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TOP STORY

One Year Later, Unions Wait For Results to Match Trump's Rhetoric

By Zachary Dowdy
Special to the Communicator

ONE YEAR AFTER DONALD TRUMP OFFERED LABOR A SLEW OF PROMISES – from creating jobs by investing in infrastructure to scrapping free trade deals that he said were unfair to American workers – GCC/IBT leaders say the President's results are woefully short of his rhetoric.

Several GCC/IBT leaders said they have watched patiently as Trump's record on labor issues worsens and working people brace for the next anti-worker legislation, appointment or executive order.

"I don't think he's delivered much," said James Longerbone, president of Local 1-M in St. Paul, Minnesota, a 500-person local with workers at the Minneapolis Star Tribune and other plants. "He's delivering what he wants to his rich buddies and leaving everybody else behind."

Longerbone said Trump had mostly failed to fulfill promises to organized labor. But he recalls, during the campaign in 2016, many of his own members favored Trump over Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton because the billionaire developer touted pro-labor positions such as withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, which Trump has done, and re-negotiating the North America Free Trade Agreement, a process that has shown only halting progress.

"We tried to make clear during the 2016 campaign that union members should view Trump's pro-labor claims with caution," said GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi. "He had a shaky record with unions and wasted no time getting in line with Republican Party policies. What we have to do now is stay alert and make certain we vote for pro-labor

continues on PAGE 8

PHOTO BY THE WHITE HOUSE VIA FLICKR

GCC/IBT National Pension Fund Lists Members Entitled to Benefits



SEE FLYER INSERT

Printed in the USA

'All-Stars' Ralph Meers, Jim Sherlock Retire

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We Show Up When Neighbors Need Us

HERE'S A NICE STORY THAT SHOWS THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF unions on community life.

According to Newsday, the sister of a man with Down syndrome took her brother to a movie location on Long Island where a Netflix film was in production – a special treat around the time of the fellow's 50th birthday.



The woman said she expected the movie folks would tell her to get lost but the opposite happened.

Teamsters working on the production gave the birthday guy, James Pascucci, and his sister, Pamela Giorgi, a tour and look at their equipment. The crew members – from IBT Local 817, Great Neck, New York – invited the guests back the next day and had birthday presents ready for Pascucci.

Giorgi said the decency and generosity of the IBT crew was deeply moving. "I had to compose myself the second day when we walked away," she told Newsday.

Beautiful – but not unusual.

In the fall edition of the Communicator, we ran a story about a low-income housing development in Oakland, California, that our union sponsored years ago and still supports. In the Washington, D.C. area, Local 72-C organizes a winter coat drive for homeless people. And, as IBT General President Jim Hoffa notes in a column on this page, the Teamster family did great work during the terrible hurricanes that hit Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

Volunteers worked tirelessly – often in difficult circumstances – to distribute emergency relief supplies. Some flew to Puerto Rico with members of other unions after what was perhaps the worst storm ever to hit the island – a U.S. territory where the people are American citizens.

When needed, there was financial aid, too, through the Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund.

Launched in 1991 and supported by donations from local unions



and other affiliates, the fund assists IBT members affected by events declared emergencies by the federal government.

Want to do something worthwhile? Throw a few bucks into the pot. Go to the fund website, tdr.teamster.org, or send a check to Teamsters Disaster Relief Fund, c/o IBT, 25 Louisiana Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20001.

Here's the point:

There are people out there who bad-mouth unions at every opportunity. They question our integrity, purpose and commitment. Just recently, a right-wing website claimed falsely Teamsters had refused to distribute goods in Puerto Rico. Untrue and outrageous.

In a way, unions – the GCC/IBT, Teamsters and other labor groups – are community service organizations by definition. We protect and support the hard-working middle class. What could be more important?

But we do more than that. We show up when our neighbors need us – at home and at distant places. We are solid citizens providing warm clothing and a decent place to live and assistance when natural disasters strike. We reach out and make a difference.

Like the Teamsters on Long Island who made a birthday unforgettable for James Pascucci, we show we care. That's our heritage. It's what we do.

Be proud – Union Proud. ■

OUTLOOK

JAMES P. HOFFA TEAMSTERS GENERAL PRESIDENT

Is the American Dream Slipping Away?

WATCHING THE RESPONSE OF THE Teamsters and other unions to the devastation of hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico last fall was a reminder that the IBT has always been an early responder in times of crisis.

We face many challenges, but we are up for the fight – in case of natural disasters or when elected officials echo corporate propaganda that argues more jobs will come if states do away with collective bargaining rights. When members are affected, the union family stands together.

Unions have a decades-long history of growing wealth for workers. Today, the median union worker makes more than \$10,000 a year more than the median non-union worker nationwide. They are also much more likely to have retirement security due to a pension. But lawmakers are increasingly tamping down on workers' rights.

The U.S. economy benefits more Americans when unions are strong. As Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate and Chief Economist for



the Roosevelt Institute, pointed out in "Rewriting the Rules of the American Economy" last year, "As unions fade, so too does their ability to raise wages in the broader economy."

Working people want the freedom to join together and negotiate a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. And when they have more money to spend, they buy more products, creating more jobs and better wages for all workers.

Some are taking a stand for union rights. Workers in Missouri made their voice heard when they gathered three times the number of petitions needed to stop the implementation of a right to work law there. The Teamsters and other unions refused to accept the passage of legislation that would have curtailed workers' rights, and did something about it. Now state voters will determine the fate of the measure in November 2018.

Here is the reality – the American Dream is slipping away for too many. Corporate off-shoring and globalization have pushed U.S. wages down and put working people's health and safety at risk. Working people should have the freedom and rights to negotiate a fair return on their work. While politicians fight with each other over how to fix income and gender inequality, the Teamsters and other unions have been effectively combating these issues successfully for decades. ■



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Trump the Worker's Friend? Time for a Reality Check

WHAT A YEAR.

Against the odds, and surely, in defiance of most public opinion polls, Donald J. Trump was sworn in last January as the 45th President of the United States.

Supporters – many of them, union members – rejoiced. Democrats mourned. Republicans took control of Washington.



The GOP held the House, Senate, and, remarkably, a billionaire reality show celebrity who belatedly converted to Republicanism was in the White House.

For labor, early signs were somewhat optimistic. Trump courted union leaders – most from the building trades – and promised a boundless future of booming infrastructure projects and higher pay. As a real estate developer and hotel baron, Trump's record with labor was sketchy, at best. Now he was posing as the best friend of working men and women.

But as reporter Zack Dowdy makes clear in his Top Story on Page 1, reality soon dawned. With a series of regulatory rollbacks and department-level moves, Republicans – always with Trump's blessing – sought to undercut the interests of labor in areas of pay, workplace safety, consumer protection and right-to-work initiatives (Pages 8).

Trump is such an exhausting public figure that it sometimes is difficult to remember that other news demands attention. As we report on Page 4, Teamsters provided essential assistance to victims of hurricane-



battered Puerto Rico. And, sadly, IBT brothers and sisters were affected directly – and tragically in some cases – when a gunman opened fire on a country music concert in Las Vegas, also noted on Page 4.

In the GCC/IBT, there were developments, too. Steve Sullivan, president of Boston Local 3-N, joined the general board as Atlantic Region representative (Page 11) and two of the union's most productive and beloved leaders, Ralph Meers, president of Local 527-S, Atlanta, and Jim Sherlock, who served for 44 years as financial secretary of Local 2-N, Newark, announced retirement (Page 5).

We note an innovative union-backed apprenticeship program launched by the Government Publishing Office. There are updates on the fall meeting of the North American Specialty Conference in Atlanta and upcoming Eastern Conference meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey (Page 11).

So, yes, the Washington whirlwind can be distracting, but union members are pressing ahead. As GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi says in his "As I See It" column on Page 2, we are the solid citizens who make this country work. "That's our heritage," Tedeschi said. Carry on. ■

COMMENTARY

Profiteers Hatching A 'Robot Economy'

With corporations socking away massive profits, and with the labor market fairly tight, why are worker's wages still stuck at miserly and even poverty levels?

One big reason is that corporate boards and CEOs have their heads stuck in a dreamy future. Nearly every economic sector is actually spending vast sums of money on workers – just not human workers.

While few Americans are aware of it, bosses are quietly investing in hordes of sophisticated autonomous robots powered by a cognitive technology called artificial intelligence – "AI."

Instead of paying a decent wage to you, corporations are buying millions of these cheap, thinking machines in order to take a shocking number of jobs from – well, from you.

Accountants, bank loan officers, financial analysts, insurance claims adjusters – all of these "numbers jobs" are already falling to AI robots that can calculate much faster and more accurately than people.

Skilled labor? Meet SAM, a robotic bricklayer that lays three times as many bricks in a day as humans can, displacing the jobs of three people. Crane and bulldozer operators are expected to be ousted by robots in the next 10 years.

Farmers? The first robot farm is opening in Japan, with automatons transplanting, watering, and harvesting the crop. There's also a shepherd robot that can run an entire livestock farm.

Also, the jobs of librarians, pharmacists, lawyers, air traffic controllers, doctors, teachers, hospital administrators, bartenders – and so many more – are targeted for massive displacement. In just the next five years, 6 percent of all U.S. jobs are expected to be roboticized!

Whether you're ready or not there's a robot in your future.

Far from saving you from doing extra labor, this new wave of robots is being brought into your workplace to rescue corporate bosses and investors from paying you to work for them.



You might think, not my workplace, for I'm not a factory worker – I've got a college degree and I work with my brain, so no contraption doing rote mechanical tasks can take my job.

These are "thinking machines," implanted with complex neural networks and superfast algorithmic computers that operate in sync, functioning much like the cluster of specialized cells

in the human brain. The brainy bots have a fast-evolving ability to watch, listen, and learn on their own, they can develop new abilities and are even able to produce and teach other robots.

Not only are they displacing flesh-and-blood workers on factory assembly lines, but millions of them are now being moved into professional, managerial, creative, and other occupations previously assumed to be the secure domains of higher-educated, higher-paid people, and as you can see from the list above – maybe even yours.

To be clear, it's not robots that are taking our jobs, but corporate profiteers.

They're creating a robot economy in order to displace you and me with inexpensive machines that don't demand higher wages or health care, don't take sick days or vacations, and don't organize unions, file lawsuits, or vote for pro-worker politicians.

It's to be a plutocratic utopia designed by and for the corporate elite – and they're pushing it hard and fast, hoping We the People don't wake up until it's too late.

Robots are not our enemy – the corporate bosses and bankers who own robots are doing this to us – and now is the time for all of us whom they're about to discard to rebel against their socially destructive greed. ■

Populist author, public speaker, and radio commentator Jim Hightower writes The Hightower Lowdown, a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America's ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at HightowerLowdown.org.

'Prudent' ILPF Vote Aimed at Assuring Viability

Participants in the Inter-Local Pension Fund voted late last year to reduce benefits in order to assure the viability of the fund – a move fund officials called “prudent and responsible.”

“On behalf of the ILPF board of trustees, I would like to thank members for casting your votes on the amendments to the fund,” said ILPF executive director Larry Mitchell. “This was a wise and necessary move that will preserve our fund and protect our members in retirement.”

Mitchell said changes to the plan were passed by a 77.6 percent margin. “We were gratified by the results,” he said.

Benefit changes will apply to all participants—active, vested, disability pensioners, retirees and surviving spouses receiving benefits, Mitchell said.

Here is a summary of the changes:

- The accrual rate for active participants and terminated vested participants will be reduced to 1.75 percent for all new and past contributions. With this change, subscribers with a full pension at age 65, will get back all contributions in 58 months instead of the current 50 months.
- The monthly benefit for retirees and surviving spouses will be reduced by 35 percent. This is comparable to the reduction for active and terminated vested participants.

Because members voted to support changes, the fund will be more than 80 percent funded – a level not seen since before the great recession in 2008, officials said.

“Now that we have stabilized the fund, our mission is to grow the number of active participants to steadily improve its funded percentage,” Mitchell said. “We are beginning a major program of outreach to our GCC/IBT brothers and sisters to encourage them to participate in the fund.”



Larry Mitchell

For employers wary of defined benefit pension plans, the ILPF represents a “perfect opportunity for GCC/IBT members to finally obtain a monthly pension benefit that they can enjoy for their retired life,” Mitchell said.

The new payment schedule puts the fund “back in the ‘green zone’ for the foreseeable future,” Mitchell said. With funding above 80 percent, he said, “we will be able to keep participants and attract new subscribers and ensure our benefits continue or improve.”

For calendar 2016, the ILPF had an investment gain of 9.7 percent and for the first 10 months of calendar 2017, gains were 12.2 percent, according to officials. Mitchell noted that the fund replaced its investment advisor and selected another with what the executive director called “strong credentials.”

Mitchell said he was optimistic about the fund’s potential. “We think 2018 will be an exciting year of growth for the Fund and we deeply appreciate your sup-

port and sacrifice to make this year possible,” he said.

Officers thanked participants for their support.

“We are grateful for the prudent and responsible action taken by our subscribers,” said ILPF board of trustees chairman Pat LoPresti, president of GCC/IBT Local 1-L, New York. “With this kind of support we are confident that the fund will flourish and give our members the benefits they deserve long into the future.”

Mitchell also expressed gratitude,

“We thank participants for their support in approving these important changes,” he said. “This was a difficult financial decision, and the trustees realize that everyone will have to adjust their budgets to accommodate these reductions.”

But, he said, the new benefit schedule will strengthen the fund and protect participants.

“We believe that these changes are necessary in order to strengthen the Fund for the long term,” he said. ■

IBT Hurricane Effort Was Not ‘Fake News’

During a disastrous 2016 hurricane season, Teamster volunteers aided victims in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico – and, in one case, triumphed over anti-union “fake news” phonies.

In Houston, Teamsters set up a staging location for distribution of essential supplies after Hurricane Harvey. “Everyone from Mayor [Sylvester] Turner, to government board chairs, to various community groups are looking to us for help and guidance on how to respond to this disaster,” said Roy Gillespie, human rights commissioner for IBT Joint Council 13.

When Hurricane Irma clobbered the Florida Keys, Teamsters helped unload trucks in 90-degree heat and high humidity.

“Teamsters are hardworking and grateful people,” said Stefan McLane, a member of Local 769, Miami. “Whatever we can do when the times call for it, let’s go out and do it, because that’s what being a Teamster is all about—helping each other out, building each other up, and being stronger together.”

Suffering worst was Puerto Rico. The island – a territory of the United States whose residents are U.S. citizens – was ravaged by Hurricane Maria. As part of a humanitarian mission organized by labor groups, Teamsters from across America boarded a flight from Newark, N.J. to aid in relief efforts. Other union members flew separately from Kentucky.

“The incredible outpouring of volunteerism that I have witnessed from our membership these past 72 hours is truly inspiring,” Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa said at the time. “We had hundreds of members reach out to us expressing their desire to donate their time and skills to the relief effort despite the challenges they will face in Puerto Rico due to the state of its infrastructure.”

continues on PAGE 13

CALL TO AID TEAMSTER FAMILIES OF LAS VEGAS SHOOTING VICTIMS

Dana Gardner was a devoted mother and faithful public servant with a dazzling smile. Friends recalled Rachael Parker as a vibrant, fun-loving person who treated everyone with respect.

The women, both Teamsters from California, died when a gunman opened fire Oct. 1 on a Las Vegas country music festival killing 58 and wounding nearly 500 others.

Gardner, 52, of IBT Local 1932 was a 26-year employee of San Bernardino County where she served as a deputy recorder in the Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk’s office. Kayla Gardner, one of Gardner’s three children, told the Las Vegas Review-Journal that her mother “was an amazing human being” who had a “contagious smile that would light up a room” and who “stood for everything good in the world.”

Parker, 33, a member of IBT Local 911, was a records technician at the Manhattan Beach Police Department, where she had worked for 10 years. “She was young, personable and full of life,” Carlos Rubio, 911 business agent, told PAI Union News Service. At a memorial service in her hometown of Cheney, Washington, Parker was recalled as “gifted, kind-hearted, caring,” according to KHQ television news.

The Las Vegas massacre began shortly after 10 p.m. when Stephen Paddock, 64, a Mesquite, Nevada, resident known as a high-stakes gambler, fired on concert-goers attending the Route 91 Harvest country music festival from his room on the 32nd floor of the nearby Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

Paddock shot himself as authorities closed in. Motivation remains under investigation.

The shooting took a toll on other Teamsters.

Also killed in the assault was Brett Schwanbeck, a retired Teamster truck driver from Arizona and former member of IBT Local 104, Phoenix. Bill Radtke, retired business agent of Local 848, Long Beach, California, reported that his grand-niece, Hannah Ahlers, was killed at the concert, according to the Southern California Teamster, a publication of IBT Joint Council 42. The paper also said that Al Ghilarducci, president of Local 14, Las Vegas, said that member Rodney Hosack, a worker at Nevada Beverage Co., was wounded.

In a website posting, the IBT said: “The Teamsters send our deepest condolences to those affected by this tragic incident.”

GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi joined Teamster officials in an appeal for contributions to aid victims.

“This was an awful event and a time for us to show solidarity, compassion and generosity,” Tedeschi said. “Please do what you can to help Teamster families and all who suffered because of this terrible act of violence.”

Donations can be made online at <https://www.gofundme.com/dr2ks2-las-vegas-victims-fund>

Union 'All-Stars' Retire after Years of 'Inspiring Service'

The success of labor organizations – GCC/IBT, and all others – depends on unity in the ranks and a spirit of selflessness and commitment at the leadership level. Two of GCC/IBT's most stalwart and dedicated local union officials are retiring after decades of service. The careers of Ralph Meers, longtime president of Local 527-S, Atlanta, and Jim Sherlock, veteran secretary treasurer of Local 8-N, Newark, New Jersey, provide examples of what President

George Tedeschi called "inspiring examples of devotion to our union's mission and membership."

To honor Meers and Sherlock, the GCC/IBT presented each a plaque hailing their "service and commitment to improving the lives of the men and women of this union." Tedeschi added: "Ralph and Jim are simply the best – decent, high-minded people with an incredible passion for their work. They are all-stars in every respect."



PHOTO BY PATRICIA MITCHELL/LOCAL 527-S

Ralph Meers

At 17, Ralph Meers went to work for a paper company in Atlanta – and soon got a profitable lesson on union power.

The International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, a forerunner of the GCC/IBT, was organizing the shop and management boosted pay in an effort to defeat the drive.

Meers went from \$1.25 an hour to \$1.50 – not a bad hike in the mid 1950s. One of his bosses said, "You didn't need that union, now did you, young man?"

But Meers wasn't easily swayed. "I'm thinking, 'Man, they got me 25 cents an hour. There's more to the union than I knew. If I get a chance, I'm going to vote for the union.'"

He got the chance.

The IPPAU drive succeeded – it took 18 months – and in 1957 Meers became a union member.

That was just the start.

Meers served as a shop steward for Local 527-S and then sergeant-at-arms, vice president and, finally, president – an office he held for more than 50 years until retiring this month.

Despite the dangers, Meers ran organizing campaigns throughout the South, defying management slurs and pressure tactics. In one instance, bosses told workers organizers were "union thugs" but Meers prevailed. "They were mighty foolish and just trying to put fear in us," he told the Communicator for a story in 2014.

In 1973, Meers formed the Specialties & Paper Products Union No. 527 Health & Welfare Trust Fund. He is past president of the Southern Conference of Specialty Unions, president emeritus of the North American Conference of Specialty Workers, and, in 1985, was cited by Workmen's Circle, a national equal rights organization, as "Outstanding Labor Leader of the Year."

Because he knew there would be times when management tactics left the union no choice but to strike, Meers was instrumental in forming a defense fund for specialty workers. Members at first were charged \$2 a month. Meers said he was asked what would happen if there were a strike before the defense fund had adequate funds. "We'll give people an I.O.U.," Meers answered.

You could trust Ralph Meers. He kept his word and always looked out for other people.

"He's an amazing man to work for," said Patricia Mitchell, who has been on the 527-S staff for 25 years and now is the local's 401(k) plan and dues administrator. "He is an inspiration."

Succeeding Meers, 78, as 527-S president is Eddie Williams, the former vice-president and secretary-treasurer who also serves as president of the specialty conference.

"He's been a father figure, a mentor, a friend," said Williams. "Every day he's the same person. When he tells you something, he's going to do it. His word means everything to him."

Williams said he hopes Meers goes only into "semi-retirement" – and Meers says he wants to stay involved.

He will do more gardening – Meers, who lives in Dallas, Georgia, outside Atlanta, is proud of his blueberries, blackberries and muscadine grapes – but organized labor is his real love.

Meers says he will go to the 527-S office two or three days a week and serve as unpaid secretary-treasurer.

On the chance that he has spare time, what will Meers do? "Some organizing for the union," he said.

– Fred Bruning

Jim Sherlock

Jim Sherlock was one of 14 children living with his parents in County Monaghan, Ireland, when an uncle from the United States visited – well dressed and with a bit of money to spend.

Impressed, Sherlock accepted his uncle's invitation to join him in New York. Sherlock moved abroad in 1948 – giving up farm life for a dishwasher's job in the Bronx.

One day, he heard two men talking about an opening at a rotogravure shop in Manhattan. Sherlock wasted no time. He hustled to the plant, got the job and soon was baling waste paper – his first print industry assignment.

In New York, Sherlock was a member of local 2-N of the International Pressmen and Assistants' Union. He served in the U.S. Army from 1949-51. By 1965, Sherlock had crossed the Hudson River to New Jersey and found work at the Newark News and then the Paterson Press, both Local 8-N shops.

Sherlock was a shop steward for 20 years and served as 8-N financial secretary for 44.

"...Brother Sherlock worked tirelessly to improve his local and the working conditions of its members by ensuring the financial stability of Local 8-N, negotiating strong contracts, handling grievances and arbitrations and fighting for worker rights on the shop floor," said a plaque presented Sherlock by the GCC/IBT.

On the national scene, Sherlock was active in the North American Newspaper Conference and served as eastern representative for 18 years. His wife, Barbara, said Sherlock had deep devotion to union work.

"I've never seen anyone so dedicated," she said. "It's unbelievable."

No matter when a member sought help, Barbara Sherlock said, her husband made himself available. "He's diligent in everything he does – a good man," she said.

Sherlock, 88, said he believed in the mission of organized labor.

"I believe in unions," he said. "I believe in helping the underdog."

Sherlock also believes in golf – big time.

For 20 years, he was secretary-treasurer of the United Printcraft International Golf Association, a union group that only recently stopped holding annual tournaments because of dwindling membership.

Sherlock is regularly on the links and last year notched his eighth career hole-in-one – with an eight iron on Nov. 8, at age 88 – "and of course there's Local 8-N, too," he said, commenting on the remarkable octogenarian accomplishment.

Even when on the golf course, Sherlock takes care of union business, said Ron Violand, Local 8-N president. "Jimmy's phone is always going off," Violand said. "He never wanted to be out of touch with members."

Though Sherlock intended to retire in 2016, he remained on the job after Larry Manzano, then president of Local 8-N, died after a brief illness. Sherlock even delayed a knee replacement operation so he would not be deterred "He always puts the union first," Violand said. "I can't say enough good things about Jim Sherlock."

He'll do knee surgery early this year, and then enjoy retirement – at last.

Anticipating the future, Sherlock left no doubt what he had in mind: "Even more golf."

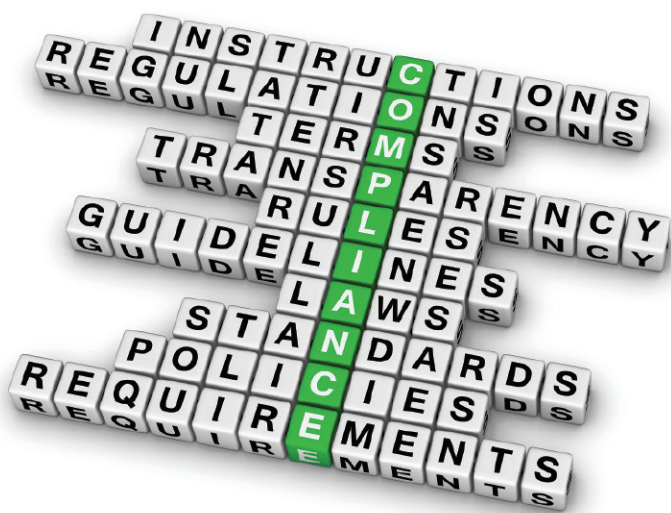
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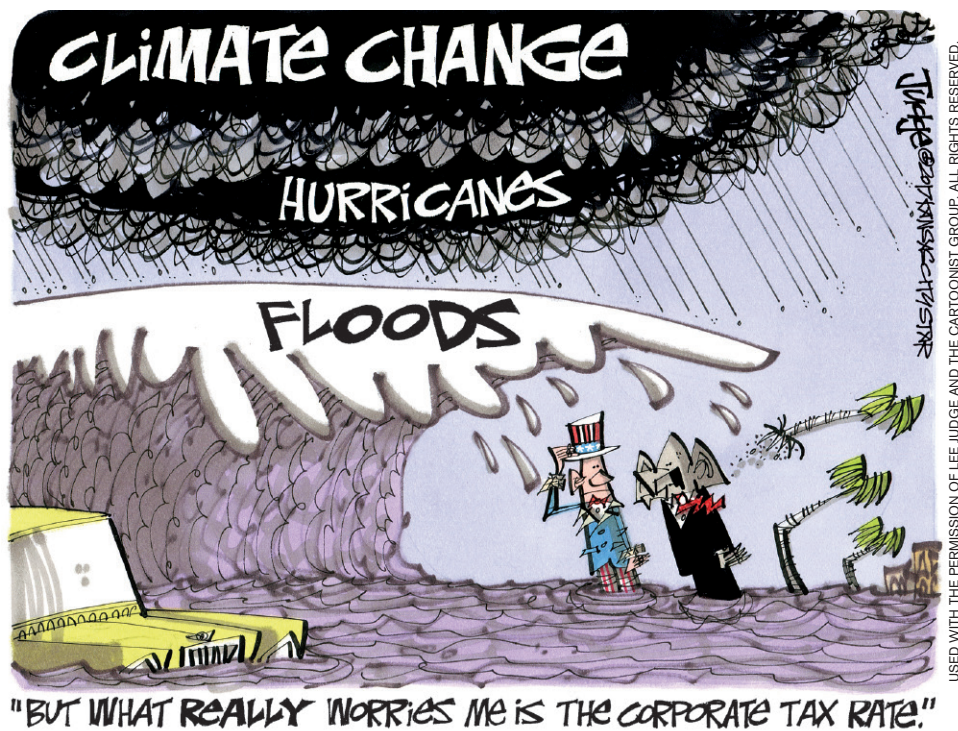
PHOTO BY COLLEEN MORGAN

If This is Populism, We Better Watch Out For What Comes Next

Deregulation. The word alone is likely to prompt a long winter's nap. This is the boring stuff of bureaucrats and lawyers – those who specialize in reading small print and decoding obscure government mandates. But Americans – and especially union people – better not fall asleep. In the name of government “reform,” and “draining the swamp,” Donald Trump and his GOP allies are undercutting basic labor, environmental and safety regulations – a short-sighted policy that puts working class people at particular risk. Trump’s “populism” has been suspect from the start and now we see the results. The lobbyists he railed against during the campaign have unprecedented access to cabinet level officials. Wall Street bigwigs belittled by Trump at rallies are among his most trusted advisors – people like Gary Cohn, the former Goldman Sachs exec who serves as director of the National Economic Council and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, another high-rolling Goldman alum.



Trump’s appointments unfailingly favor big business. In the fall, for instance, he appointed Alex M. Azar II, a former Eli Lilly drug company honcho, to head the Department of Health and Human Services – the very agency in charge of keeping tabs on the pharmaceutical industry. Still, little tops Trump’s deregulation campaign. First, Trump declared that for every new regulation passed, two would have to come off the books. That kind of arbitrary approach is always risky. Important decisions should be made on the merits of every case not the half-baked formula of a President who enjoys grabbing headlines more than mastering the facts. As we note on Page 8 of this edition, Trump and his anti-regulation hit squad have been busy. An order demanding accurate electronic record-keeping of workplace injuries was suspended by the Department of Labor – IBT General President Jim Hoffa denounced the move as “very troubling” – and the DOL also chucked the “persuader rule” imposed by President Barack Obama to keep management attorneys honest during union drives. Consumer protection is on the chopping block. So are safeguards against fraud by for-profit colleges. Restrictions on some cancer-causing industrial materials – gone, goodbye. Likewise, a mandate that overtime pay be assessed fairly. The list goes on and on. All this is done in the name of free enterprise. Keep government out of the marketplace. Let big business do what it sees fit. Trump and Republicans say American workers sooner or later will benefit. End the rules and hope for the best, in other words. Just be patient. Meanwhile, watch out for yourself. Our leaders in Washington can’t be bothered. ■



Point of View BY ROBERT REICH

Dynastic Wealth Mocks Work Ethic And Builds an American Aristocracy

White House National Economic Council director Gary Cohn, former president of Goldman Sachs, once said that “only morons pay the estate tax.”

What Cohn was getting at is how easy it is nowadays for the wealthy to pass their fortunes to their children, tax-free.

The estate tax applies only to estates over \$11 million per couple. And wealthy families stash away dollars above this into “dynastic” trust funds that escape additional taxes.

There’s another part of the tax code that Cohn might also have been referring to – capital gains taxes paid on the soaring values of the wealthy people’s stocks, bonds, mansions and works of art, when they sell them.

If the wealthy hold on to these assets until they die, the tax code allows their heirs to inherit them without paying any of these capital gains taxes. According to the Congressional Budget Office, this loophole saves heirs \$50 billion a year.

The estate and capital gains taxes were originally designed to prevent the growth of large dynasties in the U.S. and to reduce inequality. They’ve been failing to do that. The richest one-tenth of 1 percent of Americans now owns almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent.

America is now on the cusp of the largest inter-generational transfer of wealth in history. As wealthy boomers expire, an estimated \$30 trillion will go to their children over the next three decades.

Those children will be able to live off of the income these assets generate, and then leave the bulk of them – which in the intervening years will have grown far more valuable – to their own heirs, tax-free.

After a few generations of this, almost all of the nation’s wealth will be in the hands of a few thousand families.

Dynastic wealth runs counter to the ideal of America as a meritocracy. It makes a mockery of the notion that people earn what they’re worth in the market, and that economic gains should go to those who deserve them.



It puts economic power into the hands of a relatively small number of people and it creates a self-perpetuating aristocracy that is antithetical to democracy.

The last time America faced anything comparable to the concentration of wealth we face now, occurred at the turn of the last century.

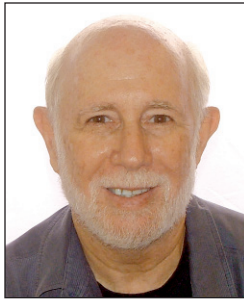
Then, President Teddy Roosevelt warned that “a small class of enormously wealthy and economically powerful men, whose chief object is to hold and increase their power,” could destroy American democracy. Roosevelt’s answer was to tax wealth. The estate tax was enacted in 1916 and the capital gains tax in 1922.

Taxing big wealth is necessary if we’re ever to get our democracy back, and make our economy work for everyone rather than a privileged few.

Maybe Gary Cohn is correct that only morons pay the estate tax. But if he and his boss, President Donald Trump, were smart and they cared about America’s future, they’d raise taxes on great wealth. Roosevelt’s fear of an American dynasty is more applicable today than ever before. ■

Robert B. Reich, secretary of labor in the Clinton Administration, is Chancellor’s Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley. He is the author of 14 books, including his latest, the best-seller, “Saving Capitalism,” and is co-creator of the award-winning documentary, “Inequality for All.” Reich is chairman of Common Cause, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and founding editor of American Prospect magazine. Reich’s latest documentary, “Saving Capitalism,” is available on Netflix.

GOP's Phony Consumerism



Once again, the GOP has struck a blow in favor of their financial overlords by killing a proposed rule that would have helped consumers fight big financial companies.

Vice President Mike Pence broke a 50-50 tie in the U.S. Senate to nix a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) regulation allowing class action suits against financial institutions.

Republicans argue that mandatory arbitration is the better alternative. And it is – for big business. For consumers, not so good.

Mandatory arbitration allows companies to pick their own referee – who need not even be a lawyer – and keep final decisions under wraps. And the process is expensive. Complainants may have to travel to hearings at their own expense and arbitrators are pricey – \$200 to \$300 an hour. To top it off, a study published in *Inside Counsel* magazine found that companies are likely to pay lower damages in arbitration than court cases.

Wall Street millionaires – many in top government positions thanks to our “populist” President, Donald J. Trump – see nothing wrong with the system and claim judgments in class action lawsuits inevitably are passed along to the consumer.

It's an old – and unconvincing – argument. But that didn't stop a Trump administration lawyer from rolling it out again in the recent Wells Fargo customer abuse case.

Under pressure from bosses, bank employees set up more than 3.5 million unauthorized

credit card accounts and pressured thousands of customers to buy unnecessary auto insurance – an unconscionable move that plunged thousands to unmanageable debt.

CFPB went to work on behalf of customers.

And what do you know? Here was Keith Noreika, a former Wells Fargo lawyer now Trump's acting head of the office of Office of Comptroller of Currency, stepping up to argue against the public and in favor of his old employer. If the banks lost, Noreika claimed, it would have no choice but to raise credit card rates.

Noreika's phony consumerism was rejected and the CFPB fined Wells Fargo \$185 million.

Customers got a settlement – far less than the bank made on its shady dealings – but consumers who might have sued in hopes of a better deal were blocked in many cases because contract language banned class action suits.

Look, nobody likes to read the fine print in financial agreements but the moral of this story is study it, anyway. The banks will never give you a break. And the Trump administration? For all their talk about honoring ordinary Americans, this bunch doesn't have our back. Stay alert, folks. We're on our own. ■

Guest Spot

BY STEPHEN SULLIVAN

Are We Our Own Worst Enemy?

The most recent numbers from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics put union membership at 10.7 percent of the overall workforce, down from 20.1 percent in 1983 when the agency started collecting data.

Media commentators, college professors and politicians routinely take note of organized labor's perilous decline and identify the enemies: Corporate greed, right-to-work laws, and those darn Koch brothers.

Those familiar foes – and other outside forces – surely play a role in the challenges facing the labor movement. However, it's time that we acknowledge an indisputable fact: We have powerful adversaries, yes, but the real problem is us – you and me.

Anti-worker greed and Washington's pro-business agenda should be no surprise. Companies are out to make a bundle and politicians often do the bidding of wealthy corporate contributors. Big business interests and their political allies are only behaving as expected. They don't like unions. Not exactly big news.

But what about us? Are we living up to our duties as union members and leaders? Are we stuck in neutral when we should be taking action?

Joining the union, we pledged allegiance to a basic principle – that together, in solidarity, we can achieve goals impossible as individuals. But have we lived up to our pledge?

We can't continue blaming our problems only on corporate greed and political self-interest. The primary reason union rolls are dwindling is because active membership participation is

on the decline. This is a systemic problem. It's called apathy – and has nothing to do with our opponents on Wall Street or Capitol Hill.

Attendance at local union meetings is at record lows. Unions are forced to reduce meeting quorums and it always seems to be the same small group of brothers and sisters who get involved.

If this continues, our collective power will slip like sand through our fingers.

The fix could not be any easier. Get to a union meeting. Participate, ask questions, take responsibility. If you already are among the loyal members who show up – great. Now do more. Offer your time and services. If you are still on the sidelines, you better get in the game – quickly.

Let's live up to our sacred pledge. Support your local union, the international GCC/IBT and our Teamster colleagues. Members may not agree on every issue, but in times like these we must stand together and make sure unions survive. Believe me, if the labor movement disappears, you'll miss it when it's gone. ■

Stephen Sullivan is president of Local 3-N, Boston, and newly appointed Atlantic Region representative to the GCC/IBT General Board.



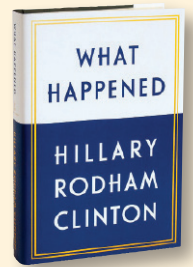
All the Best

Print

What Happened

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Deep breath, she told herself. Meet the moment, no matter how difficult. It was Jan. 20, 2017, and Hillary Clinton was about to watch from the Inaugural platform as Donald J. Trump took the oath of office. With good reason, Clinton thought it would be her hand on the Bible, her voice promising to carry out the awesome duties of the world's most powerful office. But, with a raw populist message, Trump confounded the experts and soon would become the 45th President of the United States. In her candid book, Clinton tells “What Happened” – the remarkable set of circumstances that allowed perhaps the most prepared candidate in history to be undone by perhaps the least. It's a good read with little self-pity and ample evidence of Clinton's resilient spirit but, for many, the ending can be summed up with a word appearing often in the sarcastic tweets of President Trump: Sad. *Simon & Schuster, \$30.*



Music

Everybody Knows

Stephen Sills and Judy Collins

Stephen Sills and Judy Collins were briefly a couple – way back in 1968. It didn't work and they went separate ways – he with Crosby, Stills & Nash; she as an exquisite solo vocalist who achieved equal fame. This album – taking its title from the late Leonard Cohen's wistful and unforgettable tune – marks the first time Sills and Collins have recorded together. Harmonies are exquisite, voices strong, and a listener can't help but wonder if, a half century later, the old flame still flickers. Maybe that's what “Everybody Knows.” *Wildflower Records, \$13.59, Amazon.com*



Video

Hell or High Water

David Mackenzie, director

Set in the sparse plains of west Texas, “Hell or High Water” starts out as a bank robbery caper by a couple of hard-pressed brothers, Toby and Tanner, but turns into a piercing saga of working class suffering and despair. Signs of recession-era struggle are everywhere – houses in foreclosure, empty shopping malls – and the brothers, played by Chris Pine and Ben Foster, face a financial crisis of their own. But grand larceny is a crime and a crusty old Texas Ranger (Jeff Bridges) is determined to bring Toby and Tanner to justice no matter their sad story. Still on the loose, of course, are the Wall Street rascals who plunged the nation into economic turmoil 10 years ago. Maybe Bridges will nab them in a sequel. *Lionsgate, \$9.96, Amazon.com*



Internet

Library of Congress

www.loc.gov

All those folks on the far right who want to drown government in the bathtub ought to take a look at this gem of a website built by the Library of Congress. On a recent day, users were able to read the papers of Ulysses S. Grant, research baseball-inspired music (including a 1912 tune called, “The Red Sox Speed Boys”), check out a vintage, Depression-era WPA poster and tap into a discussion of the classic horror film, “Blair Witch Project.” Loudmouths in Congress who endlessly trash government should spend a little more time in the Library.



Year of Big Talk, Few Labor Gains

Continued from page 1

candidates in this year's mid-term elections. That is crucial."

Analysts say there is no shortage of evidence that Trump has assumed a traditional GOP stance on labor.

Trump's pro-business appointments to the National Labor Relations Board – two have been confirmed, one awaits Senate approval – also are widely viewed as worrisome by union leaders. Adding to the concern was Trump's choice of private-sector lawyer Peter Robb as NLRB general counsel to replace Richard Griffin, who was appointed by President Barack Obama.

"...Robb's nomination and confirmation would set the stage for the board to reverse many of the pro-labor rulings issued by the Obama board," rejoiced the pro-management law firm Jackson/Lewis on its website.

Critics complain that Trump has moved to roll back a Department of Labor rule extending salary limits for workers previously denied overtime pay. He has delayed implementation of job safety and health rules that would limit exposure for workers to cancer-causing substances such as beryllium and silicone and wants to slash the budget of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Trump's Supreme Court pick, Neil Gorsuch, could be the swing vote that outlaws agency fees from non-members to public sector unions, a case that came before the court but ended in a 4-4 tie in 2016 because of the death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

"One year after an election it would like to forget, organized labor is taking it on the chin from a President who won more union households than any other Republican during the previous three decades," said Politico employment and immigration reporter Timothy Noah in a recent story.

For many GCC/IBT leaders, Trump's actions come as no surprise.

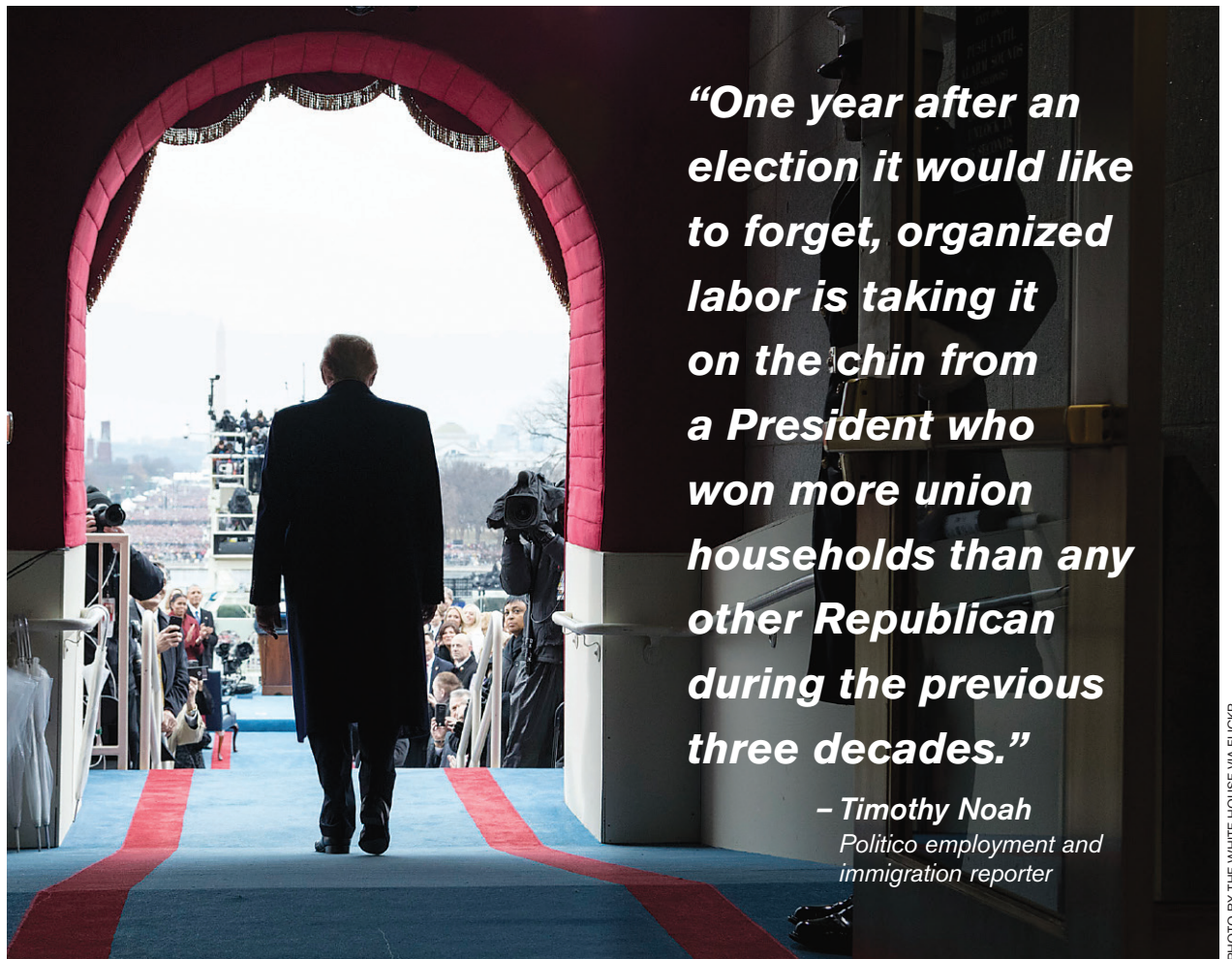
"I'd give him a 'C,'" said Joe Inemer, president of Local 16-N in Philadelphia and the 1,400-member-strong District Council 9. "He hasn't come through."

Particularly cynical, said Inemer, was Trump's claim that he would bring back thousands of coal mining jobs to an industry facing stiff environmental opposition, competitive pressures from natural gas, wind and solar and vast workplace changes tied to automation.

"Unless something drastic happens, people are not going back to coal," Inemer said. "He made a lot of promises but will not be able to deliver."

In his first weeks as President, Trump sought to portray himself as pro-labor.

He embraced construction trade unions with his



"One year after an election it would like to forget, organized labor is taking it on the chin from a President who won more union households than any other Republican during the previous three decades."

– Timothy Noah
Politico employment and immigration reporter

PHOTO BY THE WHITE HOUSE VIA FLOKOR

"America First" mantra but made no similar gesture toward millions of other organized workers – teachers, civil service employees, health care and hospitality workers and those in a wide variety of blue collar fields.

Meanwhile, boasts of an enormous surge in manufacturing and booming infrastructure projects have not materialized. "His promises left people in the lurch," said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka at the labor organization's October convention in St. Louis, according to Press Associates Union News Service.

Nevertheless, polls show that Trump's support is holding up among his most ardent followers.

David Baloga, president of Local 137-C in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, which has more than 400 members, said many rank-and-file members continue to be impressed by Trump and the bullish stock market he claims as an accomplishment.

Baloga said dramatic gains on Wall Street that began under Obama and have continued in the first year of Trump's administration will help his members. "With the stock market [increases], people have a positive economic outlook. Small business and pensions and 401(k) plans are doing really well and, hopefully, our pension will do well from that."

Others warn that union members must not be distracted by Trump's claims of unparalleled economic progress.

"If I could give him lower than an 'F' I would," said Frank Rak, a retired member of Local 3-N, Boston, and former recording secretary of the North American Newspaper Conference who follows current events and policy issues closely. "He has nothing to show for anything . . . he hasn't delivered infrastructure jobs. Anybody who wants to recreate the economy of the 1950s is delusional."

In a Washington Post column, commentator Harold Meyerson said that if Trump and Republicans succeed in undercutting the labor movement – a long-time GOP goal – the nation would suffer enormously. "Anyone who hopes for American greatness must also hope that labor has the strength and smarts to survive what's coming in the Trump years," Meyerson said.

Tedeschi agreed. "We cannot sit back quietly and let organized labor suffer one setback after another," he said. "We have to pay attention, become politically active and stand up for our rights. If we want change in Washington, it's up to us to make it happen." ■

Zachary Dowdy is a Newsday reporter and editorial unit vice president of Local 406-C, Long Island.

GOP Unraveling Worker-Friendly Rules of Obama Era

The idea seemed simple. Under a 2016 OSHA order aimed at efficient record-keeping, employers would have to report workplace injuries by electronic means.

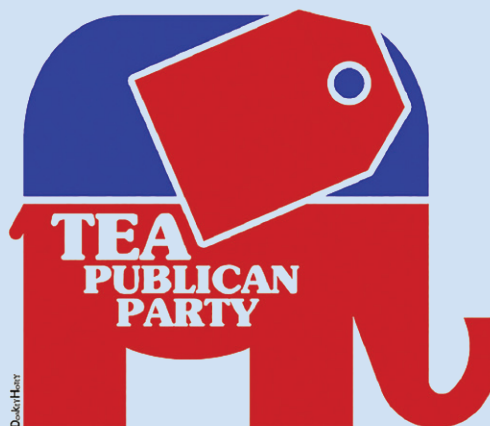
But that rule – IBT general president James Hoffa called it "vital" to the prevention of "serious and life-threatening injury" – was suspended by the Trump administration's Department of Labor.

It was far from the only attack on Obama-era protections. Here are some of the worker-friendly rules delayed, relaxed, overturned or put in jeopardy by President Trump and allies on Capitol Hill:

- Trump and Congress blocked the Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces rule requiring that federal contractors note violations of labor laws, correct dangerous situations and disclose executive orders regarding pay, safety, collective bargaining and civil rights.

- The Labor Department is rolling back a rule extending salary limits for workers previously denied overtime pay.

- DOL also snuffed the "persuader rule" demanding that anti-union lawyers report activities during organizing drives.



- White House delayed implementation of the "Fiduciary Rule" requiring financial advisers to act in the best interest of clients.

- The Senate axed a consumer protection bill allowing class action suits against banks and credit card companies.

- Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is weakening protections for students defrauded by for-profit colleges and reviewing, she says, 150 other regulations.

- Regulations governing limits on the mineral beryllium – linked to lung disease and widely used in the construction and shipbuilding industries – have been curtailed. Also stalled is enforcement of rules on the cancer-causing material crystalline silica.

A few months ago, President Trump said in an address that "for too long, American workers were forgotten by their government" and that he was offering a "new vision."

As Trump and anti-regulatory Republicans continue unraveling safety and economic protections, labor leaders say that "new vision" looks like more of the same: Protect big business. Everyone else, beware.

DONKEYHOTIE VIA GOOGLE IMAGES



IBT.ORG VIA GOOGLE IMAGES

Labor, Allies Battle 'Union-Killing' Right-to-Work

Anti-labor Republicans in the House and Senate continue pushing for national right-to-work legislation and 28 states already have passed their own r-t-w laws but union leaders and Capitol Hill allies are pushing back – hard.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) and Rep. Brad Sherman (D-California) sponsored measures outlawing “right-to-work” laws which critics see as merely a way to further diminish union strength.

“If we want to protect workers and expect a level playing field in international trade deals, we need to start at home – and that means banning states from imposing restrictions that prevent workers from joining together to fight for their future,” Warren said.

Right-to-work laws allow employees protected by collective bargaining agreements to refuse paying union dues while enjoying contract protections. IBT General President James Hoffa and other labor leaders say the laws are intended to destroy the union movement.

“Teamsters in the U.S. are mobilized against the spread of so-called ‘right-to-work’ laws in the states because they depress wages by undercutting union power,” Hoffa said.

GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi also denounced the Republican right-to-work campaign. He said the laws were “union killers” that benefit only big business and the “free riders” who refuse to pay dues.

“These free riders want the protection of the grievance procedure – which unions must provide by law – and the benefits of contract negotiations without paying their fair share,” Tedeschi said. “That means a greater burden falls on hard-working union members. Right-to-work is unjust and cannot be tolerated.”

Kurt Freeman, GCC/IBT secretary-treasurer/vice president echoed the sentiments of Hoffa and Tedeschi. Right-to-work laws represent a “race to the bottom” and will “widen the income gap destroying the middle class,” Freeman said.

Right-to-work has become an issue in efforts by President Donald Trump to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Act (NAFTA). Canada has insisted that the United States drop right-to-work laws, arguing that weaker unions would drive down wages and put Canadian workers at a disadvantage.

“I applaud the Canadians for making this a trade issue,” Hoffa said. “We agree that these laws incentivize employers to relocate from Canadian provinces that don’t allow ‘free-riders’. I urge the Canadian negotiators to hold their ground on their progressive labor text and for the U.S. negotiators to take this issue seriously.”

Analysts say it is unlikely that Trump would meet Canada’s demands but the gesture of solidarity underscored the importance of right-to-work concerns on both sides of the border.

“Canadians...argue that right-to-work laws unfairly weaken American unions and thereby give U.S. businesses an improper advantage over Canada’s,” said labor expert Steven Greenhouse in the Los Angeles Times.

But, said Greenhouse, who is writing a book on the future of unions, Trump has made clear he will not budge. As a candidate in 2016, Trump complained about wage stagnation but has done little to improve conditions since becoming President, Greenhouse noted. “Trump hasn’t done a thing to lift workers’ wages,” Greenhouse said.

MLK ‘STOP THIS FRAUD’

Martin Luther King, U.S. civil rights leader and recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, denounced right-to-work laws in 1961. Here are his remarks:

“In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work.’ It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone...Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped. Our weapon is our vote.”

"THE LABOR MOVEMENT WAS THE PRINCIPAL FORCE THAT TRANSFORMED MISERY AND DESPAIR INTO HOPE AND PROGRESS."

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



It's a Risky World but Workers May Finally Get a Break

Things may be looking up for the American worker – and about time.

A report in the New York Times says median wages have been increasing “on a sustained path” not seen since the Clinton-era Internet boom.

No question, the good old days are over when a high school grad could land a factory job, make a decent living and retire 50 years later with a pension, says Times economic columnist Eduardo Porter. It's a far more risky work world, for sure.

But, Porter says, stagnation is over and “wages have regained virtually all” the ground lost during



the great recession. And, he says, the trend is apt to continue.

“...after being pummeled by a furious mix of globalization, strangled by monetary policy that has restrained economic activity in the name of

low inflation, and slapped around by government hostility toward unions and labor regulations” the American worker “may finally be in for a break.”

In fact, Porter says, the worry now is that a shortage of workers could slow the momentum – another reason why Washington's anti-immigrant policies make no sense.

“If the goal is to protect economic growth and to give American workers a shot at a new golden age of employment, closing the door on the world economy is not the solution.”

Pro-Business Attorney to NLRB

In another sign of Republican anti-union sentiment, the GOP-led Senate confirmed Peter Robb, a pro-business attorney who helped decertify air traffic controllers in 1981, as general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board.

The 49-46 party line vote drew criticism from dissenting Democrats.

“Let's be clear about how Mr. Robb has chosen to spend his professional life: Helping management close plants and cut jobs, suing unions, delaying workers' rights to collectively bargain, and defending companies that violate workplace safety and fair pay laws,” said Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.)

Robb, nominated by President Donald Trump to replace general counsel Richard Griffin, an Obama administration appointment, is expected to pursue an anti-worker agenda as the NLRB's top legal officer, according to the National Law Review.

“As a long-time management-side labor lawyer, Mr. Robb's appointment is anticipated to result in cases being brought before the Board that will provide vehicles to reverse many of the pro-employee, pro-labor decisions that were decided during former GC Griffin's tenure, particularly now that the Board is comprised of a majority of Republican appointees,” the Law Review said.



CEO Pay Slips – What a Pity

If the big boss seems a little edgy lately, this may be why.

The average compensation of CEOs at America's 350 largest companies – including stock options turned into cash – was only \$15.6 million in 2016, according to a report by the Economic Policy Institute.

That's down from \$16.3 million the year before.

Not only that, the CEO-to-worker pay ratio slipped, too, EPI researchers found.

Latest figures show that CEOs make 270 times more than the average worker. In 2015, top execs outdistanced regular folks by 286-to-1. The ratio in 2014 was 299-to-1.

A little history helps put things in perspective.

Back in 1965 when there still was some sort of sane relationship between pay in the executive suite and on the shop floor, top management made 20 times more than workers. As late as 1989 the ratio was 59-to-1.

“What is clear is that CEO pay is still dramatically higher than it's been in the past, and far higher than the pay of typical workers, college graduates, or even the top 0.1 percent of wage earners,” said Lawrence Mishel, researcher and former EPI president who worked on the report with assistant Jessica Schieder.

When compensation is so lopsided, results are inevitable, Mishel added. “Simply put, money that goes to the executive class is money that does not go to other people.”



Jobs Lost to Tribune's New 'Business Model'

Tribune Publishing is cutting staff – again.

In May, the Chicago-based media giant eliminated one-third of the work force at its recently acquired San Diego Union-Tribune. Most of the jobs – 178 – were in printing and delivery.

Then came word that Tribune was eliminating approximately two dozen positions at its flagship paper, the Chicago Tribune. Ten were in the newsroom.

Chicago Tribune

“We are making significant strides toward establishing a business model that will allow us to grow as we transition our newsroom for a digital audience,” said Bruce Dold, publisher and editor-in-chief of the Tribune when announcing the layoffs. “We do all of this with the focus on supporting our award-winning journalism.”

However, commentary in the online publication, Chicago News, noted that Tribune – or, “Tronc,” as the company now calls itself – was flush enough to buy 38 newspapers from the Sun-Times suburban chain in 2014 and that the Chicago Tribune, itself, acknowledged printing more news pages than it did before the recession of 2008-2012. In September, Tronc closed a deal on the New York Daily News.

Job cuts have “nothing to do with the prosperity of the company,” the Chicago News said, and most to do with “satisfying their shareholders.”

The commentary concluded: “The layoffs were due to the company valuing their expansion more than their workers...”

Wages Key in New NAFTA

Union leaders from Canada, Mexico and the United States – including IBT General President James Hoffa – are pressing for a strong, pro-worker North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) as the Trump administration seeks to renegotiate the 24-year-old trade pact.

If the agreement comes up short, labor officials said, they will fight to defeat it.

Several pro-labor members of Congress – all Democrats – said they, too, were monitoring the three-nation NAFTA talks closely.

At a joint press conference with union officials, U.S. representatives Rosa DeLauro, Connecticut; Sander Levin, Michigan; Bobby Scott, Virginia; and Keith Ellison, Minnesota, said NAFTA has cost U.S. jobs – just as was feared when the pact went into effect Jan. 1, 1994.

Wages are a particular concern, said labor leaders who argue that NAFTA puts American workers at significant disadvantage.

“We want to have a NAFTA that increases standards across the board,” Hoffa said. “Wages at Goodyear [tire plant in Mexico] “are \$1.78 an hour. Who can compete with that?”

Originally scheduled to be complete in October, renegotiation talks have been extended into 2018. (PAI Union News Service contributed to this item.)



APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AT GPO

Inspired by the successful program at its Washington, D.C., headquarters, the U.S. Government Publishing Office at the Stennis Space Center in southern Mississippi will be offering a way for workers to develop their skills – and, ultimately, increase their earning potential.

GCC/IBT leaders recently established the apprenticeship program in anticipation of growth at the Stennis facility. It is expected to get underway in March.

“The facility is growing in size, so we figured that with new machinery coming in we should go ahead and get ahead of the curve and develop a program,” said Melvin Prailow, secretary treasurer of GCC/



IBT 1-C, Washington, D.C., and chairman of the Joint Council of Unions at the GPO.

The goal of the program is multifold. It will work to recruit new members, train workers on

more efficient machinery and provide them an opportunity to earn higher wages.

There are about 125 employees at the facility who are eligible to apply for the program.

“It’s a beautiful tool for the recruitment of our union members because they know we are actively out here pursuing ways to improve their livelihood,” Prailow said.

“And it’s about maximizing earning potential – and a lot of the time, the only way you can do that is to train for other skills,” he added. “...You should have an opportunity to grow as the agency grows.”

Other Washington D.C. local presidents involved in the effort included Howard Brown, Local 1-C; James Mullarkey, Local 4-B; and Jeffrey Jackson, Local 713-S.

Prailow said he is especially grateful for the assistance of GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi and Secretary-Treasurer/Vice President Kurt Freeman, who attended the meeting with the agency.

“This effort really made me hopeful that if there is anything we want to do in the future, all we need to do is get people together and start the conversation to get the ball rolling forward for change,” he said.

For more information about the apprenticeship program, call Melvin Prailow at 202-321-8921.

3-N’S SULLIVAN JOINS GENERAL BOARD

Veteran GCC/IBT leader Stephen Sullivan is the newest member of the union’s general board.

Starting as a GCIU pressman more than 20 years ago, Sullivan worked his way up the ranks from shop steward to president of Local 3-N, Boston, and now also serves as GCC/IBT general board member representing the Atlantic Region.

GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi appointed Sullivan to the position late last year after Kurt Freeman, the former Atlantic Region representative, became GCC/IBT secretary-treasurer/vice president upon retirement of Robert Lacey.

“Steve is a devoted union leader who always puts the interests of members first,” Tedeschi said. “We welcome him as the newest member of the general board. He will be an outstanding Atlantic Region representative.”

Other regions represented on the General Board include Mountain, Central, Western and Canadian.

Sullivan said he is eager to join the GCC/IBT general board and grateful to Tedeschi, Freeman and Lacey for providing the guidance that allowed him to develop skills essential to union leadership.

“I’m quite certain that I arrived on their radar over the past few years as a result of being a fairly new officer charged with leadership of a prestigious local union chartered in 1896,” Sullivan said. “The support I’ve received from President Tedeschi and everyone at the conference has been tremendous.”

Sullivan said he is honored to serve with veteran board members who “represent proud places with generations of history and optimism for the future of our members.”



Stephen Sullivan



SOLIDARITY URGED AT SPECIALTY CONFERENCE

Delegates to the North American Specialty Conference meeting in Atlanta discussed common concerns and addressed issues confronting organized labor – including the push for a national right-to-work law and hostility stirred by anti-union elected officials and their big money backers.

Approximately 50 conference members hailed guest speaker Rep. Dewey McClain, a Georgia state representative and former linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons professional football team who also serves as president of the North Georgia Labor Council

McClain urged representatives to show solidarity during a time of Republican dominance in Washington and to oppose anti-union sentiment common in many parts of the country.

Other speakers included Georgia State Senator, Vincent Fort, who conducted an unsuccessful recent campaign for the mayoralty of Atlanta.

“He gave an inspiring speech about how labor has to do more to get their members involved and to hold elected officials accountable,” said Ralph Meers, who retired this month after more than a half-century as president of Local 527-S, Atlanta, and also serves as president emeritus of the specialty conference.

Also speaking at the gathering was Charlie Flemming, president of the Georgia AFL-CIO. Flemming emphasized the need of unions to “have more influence in the rural areas where the rural politicians are killing us,” Meers said.

Despite the challenges faced in the South, Meers said delegate reports were generally upbeat.

But, Meers said, organizing continues to be difficult.

“We have to recognize that organizing – when you have your hands tied behind your back – is extremely difficult,” he said. “The laws are unjust and unfair. We have to go out there and just keep trying. “It’s a continuous battle, but some locals are doing good despite the difficulty that we are all facing.”

Janice Bort, secretary-treasurer of Local 72-C, Washington, D.C., and secretary of the specialty conference, said membership education is “badly needed in these times of corporate takeovers in printing.”

Bort added: “A great deal of the discussion involved the need of coordinated bargaining across the country for printing and packaging companies in GCC/IBT. It is imperative that our locals communicate and know what is going on in the other negotiations with these corporations.”

EASTERN CONFERENCE SLATED FOR MAY

This year’s Eastern Conference in May will focus not only on organizing during a time of ultra conservative political leadership, but also on sexual harassment – a topic that has recently been a focus of intense media attention.

“Sexual harassment is a very big topic today and we will have speakers there addressing it, as well as a speaker from the Labor Museum,” said Harry Selnow, conference vice president and president of GCC/IBT Local 612-M, Caldwell, New Jersey.

The conference will be held in Atlantic City, May 6-8. Other speakers will include representatives from the Inter-Local Pension Fund and Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

“It’s an entertaining and educational conference,” Selnow said. “Great for both the new and the old.”

Letters will be sent to members this month with details on registration and hotel reservations. For more information, contact Selnow at 973-227-6801.



Local Stops wants to hear from you. If your GCC/IBT local has been involved in organizing efforts, community outreach or volunteer work, e-mail a brief summary to reporter Dawn Hobbs at dawnhobbs@cox.net or call 805-284-5351.

La première année du mandat de Trump apporte peu d'espoir aux syndicats

Par Zachary Dowdy
Collaboration spéciale au Communicator

Un an après que Donald Trump a promis, entre autres, de créer des emplois en investissant dans les infrastructures et d'en finir avec les accords de libre-échange qu'il disait injustes pour les travailleurs américains, les dirigeants de la CCG-FIT estiment que les résultats du Président sont loin d'être à la hauteur de sa rhétorique.

Plusieurs affirment avoir observé patiemment la situation, alors que les résultats de Trump en ce qui concerne les questions syndicales empirent et les travailleurs appréhendent la prochaine loi, nomination ou ordonnance exécutive contre leurs intérêts.

« Je ne trouve pas qu'il a accompli grand-chose, affirme James Longbone, président de la section locale 1-M à St. Paul, Minnesota, qui regroupe 500 employés du Minneapolis Star Tribune et d'autres usines. Il donne ce qu'il veut à ses riches copains et abandonne tous les autres. »

Selon J. Longbone, Trump a surtout échoué à tenir les promesses qu'il avait faites aux syndicats.

Pendant la campagne de 2016, beaucoup de ses propres membres avaient pourtant préféré Trump à Hillary Clinton, son adversaire démocrate, parce que le promoteur milliardaire prenait des positions pro-syndicales comme le retrait de l'Accord de partenariat transpacifique, ce que Trump a fait, et la renégociation de l'Accord de libre-échange nord-américain, un processus qui n'avance guère.

« Nous avons clairement essayé, pendant la campagne de 2016, de mettre en garde les membres syndiqués contre les posi-

tions pro-syndicales de Trump, a déclaré George Tedeschi, président de la CCG-FIT. Il a un passé chaotique avec les syndicats et n'a pas perdu de temps à s'aligner sur les politiques du parti républicain. Nous devons à présent rester vigilants et voter cette année pour des candidats favorables aux syndicats lors des élections de mi-mandat. C'est crucial. »

Selon les analystes, il y a beaucoup de preuves montrant que Trump a adopté une position républicaine traditionnelle à l'endroit des syndicats.

Les nominations pro-affaires de Trump au National Labor Relations Board (NLRB ou conseil national des relations du travail) – deux ont été confirmées et une attend l'aval du Sénat – sont aussi largement jugées préoccupantes par les chefs syndicaux. Et le choix par Trump de Peter Robb, un avocat du secteur privé, comme conseiller général du NLRB pour remplacer Richard Griffin, qui avait été nommé par le président Barack Obama, ne fait que renforcer les inquiétudes.

Les critiques se plaignent que Trump a décidé d'éliminer une règle du Département du travail qui relevait le plafond salarial des travailleurs dont les heures supplémentaires n'étaient pas payées auparavant. Il a retardé la mise en œuvre de règles sur la santé et la sécurité au travail qui limiteraient l'exposition des travailleurs à des matières cancérigènes comme le béryllium et le silicone, et il veut réduire le budget de l'Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA ou Administration de la santé et sécurité au travail).

Le choix par Trump de Neil Gorsuch pour la Cour suprême pourrait apporter le vote décisif qui remet en cause la légalité de

la pratique syndicale consistant à percevoir des cotisations auprès des travailleurs non syndiqués pour en faire profiter les syndicats du secteur public, une cause qui a été portée devant les tribunaux et mais fini par une égalité de quatre voix contre quatre en 2016 en raison du décès du juge Antonin Scalia.

Pour beaucoup de dirigeants de la CCG-FIT, les mesures prises par Trump ne sont pas surprenantes.

« Je lui donnerai un C, affirme Joe Inemer, président de la section locale 16-N de Philadelphie et du conseil de district 9 qui compte 1 400 membres. Il a échoué. »

Selon J. Inemer, Trump est particulièrement cynique en affirmant qu'il ramènerait des milliers d'emplois du secteur du charbon dans une industrie qui se heurte à la farouche opposition des environnementalistes, à la forte concurrence du gaz naturel et de l'énergie éolienne et solaire, et aux profonds changements engendrés par l'automatisation du travail. « Il a fait énormément de promesses mais ne sera pas capable de les tenir. »

Au cours des premières semaines de sa présidence, Trump a cherché à se présenter comme un pro-syndical.

Il a séduit les syndicats de la construction avec son slogan « America First » mais n'a pas fait le même geste pour les millions d'autres travailleurs syndiqués – enseignants, fonctionnaires, employés du secteur des soins de santé et des hôpitaux et tous les autres cols bleus.

Entre-temps, la pléthore de projets annoncés dans le secteur manufacturier et celui des infrastructures ne s'est pas concrétisée. « Les gens se sont sentis abandonnés », a déclaré Richard Trumka, président de la

FAT-COI lors de la convention d'octobre du syndicat à Saint-Louis, comme l'a rapporté le Press Associates Union News Service.

Dans les rangs syndiqués, beaucoup préviennent les membres de ne pas se laisser distraire par les formidables progrès économiques revendiqués par Trump.

« Si je pouvais lui donner moins qu'un F, je le ferais, affirme Frank Rak, un membre retraité de la section locale 3-N de Boston et ancien secrétaire de séance de la North American Newspaper Conference qui suit de près l'actualité et les questions politiques. Il n'a rien à présenter pour quoi que ce soit. . . il n'a pas créé d'emplois dans les infrastructures. Ceux qui voulaient restaurer l'économie des années 1950 ont perdu leurs illusions. »

Dans une tribune du Washington Post, le commentateur Harold Meyerson a écrit que si Trump et les républicains réussissent à saper le mouvement syndical – un objectif que le parti républicain poursuit depuis longtemps – la nation souffrira énormément. « Quiconque souhaite la grandeur de l'Amérique doit aussi espérer que le mouvement syndical aura la force et l'intelligence pour survivre à ce que réservent les années Trump. »

G. Tedeschi abonde en ce sens. « Nous ne pouvons pas rester tranquillement assis et laisser le mouvement syndical essayer un revers après l'autre. Nous devons être vigilants, devenir politiquement actifs et défendre nos droits. C'est à nous de faire en sorte que les choses changent à Washington. »

Zachary Dowdy est journaliste à *Newsday* et vice-président de l'unité de rédaction de la section locale 406-C à Long Island.

El primer año de Trump es poco esperanzador para los sindicatos

Por Zachary Dowdy
Especial para The Communicator

Un año después de que Donald Trump hiciera a los sindicatos una multitud de promesas, desde que iba a crear trabajo haciendo inversiones en infraestructura hasta que eliminaría los acuerdos de libre comercio que según él eran injustos para los trabajadores estadounidenses, los líderes de GCC/IBT dicen que los resultados conseguidos por el presidente están muy por debajo de su palabrería.

Varios líderes de GCC/IBT han dicho que han estado observando pacientemente mientras empeora la situación laboral y los trabajadores se preparan para la próxima ley, nombramiento u orden ejecutiva anti-laboral.

«Yo no creo que haya cumplido con mucho de lo que prometió», dijo James Longbone, presidente de la Local 1-M en St. Paul, Minnesota, que cuenta con 500 miembros que trabajan en el Minneapolis Star Tribune y otras imprentas. «Está dándole lo que quiere a sus amigos ricos y dejando atrás a todos los demás.»

Longbone dijo que Trump no ha cumplido con la mayoría de las promesas que hizo a los sindicatos.

Pero recuerda que, durante la campaña de 2016, muchos de sus propios miembros preferían a Trump frente a su rival Hillary Clinton porque el multimillonario promotor inmobiliario se identificaba con posiciones pro-sindicales, como retirarnos del Acuerdo Transpacífico de Cooperación Económica, cosa que ha hecho, y renegociar el Acuerdo de Libre Comercio de América del Norte, un proceso que ha conseguido escaso progreso.

«Intentamos dejar claro durante la cam-

paña de 2016 que la membresía debería tomarse con cautela las manifestaciones de Trump a favor de los trabajadores», dijo George Tedeschi, presidente de GCC/IBT. «En el pasado su relación con los sindicatos había sido inestable y no tardó un momento en alinearse con las políticas del partido republicano. Lo que tenemos que hacer ahora es mantener la alerta y votar decisivamente por candidatos pro-sindicales en las elecciones de mitad de mandato que se celebrarán este año. Esto es algo crucial.»

Los analistas dicen que no faltan pruebas de que Trump ha asumido la posición tradicional de los republicanos en materia laboral.

Los nombramientos favorables a los empresarios para la Junta Nacional de Relaciones Laborales, dos de ellos ya confirmados y otro en espera de confirmación en el Senado, preocupan también a los líderes sindicales. Para mayor inquietud, Trump eligió al abogado del sector privado Peter Robb para el cargo de director jurídico de la Junta, en sustitución de Richard Griffin que había sido nombrado por el Presidente Barack Obama.

Los críticos se quejan de que Trump ha propuesto revertir una regla del Departamento de Trabajo que incrementa los límites de salario de los trabajadores a los que previamente se había denegado el pago de sobretiempo. Ha retrasado la aplicación de reglas de seguridad y salud en el trabajo que limitarían la exposición de los trabajadores a sustancias cancerígenas como el berilio y la silicona, y quiere recortar el presupuesto de la Administración de Salud y Seguridad Ocupacionales (OSHA).

El juez de la Corte Suprema nomb-

rado por Trump, Neil Gorsuch, podría ser el voto decisivo para prohibir la recaudación de cuotas obligatorias de trabajadores no miembros de sindicatos del sector público, un caso que llegó hasta el tribunal pero terminó en un empate de 4-4 en 2016 debido al fallecimiento del juez Antonin Scalia.

Para muchos de los líderes de GCC/IBT, el comportamiento de Trump no es ninguna sorpresa.

«Yo le pondría una nota de 'C',» dijo Joe Inemer, presidente de la local 16-N de Filadelfia y del Noveno Consejo Distrital, que cuenta con 1,400 miembros. «No ha cumplido con sus promesas.»

De particular cinismo fue la afirmación de Trump de que volvería a traer miles de puestos de trabajo en las minas de carbón de un sector sometido a fuerte oposición de los ambientalistas, y presionado por la competencia del gas natural y de la energía eólica y solar, así como por enormes cambios en el lugar de trabajo producidos por la automatización. «Hizo muchas promesas pero no podrá cumplirlas», dijo Inemer.

En sus primeras semanas como presidente, Trump quiso proyectar una imagen favorable al movimiento laboral.

Declaró su apoyo a los sindicatos de la construcción con su lema de «America First», pero no tuvo ningún gesto similar con millones de otros trabajadores sindicalizados, como los maestros, funcionarios, trabajadores de los sectores de salud, restaurantes y hostelería, o integrados en gran variedad de otros campos.

Entretanto no se han materializado los grandes alardes y promesas de rápido desarrollo de proyectos manufactureros y de infraestructura. «Sus promesas han dejado a la gente en la estacada», dijo Richard Trumka, presidente de AFL-CIO, en el con-

greso de octubre celebrado en St. Louis, según el servicio de noticias para sindicatos Press Associates Union News Service.

Muchos dirigentes advierten que los miembros no deben dejarse distraer cuando Trump se jacta de haber conseguido un progreso económico sin paralelo.

«Si pudiera ponerle una nota de menos de 'F', lo haría», dijo Frank Rak, miembro jubilado de la local 3-N de Boston, y ex secretario de actas de la North American Newspaper Conference, quien sigue de cerca los acontecimientos actuales y las cuestiones de políticas específicas. «No puede decir que haya conseguido nada... no ha creado trabajo en proyectos de infraestructura. Cualquiera que quiera volver a crear la economía de los años 1950 está delirando.»

En una columna del Washington Post, el comentarista Harold Meyerson dijo que si Trump y los republicanos consiguieran debilitar el movimiento laboral (un antiguo objetivo del Partido Republicano), la nación sufriría enormemente. «Cualquiera que desee grandeza para Estados Unidos tiene que desear también que el sindicalismo tenga la fuerza y la visión necesarias para sobrevivir lo que se avecina en los años de Trump», dijo Meyerson.

Tedeschi manifestó su acuerdo. «No podemos quedarnos tranquilamente sentados mientras el movimiento laboral sufre un revés después de otro», dijo. «Tenemos que prestar atención, involucrarnos en la política y defender nuestros derechos. Si queremos ver cambios en Washington, a nosotros nos corresponde conseguirlos.»

Zachary Dowdy es reportero de *Newsday* y vicepresidente editorial de la local 406-C, Long Island.

Unpaid Beneficiaries

December 2017 – The following is a list of persons whom the Graphic Communications Benevolent Trust Fund believes may be eligible to receive part or all of a participant's death benefit. The participant whose name is listed has died but the fund has been unable to locate the person listed as beneficiary. Potential beneficiaries, or anyone with information relating to their whereabouts, should contact the fund at 25 Louisiana Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, or phone the office at (202) 508-6665.

PARTICIPANT NAME	LOCAL	DOD	BENEFICIARY NAME	PARTICIPANT NAME	LOCAL	DOD	BENEFICIARY NAME
Caleb G Alcott	N 3	08/2017	Dawn S Alcott-Miller	John D Ostrowski	C 27	09/2016	Kristen M Ostrowski
Caleb G Alcott	N 3	08/2017	Lisa M Burgess	Dana Parrish	M197	06/2017	Donna Albright
Albert L Boulay	N 13	06/2017	Jeanette L Wenger	Dixie P Pinell	M4535	05/2016	Ruth Oren-Pinell
Clifford C Buland Jr	B 1	12/2016	Autumn Johnson	Dolores Ragone	C 4	04/2015	Phyllis Shechtman
Bessie Gomez	M546	11/2015	Laureano Gomez	Timothy R Riley	M@L	09/2016	Thomas J Riley Jr
Debra Gooler	T853	05/2017	Renee Reaves	Jill Schoonmaker	M2289	12/2015	Bradford J Schoonmaker
Richard Hinz	M 1	11/2015	Ann M Ludwig	Edward C Schutte	M508	01/2016	Edward C Shutte Jr
Richard Hinz	M 1	11/2015	Debra R Oakland	Edward C Schutte	M508	01/2016	James K Williams
Frank W Holz Jr	M612	05/2017	Ann Burke	Vincent Sirianni	M 24	07/2015	Catherine Sirianni Rees
Mary J Hush	M577	07/2016	Maria Liberty	Vincent Sirianni	M 24	07/2015	Louis S Sirianni
Forrest C Hyde	C 1	09/2010	Mary Jo Hyde	Vincent Sirianni	M 24	07/2015	Rosemary Sirianni
Claire Isabelle	N 3	07/2017	Brian D Isabelle	Joseph H Smith	M577	11/2015	Kathleen Wojcik
Claire Isabelle	N 3	07/2017	Gary F Isabelle	Stuart H Smith	T853	07/2017	Kathryn McColgin-Smith
Claire Isabelle	N 3	07/2017	Donna Olearczyk	Derrill R Stanton	M503	03/2015	Joyce Stanton
William G Lamb	M197	05/2017	Ann Gabriesheski	Thomas E Whetston	MAL	05/2016	Jacqueline Whetston
William G Lamb	M197	05/2017	William G Lamb Jr	Edgar Wilson	MAL	10/2017	Edgar M Wilson
Ida Mae Locker	B119	04/2017	Nafessa Garland	Yvonne Worlds	M458	11/2017	Darvin Worlds
Ida Mae Locker	B119	04/2017	Kalema Locker	Wesley H York Jr	T572	03/2016	Nancy K Sharette
Samuel N Majors	M4535	04/2015	Jennifer M Kalt	Wesley H York Jr	T572	03/2016	Daniel P York
Mary L Mata	T572	02/2017	Sabrina Alvarado	Wesley H York Jr	T572	03/2016	John T York
Larry McDonald	C173	04/2015	Brian F McDonald	Wesley H York Jr	T572	03/2016	Wesley H York III
Larry McDonald	C137	04/2015	Daniel L McDonald				

Unpaid Benefits

In order to determine if there were retired participants whose heirs were entitled to, but did not collect, death benefits, The Graphic Communications Benevolent Trust Fund (BTF) electronically compared a list of the fund's retired participants with various databases tracking dates of death.

The following is a list of deceased BTF retirees for whom no benefit claims were made as of September, 2017. The beneficiaries of these members may be entitled to a benefit from the fund. They, or anyone who knows the whereabouts of the beneficiaries, should contact the fund at 25 Louisiana Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, or phone the BTF office at (202) 508-6665.

Note: Local indicated for a deceased participant may not be consistent with the individual's local at retirement date due to subsequent mergers.

NAME	LOCAL	DOD	NAME	LOCAL	DOD	NAME	LOCAL	DOD
Daniel F Acquard	M261	06/2017	Thomas J Carvalho	T996	04/2017	Robert E Gavran	M 24	03/2017
Francis M Allen	S625	03/2017	Raymond Cichocki	M241	02/2017	Ted Giermek	M503	05/2017
William M Andersen	M458	06/2017	Murlean Collins	MAL	06/2017	Violet S Gladman	T853	10/2016
Hardy Barker Jr	M6505	01/2017	Kenneth J Cooke	M503	04/2017	Robert W Glancy	M503	08/2016
Paul Beneway	MAL	12/2016	Samuel K Crocker	MAL	09/2016	Wilda Goldthwait	M503	07/2016
Louis H Benz	M261	01/2017	Charles N Cundari	L 1	03/2017	John R Gonter	L 79	01/2013
Richard H Best	M503	04/2017	Harold G Dean	B 4	06/2017	Glenda Heighway	M514	08/2016
Francis R Black	L 79	10/2011	Louis J DiGiacomo	L 1	09/2016	James A Hepner	L 79	01/2012
Amos C Blair	N 3	01/2017	Richard D Enders	C329	09/2016	Tyson D Hinds	M508	09/2016
Robert Bode	C329	06/2017	Don D Evan	C137	04/2017	James E Hodge	N 3	01/2017
Albert L Boulay	N 13	06/2017	Joseph C Falardeau Jr	M503	04/2017	Leo T Holtz Jr	L 79	12/2016
Charles I Bowden	M458	09/2016	Bernard P Foltin	L 79	12/2003	Bobbie L Jefferson	B 4	06/2017
Ralph E Bushong	M285	05/2017	Gerald F Fronczak	M503	04/2017	Ronald R Jones	L 1	02/2017
James Cannon	M2289	01/2017	Dan T Fuller	MAL	02/2017	William E Jones	M 58	11/2016
						George J Kiburz	M6505	01/2017
						Maurice Kimball	L 1	03/2017
						George H Kleinguenther	M285	05/2017
						William G Lamb	M197	05/2017
						Marco N Longo	L 79	05/2012
						Claude MacAtee	T572	09/2016
						William F Marc	M503	03/2017
						W T McCallum Jr	M197	06/2017
						John R Mendyk	M503	09/2016
						George V Murtagh	M 24	01/2017
						A Harold Myatt	C 72	01/2017
						John Myers	N 2	08/2016
						Gerald O'Connor	C137	04/2017
						Bernie D O'Doherty	M543	05/2017
						Maurice V Olson	M 14	12/2016
						Ben L Page	MAL	01/2017
						Thomas J Penzone	N 2	12/2016
						Ambrosio Perez	B119	01/2017
						Richard Poliforni	L 1	11/2016
						Chester Poplawski	M503	10/2016
						C J Postell	M508	12/2016
						John E Reid	L 79	11/2015
						Frank M Reino Jr	MAL	05/2017
						E E Riffel	MAL	05/2017
						Timothy R Riley	MAL	09/2016
						Herbert Robinson	B 4	09/2016
						James T Rogers	N 13	04/2017
						Richard J Sansone	N 3	05/2017
						Ronald G Santos	N 3	02/2017
						Kenneth Schneider	N 38	03/2017
						Charles E Schrock	L 1	08/2016
						Kathleen Sheehan	M 24	11/2016
						Elmer G Smith	T455	03/2017
						Edward J Symanowicz	C 4	02/2017
						Charles A Taylor	MAL	04/2017
						Joseph A Tupper	M503	03/2017
						Kenneth E Vail	MAL	05/2017
						R J Valvo	MAL	12/2016
						Mark J Walsh	N 38	12/2016
						Edith Ward	M197	10/2016
						John E Weidley Jr	L 79	07/2015
						Thomas E Whetston	MAL	05/2016
						Owenina M Worozbyt	M241	08/2016
						Orville Kenneth Wright	N 16	03/2017

Hurricane Aid and Right-Wing 'Lies'

Continued from page 4

At one point, right-wing media claimed IBT members in Puerto Rico were refusing to deliver essential goods in an effort to humiliate President Donald Trump whose administration drew criticism for what some viewed as a halting response to the crisis.

The far-right website infowars.com ran a blatantly false headline that said: "Bombshell: Dems/Teamsters Order Puerto Rican Stand-Down to Embarrass Trump."

Teamsters quickly responded.

"These viral stories spreading across the internet are nothing but lies perpetrated by anti-union entities to further their destructive agenda," said Hoffa. "The fact that they are attempting to capitalize on the suffering of millions of citizens in Puerto Rico in dire need of our help by pushing these false stories just exposes their true nature."

Corroborating Hoffa's statement was the prize-winning website, FactCheck.org, a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. A lengthy FactCheck.org report carried the headline: "Puerto Rican Teamster Stories are Bogus" and said reports of an IBT work stoppage were flat-out false. "There was, in fact, no strike," the report said.

GCC/IBT President George Tedeschi joined Hoffa in condemning the outrageous right-wing Internet attack. "This episode shows how far extremists will go to undercut the labor movement," he said. "I have 'real' news for these people – we are strong, united and here to stay."



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