Union Cities Report: Marilyn Sneiderman
Miguel Contreras, Los Angeles Labor Council
Amy Dean, South Bay, California Central Labor Council
Ernie Grecco, Baltimore, Maryland, Central Labor Council
Dan Radford, Cincinnati, Ohio Labor Council

State and Local Central Bodies Committee Report:
Vice President Wayne Glenn

Education Committee Report: Vice President Al Shanker

Energy Subcommittee Report: Vice President Robert Wages

Safety and Health Committee Report: Vice President Lenore Miller

Civil and Human Rights Committee Report: Vice President Steve Yokich

Working Women Committee Report: Vice President Gloria Johnson

Labor and the Environment Workgroup Report:
Vice President William Lucy and Vice President Robert Wages

12:30 Working Lunch

Continuation of Reports

Adjourn

Gay L. Joshlyn
02/13/97 02:08:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Melissa Green

cc:
Subject: More Flights

Message Creation Date was at 13-FEB-1997 14:08:00

February 18, 1997

going to LAX
Tuesday ~~Night~~

Carrier Leave Time Stop Arrive Time
Delta National 7:00 pm Atlanta LAX 11:23 pm
Continental National 7:10 pm Huston LAX 11:59 pm
Northwest National 7:30 pm Detroit LAX 12:22 am
Delta National 8:00 pm Atlanta LAX 1:05 am

February 19, 1997

Wed. Morning

United National 6:30 am Chicago LAX 11:45 am
United Dulles 7:30 am no LAX 10:07 am
USAir National 7:50 am Pittsburgh LAX 12:12 pm
Northwest National 8:30 am Minneapolis LAX 1:27 pm

You would make remarks to the council WED morning or afternoon depending on your schedule : then do some mtg.

Staffer going w/ you?

Stuart M. Schear
02/13/97 02:55:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Melissa Green

cc:
Subject: WEEKEND TV UPDATE @ 3 PM

Message Creation Date was at 13-FEB-1997 14:55:00

--------------------- Forwarded by Stuart M. Schear/WHO/EOP on 02/13/97 02:52 PM ---------------------------

Stuart M. Schear
02/13/97 02:55:09 PM
Record Type: Record

To: Stuart M. Schear/WHO/EOP
cc:
Subject: WEEKEND TV UPDATE @ 3 PM

--------------------- Forwarded by Stuart M. Schear/WHO/EOP on 02/13/97 02:51 PM ---------------------------

Stuart M. Schear
02/13/97 02:51:44 PM
Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject: WEEKEND TV UPDATE @ 3 PM

FEBRUARY 13, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO MIKE MCCURRY AND DON BAER
FROM STUART SCHEAR
SUBJECT WEEKEND TV UPDATE @ 3 PM
COMMENT FOCUS: WH WOES & AIR STRIKE

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14

WASHINGTON WEEK IN REVIEW

Topic TBD
Guest TBD

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15

EVANS & NOVAK (CNN)

Topic Foreign Affairs
Guest Jesse Helms

INSIDE POLITICS WEEKEND (CNN)

Topic White House Woes & Campaign Finance Guest Request for WH Official & GOP TBD

THE MCLAUGHLIN GROUP (NBC)

Topics (Feb. 16) China Fundraising Story
Fred Thompson Investigation
Gore ,s Trip to South Africa

Topics (Feb. 23) Wash. DC: Crime & Finance
GOP Field for 2,000
FBI Crime Lab

Panelists Clift, Kondracke, Barnes, Zuckerman

Comment Two shows being taped on Friday 2/14.
One will air 2/15 &2/16, Another 2/22 & 23

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16

FOX NEWS SUNDAY (FOX/FNC)

Topic White House Legal Woes
Guest Request for WH Official

Topic Thompson Hearings
Guest Sen. Cochran & Request for Dem.

Topic Air Strike (Depends on the News)
Guest TBD

Roundtable Brit Hume, Juan Williams, Josette Shiner

FACE THE NATION (CBS)

Topic Whitewater Update
Guest Michael Chertoff & Request for Richard Ben Veniste

Topic Campaign Finance Reform
Guest TBD

Roundtable TBD

THIS WEEK (ABC)

Topic WH Legal Woes
Guest Request for WH Official & Rep. Dan Burton

Topic Foreign Affairs
Guest Request for UN Ambassador Richardson

Topic Air Strike
Guest Pilots Rep. & American Airline Rep.
Guest Request for Secy. Slater

Roundtable Cokie, Sam, Will, Stephanopoulos & Kristol

MEET (NBC)

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Topic Campaign Finance Reform
Guest Legislators TBD

Topic Air Strike
Guest Request for Secy. Slater
Roundtable TBD

LATE EDITION (CNN)

Topic Air Strike
Guest Request for Secy. Slater

Topic Clinton ,s Popularity Despite WH Woes
Guest Request for Ann Lewis & GOP Guest TBD

Roundtable TBD

MCLAUGHLIN ONE-ON-ONE (NBC)@ 11:30 AM

Topic Budget, Air Safety, Air Strike
Guests Sen. Judd Gregg and Sen. Frank Lautenberg

February 13, 1997

To: Melissa

From: Margc at AFL-CIO

Melissa, Peggy Taylor asked me to fax some materials to you.

I am going to do that via three separate faxes to keep them together for you. As soon as the first one goes, I shall send the second one along, and then the third.

Part III

Stuart M. Schear
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cc:
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Topic TBD
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02/13/97 02:08:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Melissa Green

cc:

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Message Creation Date was at 13-FEB-1997 14:08:00

February 18, 1997

going to LAX
TUESDAY NIGHT

Carrier Leave Time Stop Arrive Time
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February 19, 1997

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WED. MORNING

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Gay L. Joshlyn
02/13/97 12:19:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Melissa Green

cc:
Subject: Flights to LA

Message Creation Date was at 13-FEB-1997 12:19:00

--------------------- Forwarded by Gay L. Joshlyn/OPD/EOP on 02/13/97 12:15 PM

Gay L. Joshlyn
02/13/97 11:35:09 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Melissa Green/OPD/EOP
cc:
Subject: Flights to LA

February 18, 1997

Carrier Leave Time Stop Arrive Time

Conteníntal National 5:00 pm Cleveland LAX 9:18 pm
United National 5:00 pm Chicago LAX 9:24 pm
Delta National 5:00 pm Atlanta LAX 9:31 pm
United Dulles 5:15 pm no LAX 7:35 pm
USAir National 5:30 pm Kansas City LAX 9:34 pm
United Dulles 6:00 pm no LAX 8:31 pm
United National 6:00 pm Chicago LAX 10:34 pm

February 19, 1997
USAir LAX 1:15 pm Kansas City National 10:54 pm
TWA LAX 2:50 pm Saint Louis National 12:15 am
Northwest LAX 3:10 pm Minneapolis National 12:33 am
Delta LAX 3:25 pm Atlanta National 1:10 am
United LAX 3:45 pm no Dulles 11:17 pm
United LAX 9:55 pm no Dulles 5:32 am

There is a big gap in time between regular daytime flights and the red eyes. I have only one red eye listed because each carrier usually only has one non-stop and they all leave about the same time. The United red eye is a pretty good flight, as far as red eyes go. Many don't get in until 7 or 7:30 in the morning, some can be as late as 8:30 am.

Let me know if you need any more times.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 21, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR GENE SPERLING

COPY: ELENA KAGAN

FROM: KATHLEEN WALLMAN KW

RE: AFL-CIO CONVENTION

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cc:
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February 18, 1997

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Contenintal	National	5:00 pm	Cleveland	LAX	9:18 pm
United	National	5:00 pm	Chicago	LAX	9:24 pm
Delta	National	5:00 pm	Atlanta	LAX	9:31 pm
United	Dulles	5:15 pm	no	LAX	7:35 pm
USAir	National	5:30 pm	Kansas City	LAX	~~9:34~~ pm
United	Dulles	6:00 pm	no	LAX	8:31 pm
United	National	6:00 pm	Chicago	LAX	~~10:34~~ pm

February 19, 1997

USAir	LAX	1:15 pm	Kansas City	National	10:54 pm
TWA	LAX	2:50 pm	Saint Louis	National	12:15 am
Northwest	LAX	3:10 pm	Minneapolis	National	12:33 am
Delta	LAX	3:25 pm	Atlanta	National	1:10 am
United	LAX	3:45 pm	no	Dulles	11:17 pm
United	LAX	9:55 pm	no	Dulles	5:32 am

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COMING HOME

NOTHING IN BETWEEN

February 13, 1997

To: Melissa

From: Marge at AFL-CIO

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January 1997

AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

John J. Sweeney, President
Richard L. Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer
Linda Chavez-Thompson, Executive Vice President

Captain J. Randolph Babbitt, President
Air Line Pilots Association
1625 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202/797-4010
202/797-4052 (FAX)

Morton Bahr, President
Communications Workers of America
501 Third Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
202/434-1110
202/434-1139 (FAX)

John J. Barry, President
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
1125 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
202/728-6010
202/467-6316 (FAX)

George Becker, President
United Steelworkers of America
Five Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
412/562-2300
412/562-2598 (FAX)

Moe Biller, President
American Postal Workers Union
1300 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
202/842-4200
202/842-4297 (FAX)

AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
January 1997

Clayola Brown, International Vice President
Amalgamated Service & Allied Industries Joint Board
UNITE!
275 Seventh Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, New York 10001
212/206-8900
212/206-9179 (FAX)

Ron Carey, President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
202/624-6800
202/624-8102 (FAX)

Arthur A. Coia, President
Laborers' International Union of North America
905 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
202/737-8320
202/737-2754 (FAX)

Douglas H. Dority, President
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
1775 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
202/223-3111
202/466-1562 (FAX)

Edward L. Fire, President
International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers
1126 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
212/296-1200
202/785-4563 (FAX)

M.A. "Mac" Fleming, President
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes
26555 Evergreen Road, Suite 200
Southfield, Michigan 48076
810/948-1010
810/948-7150 (FAX)

Carolyn Forrest, Vice President
United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America International Union
8000 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48214
313/926-5000
313/823-6016 (FAX)

Patricia Friend, President
Association of Flight Attendants
1625 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036
202/328-5400
202/328-5424 (FAX)

Robert A. Georgine, President
Building and Construction Trades Department
815 16th Street, N.W., Suite 603
Washington, D.C. 20006
202/347-1461
202/628-0724 (FAX)

Wayne E. Glenn, President
United Paperworkers International Union
3340 Perimeter Hill Drive
Nashville, Tennessee 37211
615/834-8590
615/834-7741 (FAX)

Michael Goodwin, President
Office and Professional Employees International Union
265 West 14th Street, Suite 610
New York, New York 10011
212/675-3210
212/727-3466 (FAX)

Joe L. Greene, President
American Federation of School Administrators
1729 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
202/986-4209
202/986-4211 (FAX)

Sonny Hall, President
Transport Workers Union of America
80 West End Avenue, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10023
212/873-6000
212/721-1431 (FAX)

Edward T. Hanley, President
Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union
1219 28th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007
202/393-4373
202/333-0468 (FAX)

Frank Hanley, President
International Union of Operating Engineers
1125 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202/429-9100
202/778-2619 (FAX)

Sumi Haru, 1st Vice President
Screen Actors Guild
5757 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90036
213/954-1600
213/549-6603 (FAX)

James E. Hatfield, Chairman
Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers International Union
P.O. Box 607
Media, Pennsylvania 19063
610/565-5051
610/565-0983 (FAX)

Carroll Haynes, President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 237
216 West 14th Street
New York, New York 10011
212/924-2000
212/242-8772 (FAX)

Frank Hurt, President
Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers International Union
10401 Connecticut Avenue
Kensington, Maryland 20895
301/933-8600
301/946-8452 (FAX)

Gloria T. Johnson, Director
Department of Social Action
International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers
1126 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202/296-1200
202/785-4563 (FAX)

John T. Joyce, President
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen
815 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
202/783-3788
202/383-3103 (FAX)

George J. Kourpias, President
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
301/967-4502
301/967-4587 (FAX)

James LaSala, President
Amalgamated Transit Union
5025 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20016
202/537-1645
202/244-7824 (FAX)

William Lucy, Secretary-Treasurer
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
1625 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202/429-1200
202/429-1102 (FAX)

Leon Lynch, Vice President
United Steelworkers of America
Five Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
412/562-2400
412/562-2599 (FAX)

Martin J. Maddaloni, President
United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the U.S. and Canada
901 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
202/628-5823
202/628-5024 (FAX)

Jay Mazur, President
Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees
1710 Broadway
New York, New York 10019
212/265-7000
212/315-3803 (FAX)

Douglas McCarron, President
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
Carpenter's Building
101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
202/546-6206
202/543-5724 (FAX)

Gerald W. McEntee, President
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
1625 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202/429-1100
202/429-1102 (FAX)

Andrew McKenzie, President
International Leather Goods, Plastics Novelty and Service Workers' Union
300 S. Grand Blvd., Suite 241
St. Louis, Missouri 63103
314/533-3633
314/533-1805 (FAX)

Lenore Miller, President
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union
30 East 29th Street, Fourth Floor
New York, New York 10016
212/684-5300
212/779-2809 (FAX)

A.L. "Mike" Monroe, President
International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades of the United States and Canada
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News Conference with Vice President Al Gore
AFL-CIO Executive Council Meeting
February 18, 1997

Chris Woods: I'm with the Organizing Department at the AFL-CIO and I just wanted to take the opportunity to introduce a group of workers to our Vice President who might recognize their stories in attempting to organize their workplaces and what they have gone through. To my right is Julia Lopez, who works with ServiceMaster and is a janitor at the University of Southern California. Next is Cathy Sharp, a registered nurse at Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego. And next to Cathy is John Robledo who is a truck driver with Overnight Express here in Los Angeles. To my left is Jane Turney who works as a waitress in the Santa Fe Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Next to Janey is Grant Lindsay, a young organizer who came into the labor movement with Union Summer and is now working with the United Farm Workers Union. Next to Grant is Elisa Lopez who is no longer working but worked as a telemarketer for Sprint/La Conexion and is now displaced as a result of that facility being shut down during their organizing campaign. And next to Elisa is Mike Boudreaux,who works for Avondale Shipyards, a major employer in Nw Orleans and supplier that producs navy vessels for the U.S. Government.

John Sweeney: Good afternoon. Thank you for coming. I'm happy to join these organizers whom you have just met. Vice President Gore, as you've heard, has met with them and has been the guest at today's Executive Council meeting, as he has been for the past four years. Al Gore understands as we do that working families are hurting as never before and that income inequality is hurting us. His visit to this meeting underscores his commitment to improve in the lives of working men and women. Al Gore grew up learning the values of American unions from his father who was Secretary of Labor in Tennessee and who worked hard to improve the lives of working families, and from a mother who taught him that public service is a noble calling. He has proven time and again as a Congressman, as a United States Senator, and now as Vice President, that he is a leader that working families can count on. From helping stop legislation aimed at destroying workplace health and safety and environmental protections, to backing the executive order against permanent replacement of striking workers, he has stood tall for working families. We're especially fortunate to have a such a friend in the White House, one who has joined us at our winter meetings for the past four years. The Vice President of the United States, Al Gore.

Vice President Gore: Thank you very much. I appreciate your introduction. Before I give my opening statement, I want to follow up on what Chris Woods said when she introduced these men and women who are standing on either side of the podium here. I did spend an hour listening to their individual stories, and I would encourage those of you who are here today as journalists, if you have the time, just pick out a couple of them and talk with them. The stories are ones that are not generally known in our country, and yet their stories are all too illustrative of a problem that has been growing in the United States for the last 16 years or so, that stems from an attitude on the part of some that convinces them that they're justified in busting union organizing activities by whatever means they can in completely unjust and unfair ways that violate the dignity of these men and women as human beings, violate the justice that everyone is due in our country. And it really has to stop. They speak for themselves much more eloquently than I can speak for them, so I do seriously invite you to ... where is Chris? Are you going to be available afterwards in case anyone does want to talk to them?

Chris Woods: Yes.

Vice President Gore: The Executive Council and I have just concluded a warm and productive meeting. I thank the Council for the energetic role that the labor movement played in the 1996 elections. In November, one in four voters came from a union household. There's been a lot of talk about the gender gap by those who analyzed the last election. There hasn't been as much talk about the union/non-union gap, but if you look at the numbers, it was extremely significant. That is a powerful, powerful voice. And it's a voice that is growing stronger as we watch the success of John Sweeney's recruiting efforts. I also congratulated the Council on beating back the most anti-union effort that we've seen in recent memory during the last session of Congress. The hard work by the labor movement produced real accomplishments for working men and women. The higher minimum wage, affordable health insurance, strengthened environmental protection, pension reform, and a new commitment to education and job training. We also talked about some of the issues that are raised by the stories these men and women told me before I met with the Council. The right to organize is a fundamental right in America. But it is a right that too often is violated. And I told the Council that this must change. And I told the Council that this White House will take action to give the right to organize new teeth. The President and I stand on the side of working men and women who want to exercise their right to organize. So we're going to send a message to companies that want to do business with the federal government: How you treat your employees and how you treat unions counts with us. If you want to do business with the federal government, you better get your house in order and clean up your act. Because today we're going to change the rules on federal contracting; that part of having the kind of integrity and business ethics and performance capability that we expect of a federal contractor, is having a satisfactory record of labor relations and employment practices and policies. That means following the law. If you want to do business with the federal government, you had better maintain a safe workplace and respect civil, human, and yes, union rights. That will be taken into account in decisions on federal contracting. Secondly, and believe it or not, the old practice has been that federal contractors can get reimbursed for money that they spend trying to persuade employees not to join unions. If they are taken to court with allegations of unfair labor practices, they have been able to use taxpayer money in order to pay the lawyers that fight against men and women like these who are simply trying to exercise their legitimate rights to organize. Today we're going to try to start changing those rules because they are just plain wrong. The larger principle is clear. The right to organize and the right to strike are fundamental rights and nobody's tax dollars should be spent undermining those rights. I also gave the Council the Administration's commitment on comp time and flex time, and proposed measures to silence labor's voice in the political process, and I reiterated President Clinton's pledges to veto any bills that gut worker protections, any measures that permit sham unions, or any measures that repeal Davis-Bacon or the Service Contract Act. Also, I told the Council that over the next year, President Clinton and I are going to spend considerable time in talking to workers across America about their experiences on the job and their experiences in trying to organize. If employees work hard and play by the rules, they ought to be able to share in the prosperity of the country. And unions are a crucial part of this country. They're critical to helping reverse the trend toward inequality and they are essential to making sure that every worker has a chance to lead a decent life. The statistics show, incidentally, and some of you are familiar with this, that working men and women who are in unions earn more, get better benefits, can be more productive and are safer on the job than workers who are not unionized. Unions matter. Perhaps more than at any time in our history. You could say the state of our union depends in part on the strength of our unions. In closing, let me say it was a warm, very good, and very productive meeting, and I enjoyed it and look forward to any questions that you might have either for me or for John Sweeney.

Reporter: (Question about American Airlines)

John Sweeney: From the beginning of the American Airlines negotiations we emphasized the importance of the right of workers to collectively bargain and we had placed great emphasis on the fact that the union was permitted to trying in every way to achieve a successful agreement and now that we are in the process that we're in, we're urging the Administration to put as much pressure on the parties to negotiate an agreement. The pilots have made concessions in the past. The economy of American Airlines has been very good. It's about time that American Airlines shared some of those profits with the pilots.

Vice President Gore: I think that question was really mostly answered by what John said. I would only add that from the beginning of this episode we have consulted very closely and consulted constantly with organized labor.

Reporter: (Question about worker rights)

Vice President Gore: Yes, indeed, we did talk about that. And, you know we had success in Singapore at the negotiations before the WTO and adding provisions to protect workers rights in trade agreements in recognition of exactly the phenomena that you mentioned in your question and that John spoke about in Davos. The day before yesterday, along with two members of the Council, Bill Lucy and Morty Bahr, I had the opportunity to meet the top labor union leadership throughout the nation of South Africa and they raised this very question and expressed gratitude to President Clinton for the leadership he provided in securing that victory that I just mentioned in Singapore adding that provision to the WTO. But, of course, that struggle is in its beginning stages. We're in a period now where the best companies have begun to recognize long since that productivity and profitability are enhanced by a respectful relationship with their employees. One that recognizes that their employees longevity is a corporate asset, that the cumulative experience and learning that comes in the right kind of relationship with their employees can be of incalculable value in global competition. But we're also in a time where some people as always try to cut corners and do so at the expense of their employees and we should recognize this challenge by continuing the kind of effort that President Clinton made in adding this new provision to the WTO.

Reporter: (Question on NAFTA)

Vice President Gore: Well, on the first part of your question, I think that the economic downturn in Mexico that followed the devaluation with the peso soon after NAFTA went into effect, for reasons that most agree had nothing to do with NAFTA, but really had to do with policies in Mexico that artificially propped up the peso for a long period of time. I think that sharp downturn had some impact on Mexico's economy that shouldn't be mixed up with the impact that NAFTA had. My own view is that when you take that into account and separate out those effects that the impact of NAFTA has been quite positive both in Mexico and in the United States and Canada. The labor and environmental protections included as part of NAFTA should certainly be included as part of any effort to enter into a NAFTA lock agreement with Chile or any other country. The precise form that it takes of course will have to be worked out over time. But assuming that the labor and environmental protections are a part of any fast track agreement then I certainly believe that would be very definitely in the best interest of the United States.

Reporter: (Question on global climate)

Vice President Gore: Well, we have been in consultation with members of the Executive Council on the wording of that measure and those discussions have been going quite well. Of course, we believe that the problem with climate change is definitely one we have to confront in an urgent and responsible way. And negotiations would begin in December in Kyoto to shape an agreement that can enable us to do that. We will remain in close consultation with members of this Executive Council and others who have a stake in this issue, and that is practically everybody, before that negotiation session begins in Kyoto. But the final language in their resolution remains to be worked out.

Reporter: (Question on anti-trust laws)

Vice President Gore: Yes, they are being enforced. But I am constrained by our Administration's policy of not commenting on particular buy-outs or mergers that might or might not be challenged by those laws. But the short answer to your question is our policy is to vigorously enforce the anti-trust laws.

Reporter: (Question on corporate mergers)

Vice President Gore: Well, I think you're seeing a trend, not only in our country, but in many countries around the world, toward a reorganization of the corporate community with the new pressures of world competition, the forces that are unleashed by the introduction of new technologies. I won't belabor the list of factors that go into this but this has been a trend that has been going on for such time. Where such mergers or consolidation violate the anti-trust laws, then certainly the Justice Department will proceed.

Reporter: (Question on fundraising)

Vice President Gore: Well, on the last part of your question, as the President said, that investigation ought to proceed. The only thing we know about that, is what was in your newspaper and then in other news accounts. And if that were true, of course, then that would be very serious, if any foreign government tried to put money into the campaigns organized by either political party here, but the only answer to that is that the investigation ought to proceed. On your first question, the document you refer to pointed out that my staff was given a caution by the National Security Council about the balance between Taiwan and China. And that foreign policy caution was heard and responded to. And the National Security team made changes to make sure that there would be no pro-Taiwan symbols or statements or whatever. Now, your question is given that caution on that factor, shouldn't that have caused a reevaluation of the whole thing? Well maybe so. I've already said that it was a mistake, and I take responsibility for my attendance there because the sponsor of the event was a group that required as a condition of membership, a prior donation. So it was financed related. The fact that I did not know that the fundraiser is obscured by the fact that it was sponsored by this group, but that group was far from the only group in attendance there. There were community leaders, there were Republicans there and there was no mention of contributions, or thank you for your contributions, or politics, but it was a mistake to do it. And I've acknowledged that it was a mistake, and I've learned from it and have taken steps to make sure that the kind of disconnect that was obvious from those memos never takes place again.

Reporter: (Question on pushing pro-labor legislation in Congress)

Vice President Gore: Well, when you say "shove it through Congress regardless of the Republican majority," let me hear more about your strategy to accomplish that. I know that John and I would be all ears.

John Sweeney: We need all the help we can get.

Vice President Gore: Well, fair enough, fair enough. If we see an opportunity to do that by turning the spotlight on the Congress in a way that peels off Republican votes as we did on the minimum wage provision. We will certainly do that. But that will have to be analyzed carefully on a case-by-case basis because you know of course, if you just go in, as you say, come hell or high water, and don't look carefully at the dangers of opening up some important labor protection and having the Congress do something that is the exact opposite of something that you hope will occur, you're not being a responsible steward, so we'll look for such chances. I'll give you an example of one. The Republican leadership in the Congress is on record in opposition to expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act. President Clinton has proposed expanding it -- to take care of routine doctors appointments and PTA meetings. I believe that given the right circumstances, turning the spotlight on that vote might well result in enough Republicans being peeled off to join the Democrats to pass that measure. So we'll look at that on a case by case basis. We're certainly eager to do it.

Reporter: What role do you think the movies play in teen smoking?

Vice President Gore: I'm going to try to avoid that question. The question was, for those of you who didn't hear it, is "what role do I think movies play in teen smoking?" You can probably guess what my feelings are on that. The only reason why I am going to try to refrain from answering that right now is that I have a private discussion scheduled with some folks in the industry and I would really prefer to have that discussion on an off-the-record basis, in an environment that would maximize the ability for a free give-and-take without giving the appearance here of coming here the night before and just kind of beating him on the head with a club. I just don't think that's the way to proceed on that. Because the signals I have gotten from the industry is that there is a very strong awareness of this issue and a very strong inclination by some leaders within the industry to really do something about it. I would just prefer not to say any more about that out of respect for the conversation that I hope to have. Because you see, they can always, no, never mind. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Vice President Gore: Now, don't forget. Don't run off and not interview these folks.

Gay L. Joshlyn
02/13/97 11:35:09 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Melissa Green/OPD/EOP

cc:
Subject: Flights to LA

February 18, 1997

Carrier	Leave	Time	Stop	Arrive	Time
Contenintal	National	5:00 pm	Cleveland	LAX	9:18 pm
United	National	5:00 pm	Chicago	LAX	9:24 pm
Delta	National	5:00 pm	Atlanta	LAX	9:31 pm
United	Dulles	5:15 pm	no	LAX	7:35 pm
USAir	National	5:30 pm	Kansas City	LAX	9:34 pm
United	Dulles	6:00 pm	no	LAX	8:31 pm
United	National	6:00 pm	Chicago	LAX	10:34 pm

February 19, 1997

USAir	LAX	1:15 pm	Kansas City	National	10:54 pm
TWA	LAX	2:50 pm	Saint Louis	National	12:15 am
Northwest	LAX	3:10 pm	Minneapolis	National	12:33 am
Delta	LAX	3:25 pm	Atlanta	National	1:10 am
United	LAX	3:45 pm	no	Dulles	11:17 pm
United	LAX	9:55 pm	no	Dulles	5:32 am

There is a big gap in time between regular daytime flights and the red eyes. I have only one red eye listed because each carrier usually only has one non-stop and they all leave about the same time. The United red eye is a pretty good flight, as far as red eyes go. Many don't get in until 7 or 7:30 in the morning, some can be as late as 8:30 am.

Let me know if you need any more times.

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Record Type: Record

To: Melissa Green/OPD/EOP
cc:
Subject: Flights to LA

February 18, 1997

Carrier Leave Time Stop Arrive Time

Contenintal National 5:00 pm Cleveland LAX 9:18 pm
United National 5:00 pm Chicago LAX 9:24 pm
Delta National 5:00 pm Atlanta LAX 9:31 pm
United Dulles 5:15 pm no LAX 7:35 pm
USAir National 5:30 pm Kansas City LAX 9:34 pm
United Dulles 6:00 pm no LAX 8:31 pm
United National 6:00 pm Chicago LAX 10:34 pm

February 19, 1997
USAir LAX 1:15 pm Kansas City National 10:54 pm
TWA LAX 2:50 pm Saint Louis National 12:15 am
Northwest LAX 3:10 pm Minneapolis National 12:33 am
Delta LAX 3:25 pm Atlanta National 1:10 am
United LAX 3:45 pm no Dulles 11:17 pm
United LAX 9:55 pm no Dulles 5:32 am

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