

THE SPOTLIGHT

November 2001 • USWA - LOCAL 286 • 5724 Seward, Lincoln, NE 68507 • (402) 434-2970
www."nebraska.com/~uswa286 • Ucinda Sims — Editor • Hugh Bowen — President

Official Jobless Numbers Skyrocket, But Help for Workers is Slow

With an almost unprecedented one-month jump in the jobless rate as the background (see accompanying story on this page), working families stepped up their pressure on U.S. Senators to pass an economic stimulus plan that puts workers first and to do it quickly.

Unemployed workers, joined local union members and leaders and community activists at several Nov. 2 press conferences and other events to highlight the impact of the Republican-led congressional stall on worker relief in favor of huge tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy.

In Denver, unemployed machinists, Hotel Employee and Restaurant Employee and Teamster members urged Sen. Ben "Nighthorse" Campbell (R) to support quick and real relief for working families, who have seen more than 638,000 jobs disappear in announced layoffs since Sept. 11.

Other Nov. 2 press conferences or rallies in the selected senators home-states were held in Arizona, Georgia, Maine, Louisiana, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont and Wisconsin.

More workers lost their jobs in October—415,000—than in any one-month period since May 1980. The unemployment rate jumped to 5.4 percent, compared with the 4.9 percent rate in September, the U.S. Department of Labor reported Nov. 2.

Job loss ripped through the private sector, with 439,000 private-sector workers pink-slipped last month while 24,000 government jobs were added.

The massive job loss is a combination of an economy that had been slowing for several months and the aftershocks of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, economists said. More than 638,000 layoffs have been announced since Sept. 11, according to figures compiled by AFL-CIO researchers.

"The huge jump in this month's unemployment rate makes clear that we are at a watershed, and we need an aggressive policy response that provides real economic stimulus to combat the deepening recession," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

Almost two months after the attacks, relief for working families in the form of enhanced and extended unemployment benefits, help to maintain their health insurance and other vital components of economic stimulus has been road-blocked by congressional Republicans.

"The sound of inaction in Washington has been deafening," said Sonny Hall, president of the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department, in a call for economic help for workers affected by the Sept 11, attacks, including some 140,000 airline and aviation industry workers.

The House passed a \$100 billion stimulus bill Oct. 24—with nearly \$90 billion set aside for tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy and no guaranteed relief for workers who have lost their jobs or seen their work hours slashed. Senate Republicans announced an \$89 billion plan last week patterned after the House bill, with the majority of "relief" going to corporations in tax breaks.

But the need for help for working families is not expected to diminish. Economists note government unemployment figures generally lag behind events and the numbers of jobless workers are expected to increase. The jump in the unemployment rate is the largest since the Reagan recession began building steam in October 1981.

Economists also predict the continued fall-out from the Sept. 11 attacks, anthrax fears, falling consumer confidence and worries over unemployment will slow consumer spending further and worsen the economy.

In the new figures, the hardest hit industries were manufacturing, airlines, the travel and hospitality industries and retail.

Manufacturing lost 142,000 jobs. This was the fifteenth consecutive month of manufacturing job loss. Since July 2000, manufacturing has lost 1.3 million jobs and manufacturing employment has fallen to levels last seen in November 1965.

NEXT UNION MEETING

December 9, 2001

2:00 p.m.

Union Hall,

5724 Seward

TAX TIME ALERT

**Please save your
paycheck stubs
in December. The
total amount of
Union Dues
you paid for the
year will be
reflected on the
last paycheck
for the year 2001.
This will be your
only record
of that information.**



**FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S
DESK**
Hugh Bowen

The hose ticket has been reduced from 85,000 pieces to 75,000 pieces which in turn will mean at least 20 more jobs will be lost in the Hose Dept. This is not counting the jobs already scheduled to be lost due to the company taking the business to another supplier. The company

has also decided that no new orders for hose will be done in hose final; the latest being some new orders from Chrysler that the company is taking to Wahoo to do the finish work.

When I asked the company if this was true, they said yes.

The Akron team said no new business would be done in hose final. Hose final has not left Lincoln yet, and I believe that until it does, all final work should be done in Lincoln and not Wahoo. We are looking into the Wahoo business and are still working on doing something about hose final.

We lost some cut-edge business to Canada because their 'tickets are soft' - but so is our ticket in Lincoln. It sure seems like the company doesn't care about Lincoln and our jobs here. As things get slower, the company comes up with more time on their hands. Right now the company is trying to combine jobs, write people up for not doing enough work and we have the plant manager climbing up ladders unplugging lights and whatever else he can think of. I have business centers violating the contract, then saying "why can't we do this?" I have some of our members filling in for management and the list goes on and on and on. We have 76 grievances filed in 2001. That does not count the ones from 2000 and 1999. But the "company isn't trying to get rid of anyone".

The sub fund as of November 13th will be 9.99%. 500 from Gadsden and Danville are out along with 200 plus here in Lincoln. With approximately 800 people drawing from the fund, it will not take long for it to drop below four percent. Then it may not pay regularly, and if it does, it possibly will not be a full payment.

This also will mean that pay for sub outs in the plant will be uncertain. I will have to continue to monitor the sub outs in the plant. If they continue for too long, I will have to look at other solutions to assure people of 40 hours.

The Local 286 calendars for 2002 are in. We will be sending them in with the chief stewards so they can have your stewards distribute them to all members.

As I reminded you last month, departmental steward elections will be held the week of December 3rd. In my article last month I discussed the stewards responsibility and obligation to attend the monthly meetings. I also discussed it with the stewards at a recent stewards class. I was disappointed that at the November meeting there were only 43 people in attendance and not all of them were even stewards.

I would like to wish all of you a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

ANNUAL STEWARDS AND RETIREES BANQUET

Another successful Annual Stewards and Retirees Banquet was held on November 3rd. Guests were treated to speeches by the Mayor of Lincoln, Don Wesely and Lincoln City Councilwoman Annette McRoy. Keynote speaker for the evening was Charles Clark from the AFL-CIO. Good food and drink, karaoke and door prizes mixed with a chance to see and visit with old friends and co-workers rounded out the evening. Each year businesses and organizations donate a host of door prizes so that many guests leave with a gift and memento of a great time. Following is a list of this years businesses and organizations who donated the door prizes given out. Please remember to spend your hard earned union dollars at these businesses.

Thank you,
Mo Anker
COPE Committee Chairman

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Elder Jewelry | Omaha Steaks |
| Hy-Vee, 48th & Leighton | Golden Corral |
| Grisanti's | USWA Local 286 |
| Red Lobster | Castle Drive In |
| Cracker Barrel | Attraction Hair Salon |
| Bob's Tavern | Misty Isles |
| Carlos O'Kelly's | Earls Tavern |
| U-Stop, 56th & Holdrege | Westlake Ace Hardware |
| Joyo Theater | Wolfe Ace Hardware |
| Veloci-Tee | T & R's Garden |
| Sportscasters Bar & Grill | Graham Tire |
| Murphy's Q.P. | Fields Floral |
| Misty's | USA Steak Buffet |
| Tack Room | Hiedelbergs |
| Lincoln Central Labor Union | Chase Suite Hotel |

CONGRATULATIONS to the November winners from Local 286 in the Nebraska State AFL-CIO calendar raffle. This months winners are:

Francis Hamsa
Don Urban

Robert Campbell
Jim & Sharon Eichelberger

Laurence Richter
Al Buhr

IN THE EDITOR'S OPINION

Ucinda Sims

stuff.

You have too much stuff.

Never is that more evident than when you are preparing to move. You find stuff you thought you had lost. You find stuff you didn't even know you had. You find important stuff. You find bags full of stuff to be thrown away. (If you can possibly part with that stuff.) Discovery by inven-

tory. That is what it is.

It can be the same in our lives. In the event of major change, we find ourselves in a position to do a personal inventory. And what you may find is lots of stuff.

Stuff to be thrown away. The experts call it baggage; old grudges, old experiences, old preconceived perceptions, old prejudices, self-doubt, blame and old hurts.

Stuff you thought you had lost; courage, self-esteem, talent, old friends, family support.

Stuff you didn't even know you had: new friends, new opportunities, abilities and again, family support.

And what you may discover with this personal inventory are a host of

things to be thankful for. At this time of Thanksgiving it may be hard for some of you to think with an attitude of gratitude. With your jobs being threatened, it may be easier to only worry about a roof over your head, food for your family and what the future holds. You may be worried about changing jobs and learning a new skill. You could be worried about keeping your kids in college. You may be worried about our threatened social security and pensions.

But always remember this: you are not in this alone. We are all in the battle together. We are all determined to fight till the end against corporate greed and corporate acts, decisions, threats and policies designed to demoralize, intimidate and subjugate. We will continue to fight each and every battle as it comes to us. And if we continue to stand together and not be divided by these attacks, we have a much better chance of winning.

Take a moment this Thanksgiving to acknowledge the "right stuff" in your life. Say thanks for your blessings. A moment of thankfulness may help ease the burden of your worries.

As always, one of the things that I am very thankful for are the members of the Retirees Club that faithfully help to get out the Spotlight every month. I would also like to thank each and every one of you who have helped distribute the Spotlight at the gates each month. Thank you.

To the Editor,

Here is a copy of the letter I wrote in response to the Plant Managers' letter in the plant newsletter.

Dear Todd Turner,

Well, you finally wrote something that I agree with and that is a lack of respect and distrust. But as always you pointed the finger outward instead of inward and again set yourself apart. We constantly deal with your long list of negatives that are written on a weekly basis and with your thirst for the negative it is a wonder anything is accomplished, good or bad.

I find it interesting you speak of the quality of our "Goodyear" culture." What's most interesting is that you write as if you were absent from it. Maybe that's the problem! Culture is affected as much by the Leadership as it is Companionship, Friendship and yes, Workmanship. So you see, YOU are a part of our culture and YOU are directly responsible for it. Maybe more so! It has been proven throughout history that you are only as good as your leadership. So once again, point the finger inward.

Something you failed to mention about our culture, is how it's effected by our past. Goodyear Management (i.e. the way we have been run), has not shown a good track record in year's past. And with our constant influx of new plant managers (which is reminiscent of our own labor movement problems) with their own programs and agendas, we have and will stay in a state of chaos. Which leads to negative attitudes, infighting and lack of respect for one another. And then it gets to us on the floor.

Every one of us has heard that there are certain things that roll down hill and two that we can add to the list are mentioned in your letter, Respect and Attitude. Somehow it is either not starting at the top or it is becoming diverted somewhere along the way. And focussing on the negative is not a way of perpetuating respect and a good attitude. Again, point the finger inward first.

Before the Fourth of July I was asked to be part of a Task Force that was to meet with management representatives to brainstorm and discuss ways to improve and save Hose Final. Having been a union virgin, in the sense that my involvement had solely consisted of paying my dues and doing my job, I went into this with a sense of pride in knowing that we (management and worker) would be in this together. I had respect for a few of the management representatives who were involved and was convinced that we could come up with some timely and reasonable solutions to our

problems. Much to my surprise, the battle lines were drawn early. It was clear that this was more about "what are you willing to give up" than it was "here's a problem, how do we fix it". Never before have I been more discouraged by or ashamed of where I worked. I have always considered it my obligation to work hard when I walk through those doors and I will continue to do so, but I will not be chastised by you or anyone else about the "us vs. them" attitude that has been perpetuated by Management itself and which will be here long after you and I are gone. Unless you lead the change.

You stated "does the culture improve and the 'us vs. them' attitude diminish when everything is running the way we would want or does getting everything to run more like we want improve the culture and minimize the "us vs. them" phenomenon?"

My question is, what are we willing to give up in order to make this so? My question is, what are we willing to do above and beyond what we do right now in order to make this so? And my question is, if we make this so, can we continue on in an environment which is fraught with the peril of retreating to our past?

Mistakes. You bet. That is our human nature.

Now, learning from them. That is intelligence.

We out on the floor make mistakes on a daily basis and those around us do the same. But through communication and "one on one" interaction we decide how we can best eliminate those mistakes. No notes, no newsletter, no meetings, no programs, no agendas.

Face to face. One on one.

You want to change the "culture", really change the "culture".

Come down to our level.

Meet face to face.

Bring an attitude of oneness.

Bring ears to hear.

When you can do that and can share it with the rest of your management team, then and only then will you truly see our culture change.

Because, by us seeing your commitment, we will be led and will change also.

Once we've changed within, it is only then we can change those around us.

Respectfully yours,

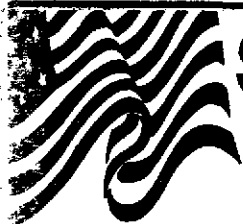
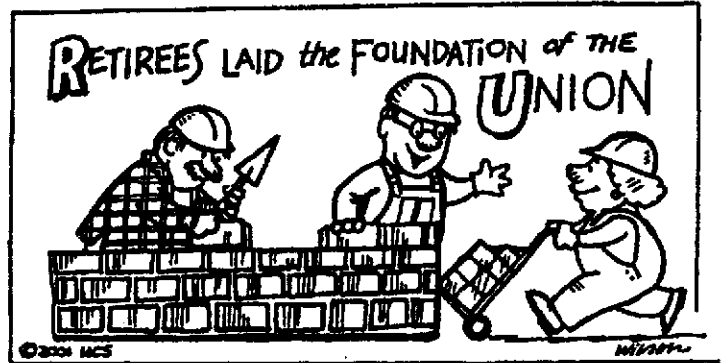
Bryan Dowling, Hose Final, 3rd Shift



Retiree's Corner

Next Retiree's Club Meeting December 10th

Potluck at 5:30 pm
The Club will furnish the Ham,
Bring a covered dish and your own table service.
We will have our food drive again for the food bank,
so bring your donations.



Support America Buy American

Bumper Stickers

For Sale
\$1.00 each
Contact Mill Schmidt
or Barb @ union hall

USWA Local 286's Annual Kids Christmas Party

December 2nd, 2001
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm

at Goodyear Rec Center
6224 Logan, Lincoln, Nebraska

- * Refreshments
- * Pictures with Santa
- * Special Surprises

Please plan now to bring your kids or grandkids.
They will have a great time and so will you. This
years celebration will be a little different from past parties.
This year we will not be giving out the sacked candy, but will
instead have something new and different for your kids.
They must attend the party. We will not have extra
"Monday sacks" as in years past.

