MEMBERS RUSH TO AID ATU TORNADO VICTIMS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

We Have Enough Fights without Fighting Each Other
NDP Surges in Historic Election
Discount Operator Shut Down After Deadly Accident
WASHINGTON, DC: A new grant from the Berger-Marks Foundation is helping ATU hire three women interns to work on a strategic internal campaign to build local union membership. The interns may also get involved in community organizing with local union members to save transit systems. Interns will gain organizing experience both at international headquarters and on-the-ground with the union locals. – CLUW

LONDON, ON: Assault, verbal abuse, spitting and even death threats are among the challenges drivers deal with regularly, say veteran LTC drivers… “That risk is there for our profession,” said London’s Local 741 President John Gillet, a driver of 27 years who’s been assaulted twice. But LTC is taking steps to improve safety…In addition to emergency buttons, cameras will be installed in buses soon. – London Free Press

AUSTIN, TX: The Sunset Advisory Commission recommended it last year, and now the Legislature has mandated it: …Either contract out all rank-and-file labor… or bring all bus drivers and mechanics into the direct employ of Cap Metro. “Going in-house would necessarily, unavoidably mean that these employees would have to give up their right to collectively bargain,” says Glenda Pittman, lawyer for ATU Local 1091. That’s a no-go, she says… because it would likely violate… the 13(c) provision of federal labor law that requires that, if workers had collective bargaining rights at the time a transit agency accepts federal money, the workers must continue enjoying those rights as long as the fed cash keeps flowing. – Austin Chronicle

OTTAWA, ON: The Ottawa transit authority has pulled 18 older articulated buses off the road for repairs after cooling units broke down, said transit commission head Diane Deans… But drivers with the Amalgamated Transit Union say the air conditioning on at least 20 new buses are acting up too, bringing the total so far to 38. Local 279 President Gordon Queale said OC Transpo had known for a month that there were problems. “Why wait till it’s 30-plus degrees (celcius) and the buses start breaking down when there could have been preventative maintenance on these vehicles?,” he asked. – CBC News-Canada

ASHEVILLE, NC: In the midst of big plans and an upbeat marketing campaign, a series of high-profile accidents have raised questions about Asheville Transit’s safety… Asheville’s contract with First Transit ends in June, and though the city opted not to take advantage of a two-year extension option, Transportation Director Ken Putnam encourages the company to bid again. “We’re not saying anything against First Transit,” he explains. “This is simply a management decision to make sure we’re still getting the best value for the dollar…” – Mountain Express

SALEM, OR: Salem-Keizer Transit and Local 757 have signed a new contract that provides pay raises for union members but also includes a higher deductible for health insurance. The new contract provides a two percent pay raise in July of this year, in January of 2012, and again in January of 2013, said transit district officials… The contract, which comes after 16 months of negotiations, is retroactive to January 2010. – Statesman-Journal

FORT WORTH, TX: Bus riders in Fort Worth who wear sagging pants have the choice of pulling them up before boarding or finding another way to get around the city. The Fort Worth Transportation Authority’s updated dress code lets bus drivers turn away passengers whose pants sag below the waist. Joan Hunter, a spokeswoman for the system known as the T, says it’s about respecting everyone who chooses to ride city buses. – Fox News

NEW YORK, NY: A new independent study, issued by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) rates Los Angeles, Cleveland, Las Vegas, Eugene and Pittsburgh as the nation’s leading cities for bus-based transportation because of their high-quality bus rapid transit systems (BRT). BRT combines the flexibility of buses with the speed and priority of light rail, but at a fraction of the cost of rail. – ITDP
2 International Officers & General Executive Board

3 Index Page

4 International President’s Message
   We Have Enough Fights Without Fighting Each Other
   Black Caucus Hears From Labor, Civil Rights Giant

6 International Executive Vice President’s Message
   ‘Summertime and the Livin’ is Easy...’

7 International Secretary-Treasurer’s Message
   The Campaign to Portray the President As ‘Not One of Us’

8 Canadian Agenda
   New Democrats Win 102 Seats in Historic Election - Form Opposition Party in Conservative Parliament

10 CLC Makes Commitment to Political Activism
   Hanley Honored at NY ADA’s Roosevelt Day Dinner

11 Members Rush to Aid ATU Tornado Victims

14 Cantor Delays Fed Aid to Tornado-Ravaged Missouri Until Budget ‘Pay-fors’ Are Found to Offset Expense

15 Trumka: Fight is Moral Struggle, No More Support for Do-Nothing Candidates

16 NLRB Complaint Against Veolia in Phoenix

17 Legislative Report
   Attacking the Six Figure Bus Driver

19 National Group Provides ‘Model Bills’ for State Anti-Union Campaigns

20 State Battleground Map

21 Discount Bus Operator Shut Down After Deadly Accident, Hanley Calls for Legislation Addressing Drive Fatigue

22 New Studies Shed Light on US Transport

24 Your COPE Dollars at Work

25 Translations (French & Spanish)

30 In Memoriam

31 100 Years Ago: GEB Member Fred Fay Takes on Water Hose in Kansas City

32 Idaho Falls Local Honors Its Veterans
There are enough fights for us to take on with enemies of the Union. We don’t need to fight each other. More than any other time in our lives, Labor is under attack. As your international president it is frustrating to watch some hard working local officers under constant attack by people in their own local union.

We are democratic and our union halls are where we have our debates. Sometimes we take our debates too far, to the point that we disrupt the ability of our Union to function.

Recently, as I contemplated various internal squabbles in the ATU, I received the sad news that an old friend of mine, Joe Owens, had passed away. I had come to value Joe’s friendship greatly over the years, especially since we hadn’t started out that way.

Joe had served as an officer of Local 726 in Staten Island, NY, for 18 years when I showed up. I was new and had new ideas. We strongly disagreed about many things and debated each other loudly in an internal struggle that went on for years. Those debates continued when we served together as executive board members.

Joe had served as an officer of Local 726 in Staten Island, NY, for 18 years when I showed up. I was new and had new ideas. We strongly disagreed about many things and debated each other loudly in an internal struggle that went on for years. Those debates continued when we served together as executive board members.

Grace of a Champion

In 1987, we ran against each other for president. In a four-way race that I won, Joe Owens was defeated. He left office, not my best friend, but with the grace of a champion.

Some years went by and it was time for Joe to retire from the MTA. On his last day, we held a party in the crew room of Yukon Depot. Joe and I still had sharp disagreements, but his speech that day will stay with me forever.

ALWAYS Support Your Union

He stood before our members, a beloved retiring officer, and told all present, “No matter what you think about an issue or any position an officer takes, ALWAYS support your union.”

Joe left the ranks of our active membership telling his lifelong supporters that what brings a union together will always be greater than what divides it. He taught us all what it means to love the union and put the members above any petty disputes.

Eventually Joe became one of my biggest supporters, and I, for my part, learned an important lesson about being gracious – a quality of inestimable value for the smooth functioning of any local union.

Not because he always agreed with me, but because in his wisdom Joe knew that while we all have a contribution to make, our members decide elections, and we must respect their decisions. That’s a lesson we can all learn. I did.

BLACK CAUCUS HEARS FROM LABOR, CIVIL RIGHTS GIANT

As I sat listening to Bill Lucy at the ATU Black Caucus Meeting, May 20, I remembered all I had learned about the civil rights movement, and about all successful movements for social, political and economic progress, including the labor movement.

Lucy, the recently retired secretary-treasurer of AFSCME, spoke to the Black Caucus about the critical importance of building coalitions with the broader community.
‘We Cannot Walk Alone’

Listening to Bill’s wise words based on his many years in the civil rights and labor movements, I recalled the admonition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that “We cannot walk alone.” It is a lesson we are learning anew in Labor.

Bill reminded us of another vital truth: Dr. King built the civil rights movement with the power of non-violence. Those who marched with Dr. King held a “higher moral ground” by refusing to fight back against those who attacked them. That higher moral ground attracted the support of the broader community which, in the end, controlled events.

The Call to Conscience

Lucy was in Memphis organizing sanitation workers who eventually went on strike on February 12, 1968.

He knew that the sanitation workers alone could not overcome the power of Henry Loeb, the city’s mayor, his repressive, coercive apparatus and the anti-labor public sentiment which pervaded the South, without a call to conscience. And, he knew that call to conscience would only be answered if the public accorded the workers the kind of serious moral authority generated by nonviolent public action.

That call to conscience was greatly strengthened when Dr. King came to town on March 18, addressing a rally of 17,000. On March 28, he led a march which was broken up when police moved in with nightsticks, mace, tear gas and gun fire. A 16-year old boy was shot to death.

Dr. King returned for a rally in Memphis on April 3, delivering his now-famous ‘I’ve Been to the Mountaintop’ speech. The following day, a sniper assassinated Dr. King as he stood on the balcony outside his room.

An agreement was finally reached on April 16. The strike was over.

Comparing 1968 to 2011

Bill Lucy is one of the few remaining union leaders who were there. It was more than an honor to hear him connect the dots between the struggles of 1968, and 2011. As he drew the parallels between the fight for public workers in Memphis, and public workers today, he reminded us that Dr. King deeply believed in the critical link between workers’ rights and civil rights. Dr. King lost his life, he said, right there in Memphis, fighting for workers.

The coalition with Labor magnified the strength of the civil rights movement and greatly helped African-Americans (and others) attain the civil and political rights they had been denied for centuries. This is a lesson the labor movement and ATU must heed today.

We Need Each Other

We must work hard to find allies, to understand them and their needs, explain our own, and to work with them toward mutually beneficial goals. We must find common ground with civil rights, senior, religious, environmental, human rights and other groups fighting for progressive change.

As Bill noted, today – more than ever – we all need each other. Our power is multiplied when we build coalitions with the broader community.

That’s what recent ATU conferences in several places in Canada and the United States have emphasized. We must continue this effort. Our survival – indeed, the survival and well-being of the entire labor movement – depends on it.

50th Anniversary of the Freedom Riders

Finally, it has been inspiring to watch the recently-released documentary and other commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Riders, who risked their lives merely by riding integrated buses in the South in 1961.

As they arrived in Birmingham, AL, they were met by angry crowds who had been promised immunity from prosecution by local authorities if they beat or killed the Freedom Riders.

When these events were viewed on television, the consciences of millions of average Americans – both white and black – were stirred by the realization of the profound injustice of racial discrimination. Fifty years later, we are again called to sacrifice for justice.

I have great faith that ATU members of conscience will bravely and courageously do their part in the coming months, as we continue the ongoing battle for workers’ rights, and draw our inspiration from the Freedom Riders, Dr. King and Bill Lucy.
Hey, I think I heard that in a song somewhere before. Sounds good, and for some of our members it actually is. Take a good look at Florida. Three months ago the labor movement was under severe attack and it almost looked hopeless.

Our officers and members got very busy there, and mobilized to confront these vicious attacks head-on.

The end result: Florida came through almost unscathed in spite of Governor Scott’s attack on working families and our members.

Vicious and Unwarranted

Ohio members had a rough winter also, fighting Governor Kasich’s vicious and unwarranted attacks. This terrible and uncaring politician pulled every dirty trick in the book and took away public employees’ collective bargaining rights.

But, listen Governor, it’s not over yet, and as a matter of fact the labor movement in Ohio is currently gathering signatures to put this measure on the ballot in November. We’re going to WIN and undo your misguided assault on workers and their families.

Don’t Forget Wisconsin

Certainly we can’t forget Wisconsin’s Governor Scott Walker; what a joke; what a misguided individual. Would someone please wake him up at 4:00 a.m. and let this guy maneuver through knee-deep snow in below-zero temperatures so others can get to work, school and medical appointments. Tell him that we earn everything we get, and we will fight with everything we’ve got to protect our members and their families.

Hey Governor, it’s recall time for you and your buddies, and our officers and members are ready to sound the alarm. Maybe if you guys had to work for what you have you wouldn’t be so quick to destroy WORKING FAMILIES!

‘Essential Service’

These vicious attacks are taking place in several other states and Canada, as well. In Toronto, the provincial government declared Local 113 an “essential service” eliminating their right to strike. This idea is expected to spread to other cities in Ontario as well.

Guess what, Mr. Prime Minister, Local 113 and every other local that comes under attack in Ontario or elsewhere is prepared to fight for our members and their families and do whatever it takes to make sure they can negotiate with management on a level playing field.

All across North America, North, South, East, and West, Labor is under severe attack, but rest assured, these attacks will only make us stronger.

In closing, we wish all of you the very best. Get out and enjoy the nice weather, but try to keep one finger on the pulse of our vicious enemies – they don’t know how to relax.

‘Summertime and the livin’ is easy…’

In Solidarity,

Bob Baker

BOB BAKER, INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
I hope you are following the emerging candidacies for U.S. president – both declared and undeclared. This is the time when presidential hopefuls test the public response to themes they might use in the primaries and beyond.

So you’ll hear candidates attack Barack Obama in all sorts of ways to find out which kind of attack resonates with voters. One of the things I urge you to do is to listen for hints of a particular subtext in many of these attacks which casts the president as “not one of us.”

**Proof Unnecessary**

The most obvious example of this strategy is employed by the “birther movement.” Birthers, of course, insist that President Obama was not born in the United States and is, therefore, constitutionally ineligible to be president.

Now that Hawaii has released Obama’s long-sought, long-form birth certificate you’d think that this controversy would finally die out. But, of course, birthers now insist that the long-form only increases the number of questions they have about the president’s origins.

This is to be expected, because the birthers’ goal is not to find out where the president was born, but, rather to portray him as something other than an American; an outsider; perhaps, even, someone with a hidden agenda to fundamentally change, or destroy the United States.

This is why you’ll hear people say that the president is actually a Muslim, not a Christian; that his values were shaped in Indonesia; or even say, as Glenn Beck did, that Obama hates white people. Beck was forced to withdraw that last comment which proved to be too much even for Fox.

You’ll also see demeaning, “photoshopped” images of Obama with painted face, dressed as an African tribal warrior. These outright racist pictures surely frighten some, and ridicule the president’s African heritage.

None of these statements need to be proved, and none of these images need to be endorsed by a candidate to create false impressions and incite racism.

**Subtle**

Much more subtle, however, are the assertions that “real” Americans – usually represented by right-wing candidates and voters – must wrest the country back from usurpers who have betrayed “real” American values.

Once people swallow this propaganda, it is not much of a stretch for them to believe that Obama will institute death panels, or turn the U.S. into a Muslim or a socialist state. The president’s unethical opponents hope that these totally unfounded claims will generate enough irrational fear and anger to compromise his ability to govern, and undermine his campaign for a second term.

**Join Me in a Truth Movement**

Therefore, I’m asking you to join me in watching for these tactics between now and the November 2012 election. Point them out to your friends, especially those who believe these lies, and explain the strategy behind them.

If every single one of you does this we just might create a counter movement that neutralizes this smear campaign and bears witness to the truth.
A sea-change in Canadian politics occurred May 2, when Conservative Party candidates were elected to a majority of the seats in the House of Commons – putting them in full control of the Canadian government. After two successive minority governments, Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper finally achieved his goal of winning an outright majority (166 out of 308 seats) in Parliament’s lower chamber.

But the news wasn’t all bad for progressives. By coming in second with 102 seats, the New Democratic Party (NDP) emerged as the official opposition party of the 41st Parliament. That’s 60 more seats than the NDP has ever won – the highest total in the labour party’s 50-year history.

The NDP surprised the Liberal party, knocking them out of the number-two slot. The Grits dropped to 34 seats (the lowest in their history) from their previous total of 77.

Things were even worse for Bloc Quebecois (the party of the Quebec separatist movement). The “BQ” was reduced to four seats from 47 – too few even to be recognized as an official party by Parliament.

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May from British Columbia won the first ever seat for a Green Party member in Canada.

Some commentators believe that the results indicate that Canada is moving toward a two-party system in which parties such as the Liberals and the Bloc Quebecois would meld into the NDP or the Conservative Party.

Others see the election as kind of a fluke, with the NDP winning more votes than usual on the strength of Jack Layton’s winning personality – particularly in Quebec. Time will tell.

Tories Form Majority Government

In the five years prior to this election Conservatives occupied only a plurality of seats, forcing them to run a “minority government” in coalition with other parties.

Realizing that voters had grown weary of legislative gridlock and frequent elections, Harper reminded Canadians that a vote for a Liberal or New Democratic Party candidate would be a vote for continued minority government, and another election, sooner rather than later.

A vote for a strong, stable, national majority Conservative government, he said, would ensure political
stability and continued economic recovery.

Now that they control a majority of the seats in Commons, the Tories will have a freer hand pursuing an agenda which generally runs counter to the interests of transit and Labour.

ATU Canadian Director Stan Dera explains, “The previous government had to work with all the parties in order to stay in power. But now with a majority government we are afraid that Prime Minister Harper will be able to push his right-wing Conservative agenda through government and not have to pay attention to anyone.”

The Official Opposition

Battling prostate cancer, and having just gone through hip replacement surgery, NDP Leader Jack Layton impressed voters with his optimism and resilience. And when he asked voters, “Who do you trust” to negotiate a new federal-provincial health deal, they knew he was speaking from the heart.

“You know where I stand. You know I’m a fighter. And I won’t stop until the job is done,” Layton asserted repeatedly in campaign ads that ran all over Canada.

Now, as the official opposition party leader, Layton will play a much more prominent role in parliamentary debate, and the views of Labour stand to become more widely known.

He seems to relish the opportunity. Delegates to the Canadian Labour Congress convention on May 11, cheered Layton wildly when he said that Canada now has the largest united opposition in 31 years.

He told them, “four-and-a-half million Canadians elected more New Democrats than ever before. They’ve given us a clear mandate to put working families first. It’s a mandate that (Conservative leader and Prime Minister) Stephen Harper would be wise to respect – and working together, our New Democrat team will make sure of that.”

Layton says his team is ready to get to work on his campaign commitments to improve public pensions, strengthen Canadian healthcare, jumpstart job-creation, and put forward practical solutions so working families can make ends meet.

He said that progressives need to build the largest movement for change that Canada has ever seen. “We can build the Canada we want, where no one is left behind.” He asked delegates to roll up their sleeves and build the country.

Easier Said Than Done

But that’s easier said than done. Stephen Harper is the first non-Quebecker to win a majority since John Diefenbaker in 1958. And pundits are predicting that if he continues to be as politically adroit as he has proven himself thus far, he and his fellow Conservatives could retain power for many years to come. This does not bode well for public transit or Labour.

“On the other hand,” Dera says, “Labour is also very pleased that for the first time in Canada since the formation of the New Democratic Party 50 years ago, they are now the official opposition and will present labour issues up front in Parliament.

The ATU is especially concerned that Conservatives will succeed in privatizing the public service sector – including public transit.

Because of that, Dera says, “We in the labour movement have to be very vigilant. There are elections this year in three provinces. We will be working very hard to make sure that the Conservatives do not win a majority government in those provinces otherwise we will be in “double trouble.”

Learn more about the Canadian federal election results at: http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canadavotes2011/
CLC Makes Commitment to Political Activism

Delegates to the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) convention in Vancouver, BC, on May 12, debated a political action policy paper aimed at labour's mobilizing for the future. Delegates repeated the refrain that when working people stick together they have power.

The policy paper “Building on Our Success,” builds on a plan drafted at the 2005 CLC convention that would build political capacity, visibility and ultimately lead to political power. Delegates at the 2011 convention describe the election of a Conservative majority government as a major challenge but also see an opportunity with the NDP as the official opposition.

Engaging Social Allies

The policy paper outlines a multi-dimensional approach to political activism and an engagement of Labour and its social allies. The CLC, the paper says, must build on its success in municipal and school board elections and expand its lobbying efforts at all levels of government.

The paper emphasizes the importance of working more closely with young workers and retirees, and a commitment to incorporate social media and new technologies into political work.

Finally, the convention committed to organizing a national political gathering to bring together all components of the CLC to develop political strategies for the next several years.

The “Building on Our Success” political action policy paper can be found at: http://www.canadianlabour.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/policy_paper_-_building_on_our_success_-_en.pdf

Hanley Honored at NY ADA’s Roosevelt Day Dinner

International President Larry Hanley, was the guest of honor at the annual Roosevelt Day Dinner of Americans for Democratic Action, May 25 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Manhattan.


The dinner is touted as a chance for attendees to “rededicate ourselves to the ideals of the labor/liberal alliance – economic and social justice and a fair deal for working America.”
Wednesday, April 27, started out like any other quiet, sultry day in Mississippi. Beverly Harper got up early, watched some television, had breakfast with her son, surveyed the sturdy magnolia trees in her backyard, and planned to enjoy a day off from her job as a bus driver in Jackson.

She had no idea what unpredictable nature had in store for her.

Harper is a member of Local 1208, and a long-time Jackson resident. She is proud of her work as one of the city’s most important people – the reliable, professional, competent drivers who get people to work, school, doctors’ appointments and shopping. Her passengers call her by first name and she knows, as she gets in her car for the trip to the bus depot, that she will enjoy her day with the regulars who feel safe with her behind the wheel.

What Harper never expected on that promising Spring day was that within a few hours, roaring winds and pounding rain would tear through a tiny part of her city and land on her street – ironically named Pine Wood Drive (there is very little pine left) – creating a path of destruction as it hop-scotched from one home to the next, leaving some unscathed while others were ripped apart.

She remembers the wailing of sirens, her lights blinking on and off and running down the hallway as she struggled to get herself and her son out of harm’s way.

As the tornado made a beeline for Jackson, Harper’s ATU sisters and brothers in Tuscaloosa and Birmingham, AL – 185 miles to the East – hadn’t yet felt the force of the storm. But it wouldn’t be long before the same system touched down in those cities, where the damage to property was put in perspective by the news that another ATU member, Sarah Wiggins, had more to contend with than property damage.
More than Property Damage

Wiggins lost her nephew and niece to the weather. Both of them died in their home as the unforgiving 150 mph winds nearly obliterated an entire swath of Tuscaloosa, pulverizing the business district, flattening neighborhoods, and killing more than 150 people.

“More than Property Damage”

Tuscaloosa’s mayor said the entire infrastructure of the city had been wiped out. The father of the Wiggins’s niece, who tried to save her, was sent flying through the black skies and thrown across the street, where he landed like a rag doll on his broken limbs.

His niece was also sent airborne and landed a few feet away. “He still thinks about it every day,” Wiggins said. He has constant flashbacks.”

‘You Never Think It Will Happen to You’

John Eaton, a school bus driver in Tuscaloosa, was on his route when he saw the sky turn dark. There was nothing for him to do except pull over and wait – no more than ten minutes – as the path of the winds passed him by.

But Eaton immediately thought of his daughter, who was at home not far away. He didn’t know that she had left his apartment complex just before the tornado hit. When her cell phone didn’t answer, he called the local hospital which was overwhelmed with a steady stream of injured and dead.

Standing in the rubble of what was once his bedroom, he said: “You never think it is going to happen to you.”

The force of the winds lifted the entire roof of the apartment complex where Eaton lived. Not just a part of the roof – the entire roof, leaving five living places open to the sky and the deluge of rain. Eaton’s daughter was unharmed.

Said ‘He Should Have Known Better’

Across town, another driver Ples White, Jr., was sitting in his living room with his wife as they watched the newscasters, with dire warnings of the approaching weather front. Their dog was outside, romping in his pen, occasionally barking for attention. White had finished his run and said he wasn’t much concerned because it seemed as though the storm was heading in a different direction. Later, he said he should have known better.

For reasons unfathomable to him, the vicious storm skipped over his house on its way across his street where it did major damage. White’s roof was speared by the razor-like edges of a tree, an occurrence that he now views as a minor inconvenience.

The winds knocked down telephone and cable lines but saved its most severe calling card for houses across the street and just a quarter mile away. He thanks God every day that he is alive.

‘I Was Freaking Out’

John Jordan, a member of Local 725-Birmingham, AL, was driving his bus and listening to the news, as anxious passengers thought the worst and prayed for the best. He was forced to pull over, waited a few minutes and the sky was clear again. Birmingham wasn’t exactly spared but didn’t suffer as much damage as Tuscaloosa.

Jordan’s neighborhood, in the town of Moody, 22 miles from Birmingham, full of giant oak trees and spacious lawns alive with the fragrance of the April soil, was on the cusp of the storm. Jordan’s wife was home alone and called him in a panic. She told him she had heard a thunder-like boom and, within seconds, a monstrous tree had sliced through the roof at an odd angle and had trapped her in the home.

Fearing a gas explosion or more winds, Jordan called into his
dispatcher, who immediately sent a company car for him, hustled him back to the depot and soon Jordan was winding his way through traffic-clogged streets littered with thick tree limbs as he rushed home. “I was freaking out,” Jordan remembered.

His trip, normally a 20 minute jaunt on the interstate, took him an hour-and-a-half. He found his wife safe, having been rescued by neighbors.

‘Who Needs Help?’

When the calm after the storm appeared, ATU members immediately thought of who needed help. Jackson, MS Local 1208 President Alfonso Burns knew there must have been some members who needed help fast and was relieved, in an odd sort of way, that the locomotive of rain and wind had practically bypassed his city. When he heard that Harper’s roof was caved in, he drove to her home and then called other members who came by to clear the debris.

They were struck by the fact that this tranquil slice of Jackson, hidden away off a state road but not far from the center of Jackson, had been eerily transformed in a matter of minutes.

Homes Reduced to Piles of Wood

Local 1208 Financial Secretary Mario Harmon heard the news from Tuscaloosa and knew right away that it was a far more serious piece of work than what had hit Jackson. It didn’t take him long to understand the capriciousness of the winds but when he saw the TV images that night, he told his wife Dixie he was going to drive the 150 miles to deliver water and other supplies to members of the local. Dixie, a former bus driver, said she was going with him.

What they saw on the ground astonished and saddened them. Mile after mile of once-neat houses, with well tended lawns shaded by trees planted 100 years ago, were reduced to massive piles of wood. Refrigerators stood alone in what once were kitchens.

Cars were twisted into unrecognizable pieces of metal, play houses and bicycles were strewn about the lawns, pianos stood as a silent reminder of what once was a thriving closely-knit neighborhood of working people surviving against the odds and making a better life for their children. All of it bombed out in the space of ten minutes.

Dixie shot some video which she would later put on You Tube* because print just doesn’t tell the story. And even that doesn’t compare to the disbelief of how much damage was done.

Doors with X-marks

It doesn’t tell of the hearts that sink at the sight of an X-marked door indicating that it’s dangerous to enter, and signs that tell a visitor that a body was found inside.

Harper is described by Burns as “one of our hardest working and most generous drivers.” He recalled how she regularly helps others, not just by dropping 25 cents in someone’s hat but by making her home available to those who are experiencing some temporary bad luck. “She even does young women’s hair and refuses to charge them.” Burns added.

Harper is also active in the political activity of her union – gathering petitions from her passengers when Mayor Harvey Johnson, Jr., wanted to gut service and blame the drivers after the local won an arbitration award. She says she is sort of happy that she has no television service. She now spends more time talking to her son and gets to bed earlier.

John Jordan said he gives thanks every day that his wife and five dogs weren’t harmed. Forty percent of his neighborhood, inhabited by cops, firefighters, teachers and other civil servants, was ripped apart.

* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuHT5iUbft8
Cantor Delays Fed Aid to Tornado-Ravaged Missouri Until Budget ‘Pay-fors’ Are Found to Offset Expense

“If there is support for a supplemental spending measure, it would be accompanied by support for having pay-fors to that supplemental.”
– House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-VA

House Majority Whip Eric Cantor, R-VA, astonished fellow members of Congress, May 24, when he delayed consideration of federal disaster relief for tornado-ravaged Joplin, MO, until cuts were made someplace else in the federal budget to pay for the emergency help. The tornado tore through Joplin, on May 22, leaving 122 dead, and flattening the city.

“There is no question we have to be careful about the way we spend federal money,” said Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-MO, “but with all due respect to Congressman Cantor, I have a hard time believing that if this were in his congressional district he would be talking about how additional disaster relief would not be available unless we found some other program to take it from.”

The House Appropriations Committee did find a way to pay for the Joplin aid by taking $1.5 billion from a loan program which encourages fuel-efficient vehicles.

“It must be available,” said McCaskill. “This cannot be a political football. We must provide the assistance. [W]hat federal tax dollars are for is to provide assistance when there is no assistance available for communities because of the wrath of Mother Nature.”

After seeing what happened in Tuscaloosa, he mentions how unimportant the loss of electricity for a few weeks is. With a wry smile, he adds he has even survived living with his mother-in-law.

Wiggins says she feels “blessed” that nothing happened to her. “I am getting as close to God as I can,” she relates. Her spirits were uplifted when President Obama came to town, toured the area and promised federal help.

The president’s tour of the devastation fought for television time with coverage of the royal wedding. The workers of Tuscaloosa had been bumped off the news all day for a much less serious event 3,000 miles away.

‘This Is What We Do’

ATU members in all three cities were quick to reach out to their colleagues, knowing that they, themselves, had escaped death and damage by mere minutes. “This is what we do,” said Birmingham Local 725 President J.O. Allen. A few steps away, bus driver Tamara Freeman told how she and other members of the Daughters of the Eastern Star spent their day off delivering water and feeding those in need.

Burns and Harmon said it never occurred to them that the members wouldn’t respond. There is no silver lining to be found after viewing parts of a city that were crushed but, if there is any solace to be found, it is this:

When a crisis hits, ATU members do what they do every day on the job, in their communities, in their places of worship. They don’t ask questions about when and where and how. They just help out.

For information on how you can help out with an online contribution go to: http://www.atu.org/page/contribute/AL_MS_tornado_relief

If you would prefer to contribute by mail, send a check to:
Amalgamated Transit Union
Disaster Relief Fund – AL / MS Tornadoes
5025 Wisconsin, Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20016

U.S. Contributors: The ATU Disaster Relief Fund, Inc., is an Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3 publicly-supported tax-exempt organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible as provided under the Internal Revenue Code. No goods or services were received in consideration for this contribution.
WASHINGTON, DC: (PAI) – AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka is redefining workers’ battle with the radical right as a moral struggle, saying it involves the nation’s future.

But since the moral struggle also has a political aspect, Trumka adds the federation plans an overhaul of its political program to make it a year-round operation.

Trumka cast the conflict in states coast to coast in both political and moral terms in a major speech at Washington’s National Press Club on May 20. His text emphasized the struggle, but his answers to post-speech questions turned to politics.

Dispicable Canvas of Cruelty

The moral struggle, he said, appears in state and federal budget proposals, most of them by right-wing Republicans and also schemes – from that same source – to curtail voting rights. He called the budgets “a despicable canvas of cruelty.

“In Michigan, a state senator thinks foster children should be required by law to purchase second-hand clothes – from the $79 annual stipend they get for clothing. In Maine, the governor thinks more children should go to work. In North Carolina, the legislature thinks we should balance the budget on the backs of autistic children.

“In Arizona, the state senate president floats the idea of locking up protesting public employees in desert tent city jails. In New York, a billionaire mayor proposes to fire 5,000 teachers rather than tax the bonuses of the Wall Street executives who brought down the American economy.”

Tax Cuts for the Rich, Budget Cuts for the Rest of Us

In DC, the GOP-run House’s budget cuts federal spending by $4.3 trillion over the next decade, in areas such as Pell Grants and worker training, while cutting taxes for the rich by $4.2 trillion and barely reducing the federal deficit, Trumka said.

“Think about the message these budgets send: Sacrifice is for the weak. The powerful and well-connected get tax cuts, so they can become more powerful and more well-connected.”

Labor must change the debate and defend the moral position, and engage in politics, especially since last November’s election brought to power politicians whose “real passion was for eliminating the rights of working people and destroying their unions – who are standing in the way of their (the Right’s) agenda,” Trumka declared.

The First Step

The first step in the political fight for Labor’s moral agenda, he said, will be in the biggest battleground so far: Wisconsin, where unionists have filed successful recall petitions against at least six members of GOP majority in the state senate.

The GOP has a 19-14 edge there, and the 19 – with all the Democrats having decamped out of the state to try to block a quorum – passed Right Wing GOP Gov. Scott Walker’s bill stripping 200,000 state and local workers of collective bargaining rights. The vote was 18-1. “First, we are going to use that (workers’) voice to end the Scott Walker agenda as a viable political strategy by winning the recall elections,” followed by “citizen vetoes of destructive legislation and retaking state houses.

The Next Step

“The next step will be holding elected leaders accountable on one question: “Are you for improving or degrading life for working families?” That means the fed will not only go into battleground states, Trumka told a later questioner, but also support true friends even in non-battlegrounds – and find challengers to Labor’s political foes.
“Abusing your workforce and trying to shortcut hard-earned labor requirements is not only inexcusable – it’s illegal.”

That’s the message Phoenix Local 1433 President Bob Bean hopes Veolia Transportation Services gets from a complaint the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) filed in federal court early in May. In that complaint the NLRB agrees with the local’s allegations of unfair labor practices by Veolia, and orders the company to correct the problem. Veolia, a $45 billion-dollar multi-national corporation, is under contract to manage city bus routes.

Referring to the NLRB action, International President Larry Hanley asserted that, “Veolia is a billion-dollar, international corporation which tries to pad its own bottom line by taking advantage of American workers in cities across the country.”

According to the official order handed down by the NLRB, the federal government found enough evidence in the ATU’s original grievance to file a complaint on every single allegation put forward by the Union.

Those grievances include allegations that Veolia:

- has refused to negotiate in good faith,
- agrees on certain contract terms and later reneges on those terms
- refused to arbitrate grievances for terminated employees,
- eliminated dues check off,
- is attempting to unilaterally cut operators’ sick time,
- tried to negotiate directly with employees, by making offers of severance packages.

The Acting General Counsel of the NLRB wants a judge to order Veolia to:

1. bargain with the ATU for at least 24 hours each month (at least six hours per session) until a complete collective-bargaining agreement or good-faith impasse is reached.
2. submit a written bargaining report every 15 days to the NLRB Regional Director.
3. reimburse the Union for its bargaining costs and expenses, from its initial request to bargain for a successor agreement to the present.
4. rescind any offers/changes it has made directly to the employees.

Despite the fact that their contract expired last October, ATU operators have refused to strike and have continued working and attempting to negotiate with their employer.

“Our members continue to show up to work every day because they know the people of Phoenix need to get to work too,” said Bean. “We’ve been trying to negotiate with Veolia since January 2010, and Phoenix’s bus operators still do not have a contract.

“It’s clear that Veolia executives are purposefully negotiating to an impasse, he continued, “and we’re incredibly hopeful that this NLRB complaint is a wake-up call.”
Public employees, including ATU members in Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida and other states who have been assaulted by the well-orchestrated, right-wing attack on workers in numerous state legislatures during the past few months, have received a great deal of support from outside of the labor movement.

A March Bloomberg national poll found that 64% of Americans, including a plurality of Republicans, oppose Republican-led efforts to take away the right of workers to bargain for good middle-class jobs. The poll also found that public employees are viewed favorably by a large majority: 72%, compared with 17% who have an unfavorable view.

But when the question turns to compensation of blue collar workers, the public’s attitude changes dramatically – especially when six figures are involved.

That leads to this question: Just what is it about a transit worker making $100,000 per year that angers people?

One of the leading right-wing spokespersons, Ann Coulter, just published a scathing editorial about “insane union contracts” that allowed one bus driver in Madison to make $159,000 – about $100,000 of which was overtime pay. She goes on to say that in 2009, seven of that city’s bus drivers took home more than $100,000.

Easy Targets

Coulter, of course, grossly exaggerates the magnitude of the issue, as you could probably count on your fingers and toes the number of transit workers who pull down anywhere near six figures for performing a job they do extremely well.

And, naturally, she blames the workers because they are easy targets, while the real problem is that many transit systems continue to vigorously oppose our efforts to allow federal transit dollars to be used to save essential service.

Management essentially turns down more money to operate the systems, slashes service, and then relies on overtime to fill gaps rather than hiring more full-time workers and paying all the related costs.

Coulter is not working in isolation. Just take a look at some recent headlines from the past two months:
**New York Daily News** -- “THE GRAVY TRAIN. LIRR engineer pulls in $250G with OT pay.”

**Cleveland Plain Dealer** -- “RTA T ries to Put Brakes on Big Overtime Earners.

**San Francisco Chronicle** -- “Transit Agency Goes Off Rails On Overtime.” “Overtime is not a four-letter word in transit,” says Muni’s operations chief.

**Washington Examiner**-- “Metro Workers are Taking Home Big Overtime Dollars.” Here in the nation’s capital, there is a shortage of bus drivers because of a hiring freeze. But you wouldn’t know that from this article. Local 689 President Jackie Jeter, in a separate publication, explains that maintenance track work is hard, manual labor that shortens the work life of our members, even if they are lucky enough to escape injury.

She correctly adds that overtime is scheduled by management, not the union, and that when our members work overtime to accommodate the extraordinary demands for travel during special events, no articles appear in the newspaper the following day alluding to misappropriation of manpower.

In Pittsburgh, the right wing is very open about it: “A Port Authority worker who fixes fareboxes made more money last year than the attorney who fixes the agency’s legal problems. A bus driver earned more than the executive who oversees more than 800 buses,” read the newspaper.

In other words, things are not as they should be in “Steel City,” a town that was built on the backs of working people. Something is very wrong with this mindset. It leads to our members having to defend themselves when they did nothing wrong. “I’m not robbing the public,” said a member of Local 85.

A National Debate

Coulter and others have at least ignited a national debate on what exactly is a fair wage for a full day’s work. That attorney in Pittsburgh whose salary was still quite respectable most likely did not work even a fraction of the hours of the average transit worker, who makes about $42,000 per year.

In addition, the lawyer could probably show up for work a few minutes late once in a while without being disciplined and has the opportunity to use the restroom at any time during the day without having to wait until the end of a shift.

In fact, due to accidents and violence on the job, bus drivers are 2.8 times more likely to die by the age of 64 than high-level managers, according to a study. Is the gigantic compensation gap justified?

Well Coordinated Attack

This rant against six figure transit workers, like the battle against public employees in the state legislatures, is also a well coordinated right wing attack on labor unions and our members. And don’t be fooled by the true motivation of the other side.

Citing fatigue issues, the Examiner says in an editorial that Metro’s excessive overtime “…puts the public at risk.” While this statement could very well be true – and the ATU is currently developing a comprehensive legislative proposal to deal with the very serious fatigue issues that are currently plaguing the intercity bus industry – conservatives who generally care little about transit to begin with are certainly not losing sleep over bus safety issues.

Dig a little deeper and you’ll see a reference to “…Metro employees…working another eight hours of overtime, for which they are paid as much as $58 per hour.” Bingo. This is classism, plain and simple.

“Union hacks play on our heartstrings, weeping about the valuable work government employees do,” says Coulter. She goes on to say that “…it is statistically more dangerous to be a farmer, fisherman, steelworker or pilot than a cop or fireman.” We would pay top dollar to get a glimpse of Ms. Coulter working just one shift attempting to maneuver a 40 foot, 20 ton vehicle through rush hour traffic in a snowstorm while trying to deal with a gang of rowdy teenagers and a guy who refuses to pay his fare.

Clearly, that is the very definition of “dangerous.” What is not so apparent is why people would believe that the person performing this job on a daily basis would not deserve to be well compensated.
On April 29, over 200 people gathered in downtown Cincinnati to protest ALEC. If you’re like most people you probably asked, “Who’s ALEC?”

ALEC is the American Legislative Exchange Council, a little-known Washington-based organization thought to be coordinating efforts to pass legislation that would rob state workers of their collective bargaining rights.

In January, the New York Times reported that ALEC was “quietly spreading [anti-union] proposals from state to state, sending e-mails about the latest efforts as well as suggested legislative language.”

In a March 30 statement, ALEC responded to this and other reports, saying, “Accusations of ALEC secretly meeting with governors, ALEC running and coordinating ground campaigns against public employee unions, and ALEC wanting to eliminate public employee unions are first and foremost not true.”

But ALEC seems to be knocking down a straw man. The Council need not take any formal position on unions for it to provide a forum for companies and legislators to devise legislation that would effectively end collective bargaining in the public sector.

*Paying a Pretty Penny for ‘Education’*

NPR’s Laura Sullivan reported on October 29, 2010, that corporations pay quite a lot for the privilege of hob-knobbing with state legislators:

Private corporations can join, too… They pay tens of thousands of dollars a year. Tax records show that corporations collectively pay as much as $6 million a year… With that money, the 28 people in the ALEC offices throw three annual conferences. The companies get to sit around a table and write “model bills” with the state legislators, who then take them home to their states.


Wal-Mart, the largest employer in the United States, is well-known for its aggressive anti-union employment practices, and Koch Industries has emerged as one of the biggest contributors to conservative candidates including Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker who is doing everything he can to bust his state’s public employee unions.

Nevertheless, ALEC is still considered a non-profit “educational” organization. As such, member corporations can write off their donations as a gift or a business expense. Politicians can also avoid reporting that they received a free trip courtesy of corporate America, and simply note that they attended an educational conference.

*ALEC’s Aim: Reducing Labor’s ‘Swollen Power’*

ALEC wants it both ways, insisting that it is a non-political while providing a blatantly political service. One ALEC official even went so far as to tell the Times “that the aim of these measures was not political, but to reduce Labor’s swollen power.”

And so the latest tactic in the war on workers has become clear: Create a non-profit forum where corporate America’s best legal minds can craft anti-union legislation with legislators whose campaigns were stoked with corporate cash, stand back, and reap the rewards.

But, the slumbering giant which is Labor was aroused by these blatant attacks on worker rights, and the politicians who supported these measures may be surprised by the enormity of its response at election time.
MADISON, WI: Ruling that Republicans in the state senate had violated the state’s open meetings law, a judge in Wisconsin dealt a blow to them and to Gov. Scott Walker by granting a permanent injunction that voided a law curbing collective bargaining rights for many state and local employees.

CONCORD, NH: Union members were angry the first week of June that for the second straight week House Speaker William O’Brien did not hold a vote on the right-to-work veto Gov. John Lynch issued in May. He backed off when he saw that even with near record attendance he did not have the votes.

COLUMBUS, OH: A Quinnipiac Poll conducted in mid-May showed that registered voters, by a margin of 54 percent to 36 percent, are prepared to give the thumbs-down to the Ohio law limiting public employees’ bargaining rights.

CARSON CITY, NV: Gov. Sandoval reached a budget compromise with the legislature that includes a bar on retirement health insurance for workers hired after January 1, 2012, ends teacher tenure and limits some collective bargaining rights.

AUGUSTA, GA: A lawmaker pushing for a law to guarantee workers the right to choose whether or not to join labor unions has killed that bill. At least for now. It would also have banned employers from deducting union fees from the pay of non-union workers.

SPRINGFIELD, IL: Illinois lawmakers postponed action on a bill that would have forced teachers and state employees to pay as much as three times more for their retirement benefits, following opposition from public workers and their unions.

ALBANY, NY: The state’s 2011-12 budget threatens massive layoffs if negotiators can’t come to an agreement with public-employee unions on how to cut $450 million in personnel costs.

TALLAHASSEE, FL: Labor reported a few wins in the 2-to-1 Republican Florida legislature. A ban on project labor agreements on state-funded construction failed. So did a move to automatically decertify public worker unions when they “fall below 50 percent active membership,” as did a “paycheck protection” measure.

SAN JOSE, CA: The San Jose City Council put off calling a fiscal state of emergency while voting to study various proposals for reducing retirement benefits. The council’s 8-3 vote set up a June 21 showdown on formally declaring a fiscal state of emergency and deciding which pension reforms might be taken to voters.
Four passengers were killed and dozens injured, when a bus en route to Manhattan flipped and landed upside-down, May 31, on I-95 just north of Richmond, VA.

Citing multiple violations of interstate bus regulations, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) shut down Sky Express, the Charlotte, NC-based operator of the discount bus service.

Virginia police blamed driver fatigue for the deadly incident – the fourth over-the-road bus crash in the United States this Spring. On June 1, International President Larry Hanley reiterated his call for Congress to address driver fatigue in its current effort to reform the intercity bus industry. Hanley brought the same message to National Transportation Safety Board Chair Debbie Hersman at a meeting on June 16.

Over the past two years the FMCS found that Sky Express repeatedly violated federal rules which bar tired drivers from operating interstate buses. Nevertheless, the FMCS delayed shutting down the bus company wanting to create an “air-tight case.”

“Their actual safety record is this egregious to continue to be on the road?” asked Peter Pantuso, president of the American Bus Association.

Proposed Bill Still Leaves Passengers Vulnerable


While lauding many of the overdue provisions in the bill, Hanley said, “Unfortunately, the bill still leaves passengers vulnerable because it ignores the key issue at the heart of intercity bus crashes: fatigue… The real problem here is that bus drivers are falling asleep at the wheel because they work grueling hours at abysmally low wages.”

A Dangerous Exception

Hanley is calling on Congress to include an amendment to the proposed legislation that would ensure that the overtime provisions in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) are applied to bus drivers for these companies.

“Currently intercity bus drivers are exempt from the FLSA,” Hanley explained, “and many are forced to work second jobs during their so-called ‘rest period’ just to make ends meet. Under the ATU’s proposed reforms, drivers would get paid fairly for the work they put in above 40 hours per week, making them less inclined to work other jobs while pushing their bodies to the limit.

“For decades FLSA has covered the majority of American workers,” continued Hanley. “In the intercity bus industry, the lack of guaranteed overtime pay after a forty-hour work week is a dangerous exception to the rule. Extending these protections to intercity bus drivers is not only the right thing to do; it’s the safe thing to do for our riders. Until the issue of driver fatigue is addressed, no legislation to improve intercity bus safety will be complete, or effective.”

IN TRANSIT | May/June 2011 21
Think Tank Releases Study on Transit, Jobs in Metro Areas

Nearly 30 million trips are made every day using U.S. public transit. Almost all of these trips occur in the nation’s 100 largest metro areas, which account for over 95 percent of all transit passenger miles traveled. One of the most common reasons people take transit is to get to work.

However, when it comes to the question of how effectively transit connects people and jobs strikingly little is known. With governments considering deep budget cuts, it is increasingly important to understand not just the location and frequency of transit service, but how well transit aligns with where people work and live.

To better understand these issues, the Brookings Institute developed a comprehensive database that provides the first comparable, detailed look at transit coverage and connectivity across and within the nation’s urban areas.

An analysis of data from 371 transit providers in the nation’s 100 largest metropolitan areas reveals that:

- Nearly 70%. Transit coverage is highest in Western metro areas, and lowest in Southern metro areas. Regardless of region, residents of cities and lower-income neighborhoods have better access to transit than residents of suburban and middle/higher-income areas.

- In neighborhoods covered by transit, morning rush hour service occurs about once every 10 minutes for the typical metropolitan commuter. In less than one quarter of large metro areas (23), however, is this typical service frequency, or “headway,” under 10 minutes.

Access to Jobs

The typical metropolitan resident can reach about 30% of jobs in their metro area via transit in 90 minutes. Job access differs considerably across metro areas, from 60% in Honolulu to just seven percent in Palm Bay, reflecting variable transit coverage levels and service frequencies, and variable levels of employment and population decentralization.

- About one-quarter of jobs in low- and middle-skill industries are accessible via transit within 90 minutes for the typical metropolitan commuter, compared to one-third of jobs in high-skill industries. This reflects the higher concentration of high-skill jobs in cities, which are uniformly better served by transit. It also points to potentially large accessibility problems for workers in growing low-income suburban communities.

- Fifteen of the 20 metro areas that rank highest on a combined score of transit coverage and job access are in the West. Conversely, 15 of the 20 metro areas that rank lowest are in the South.

These trends have three broad implications for leaders at the local, regional, state, and national levels. Read the entire report at: http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/Programs/Metro/jobs_transit/0512_jobs_transit.pdf

Many States Fail to Measure Performance

U.S. states spent an estimated $131 billion on transportation in fiscal year 2010, but many cannot answer critical questions about what returns this investment is generating, according to a new report by the Pew Center on the States and the Rockefeller Foundation. The study comes at a time when some members of Congress are proposing that the next surface transportation authorization act more closely tie dollars to performance.

The report, Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results, found considerable differences among the 50 states and the District of Columbia in linking transportation systems to six key goals particularly important to states’ economic well-being and taxpayers’ quality of life.

- Just 13 states have goals, performance measures and data to help decision makers prioritize transportation spending. Nineteen
states trail behind, lacking a full array of tools needed to account for the return on investment in their roads, highways, bridges and bus and rail systems. The remaining 18 states and Washington, DC, fall someplace in between, with mixed results.

The six key goals are:

- **Safety:** This is the area in which states are doing the best job of measuring performance and responding to results. Every state and Washington, DC, has goals and compiles data on indicators such as fatalities and crashes.

- **Jobs and commerce:** Conversely, only 16 states earn top marks for measuring their transportation systems’ performance in this area. Some have begun to develop methods to connect transportation dollars more closely with jobs and commerce.

- **Mobility:** Twenty-eight states and Washington, DC, are doing a good job measuring how well they connect people to their destinations – using the information to combat congestion and manage accidents and other incidents that affect traffic flow.

- **Access:** Half the states and Washington, DC, are leading the way in collecting and tracking information about the availability and use of transportation options such as public transit, including linking workers and employers.

- **Environmental stewardship:** Thirty-four states and Washington, DC, show mixed results or are trailing behind in having the goals, performance measures or data in place to assess how their transportation systems affect the environment.

- **Infrastructure preservation:** More than three-quarters of states earn top marks for having needed information to assess their progress and make smart decisions in this area.

The report describes policies and practices lawmakers can adopt to collect and use information that can improve taxpayers’ return on investment in states’ transportation systems, even in difficult fiscal times. For more information, visit www.pewcenteronthestates.org/transportation.
The 26th Congressional District of New York is a lot different than the rest of the state. If you didn’t know better, you might think you were in Wyoming or North Dakota. It’s cold, quite rural, and has been represented by a Republican in Congress for four decades. In fact, it is one of only four districts in the state that was carried by John McCain in 2008.

So when Rep. Chris Lee, R-NY, resigned earlier this year after sexually suggestive pictures and e-mails of his were made public, few people thought that the race to fill the seat would even be competitive. A rock solid Republican member of the state legislature was considered a sure winner.

But then along came U.S. House Budget Committee Chair Rep. Paul Ryan, R-WI, who in April released the Republican proposal to dismantle major federal programs, including Medicare. House Republicans were confident that the country’s looming fiscal problems provided justification to begin reshaping the increasingly costly social welfare system. Ryan called it the “Path to Prosperity.” International President Larry Hanley said the plan actually put millions of Americans on a “path to nowhere.” The question was whether the voters in the 26th District agreed.

The Democratic candidate, Erie County Clerk Kathy Hochul, never missed an opportunity to attack Republicans over their plan to overhaul Medicare, which would force seniors to pay thousands more for health care. She also pledged to create American jobs – she grew up in a steelworker family – and to stop bad trade deals and outsourcing.

ATU-COPE endorsed Hochul’s campaign well before the New York State AFL-CIO endorsed her candidacy in late April, and we provided financial support until the end of the campaign. Your COPE dollars provided the underdog candidate with the resources to get her message out in a very expensive campaign which drew intense national interest.

Still, the odds were against Hochul. So-called political experts said the 26th District “is so Republican that folks suspect that even the cows, tractors and haystacks vote. When Albany draws new lines next year, it will let the windmills vote. Why rock-ribbed Republicans would put another liberal organization Democrat in Congress is an enigma yet to unfold.”

The mystery was solved on May 24. Kathy Hochul won the election. She ran as a champion for working families – protecting Medicare and Social Security, fighting for good jobs here at home and standing up for collective bargaining. She will be a strong voice and vote for jobs in this Congress.

ATU was proud to play an important role in this race. Hopefully it will knock some sense into House Republicans about the important role of critical government programs, including the transportation program, in ordinary Americans’ lives.
NOUS AVONS ASSEZ DE COMBATS SANS NOUS BATTRE ENTRE NOUS

Il y a assez de combats où nous devons faire face aux ennemis du Syndicat. Nous n’avons pas besoin de nous battre entre nous. Contrairement à tout moment de notre vie, les travailleurs font l’objet d’attaques. En tant que votre président de l’International, il est frustrant de voir que certains des officiers de nos sections syndicales qui travaillent dur sont soumis aux attaques incessantes de personnes appartenant à leur propre section syndicale.

Nous agissons de façon démocratique et les salles de notre syndicat sont les endroits où nous avons nos débats. Parfois, nous menons nos débats trop loin, au point de perturber la capacité de fonctionnement de notre Syndicat.

Tandis que je contemplais les récentes querelles internes au sein de l’ATU, j’ai appris qu’un vieux rival qui devait un ami proche de la section syndicale 726 de Staten Island, NY, était malade. Joe Owens avait servi comme officier dans ma section syndicale pendant 18 ans lorsque je m’y suis présenté. J’étais nouveau et j’avais des idées nouvelles. Au cours d’une lutte interne qui dura des années, nous avons débattu avec force et nous avons même travaillé ensemble au Conseil d’Administration où nous étions parfois en désaccord.

LA GRÂCE D’UN CHAMPION

En 1987, nous nous sommes présentés comme adversaires pour la présidence. Dans une course à quatre concurrents que j’ai gagnée. Joe Owens a été battu. Il a quitté son poste pas comme mon meilleur ami, mais avec la grâce d’un champion.

Les années passèrent et il était temps pour Joe de se retirer de la MTA. Pour son dernier jour, nous avons organisé une fête dans la salle de l’équipage du dépôt de Yonkers. Joe et moi étions toujours en désaccord, mais son discours ce jour-là restera pour toujours dans ma mémoire.

SOUTENZ TOUJOURS VOTRE SYNDICAT

Il se tenait devant nos membres, un officier bien-aimé partant à la retraite, et il dit à toutes les personnes présentes : «Peu importe ce que vous pensez sur une question ou sur l’opinion d’un officier, soutenez TOUJOURS votre syndicat.»

Joe a quitté les rangs des membres actifs en disant à ses supports de toute une vie que ce qui unit les membres d’un syndicat sera toujours supérieur à ce qui les divise. À tous, il nous a appris ce que signifie aimer notre syndicat et qu’il faut mettre l’adhésion au syndicat au-dessus des petites querelles.

Donc, mon ancien adversaire a fini non seulement en étant un grand supporter, mais comme l’homme que m’a enseigné le premier à être aimable.

Non pas parce qu’il était toujours d’accord avec moi, mais parce que, dans sa sagesse, il savait que les membres décident aux élections, mais parce que nous avons tous une contribution à apporter à la construction de notre syndicat. C’est une leçon que nous pouvons apprendre. Je l’ai apprise.

LE BLACK CAUCUS DE L’ATU ÉCOUTE UN GÉANT DES DROITS CIVIQUES DU TRAVAIL

Alors que j’écoutais Bill Lucy à la réunion du Black Caucus de l’ATU le 20 mai, je me suis souvenu de tout ce que j’avais appris sur le mouvement des droits civils et sur tous les mouvements qui eurent du succès pour le progrès social, politique et économique, y compris pour le mouvement syndical.

Lucy, le secrétaire-trésorier qui a récemment pris sa retraite de l’AFSCME, a parlé au Black Caucus de l’importance critique de former des coalitions avec la communauté dans laquelle nous travaillons.

« NOUS NE POUVONS PAS MARCHEUR SEULS »

En écoutant les paroles sages de Bill baissées sur ses nombreuses années dans les mouvements pour les droits civils et les travailleurs, je me suis souvenu de l’appréciation du Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.: «Nous ne pouvons pas marcher seuls.» C’est une leçon que nous apprenons à nouveau dans le monde travailleuse tandis que des événements se déroulent dans le Wisconsin, l’Indiana, l’Ohio, et ailleurs.

Bill nous a rappelé une autre vérité essentielle : Dr King a construit le mouvement pour les droits civils avec la force de la non-violence. Ceux qui marchaient avec le Dr King ont eu une «morale plus haute» en refusant de se battre contre ceux qui les attaquaient. Cette plus haute moralité a attiré le soutien de l’ensemble de la communauté qui, en fin de compte, a contrôlé les événements.

L’APPEL À LA CONSCIENCE

Lucy était à Memphis en train d’organiser les travailleurs de l’assainissement qui finalement se mirent en grève le 12 février 1968.

Il savait que, sans un appel à la conscience, seuls, les travailleurs dans l’assainissement, ne pouvaient pas surmonter le pouvoir d’Henry Loeb, le maire de la ville avec son système répressif et coercitif et l’opinion publique anti-travailleuse qui régnait dans le Sud. Il savait également qu’on répondrait à un appel à la conscience seulement si le public donnait aux travailleurs le type d’autorité morale sérieuse qui vient avec la non-violence d’une action publique.

Cet appel à la conscience a été grandement renforcé lorsque Dr. King est venu dans la ville le 18 mars et qu’il s’est adressé à un rassemblement de 17.000 personnes. Le 28 mars, il a mené une marche que la police brisa avec des matraques, des

BATTRE ENTRE NOUS

COMBATS SANS NOUS

NOUS AVONS ASSEZ DE

LE NOUS APOYE A SU UNION

SIEMPRE

LA ELEGANCIA DE UN CAMPEON

Tenemos demasiadas luchas sin luchar el uno contra el otro.

No necesitamos luchar el uno contra el otro. Como en ningún otro momento en nuestras vidas, el movimiento sindical está bajo un feroz ataque. Como nuestro Presidente Internacional es de gran frustración observar como algunos de nuestros más dedicados dirigentes de uniones locales están bajo constante ataque por parte de miembros de sus propias uniones locales.

Nosotros somos una unión democrática y es en los salones de asamblea de nuestra unión donde toman lugar nuestros debates. Algunas veces nosotros llevamos nuestros debates mucho más allá de lo necesario, hasta el extremo de que perturbarnos la capacidad de funcionar de nuestra Unión.

A medida que yo he observado las variás riñas dentro de la ATU recientemente, he recibido la noticia de que un viejo rival que se convirtió en un gran amigo personal en la Local 726 en Staten Island, NY, estaba enfermo. Joe Owens había funcionado como un dirigente de mi local por 18 años cuando yo entré en la escena por primera vez. Yo era nuevo y tenía nuevas ideas. A través de una lucha interna que tomó lugar por varios años, nosotros debatimos a gritos, e inclusive servimos juntos como miembros de la junta directiva donde con frecuencia estábamos en desacuerdo.

« SIEMPRE APOYE A SU UNION »

El se presentó antes nuestros miembros como un bien amado dirigente jubilado y les dijo a todos los presentes, “No importa lo que usted piense sobre un tema o una posición que un dirigente espouse, SIEMPRE APOYE a su unión.”

Joe dejó las filas de nuestros miembros activos dicte doles a sus colegas paritarios que lo apoyaron durante toda su vida sindical que lo que unifica a la membresía de una unión siempre será de mayor importancia de aquellos que nos divide. El nos ensenó lo que significa el amor por la unión y siempre a poner los intereses de la membresía por encima de las insignificantes disputas.

Así, pusimos un antiguo adversario terminó siendo no solamente un formidable partidario, sino también el hombre que por primera vez me enseñó como ser gentil y cortés.

NO PORQUE ÉL SIEMPRE ESTUVIO DE ACUERDO CONMIGO, PERO SI POR QUE EN SU SABIDURÍA ÉL SABÍA QUE LOS MIEMBROS DECIDEN LAS ELECCIONES, QUE TODO NOS NUESTRA CONTRIBUCIÓN QUE HACER EN EL FORTALECIMIENTO DE LA UNIÓN. ESO FUE UNA LECCIÓN DE LA CUAL TODOSEPODEREMOS APRENDER. YA LA APRENDÍ.”

LA CONSCIENCIA DE Marcha que la police brisa avec des matraques, des
macería, des gaza lacerógena y dos coup de feu. Un garçon de 16 ans a été abattu.

Le Dr King est revenu pour un rassemblement à Memphis le 3 avril, et a prononcé son désormais célèbre discours «Je suis allé sur le sommet de la montagne». Le lendemain, un tireur d’élite a assassiné le leader des droits civiques alors qu’il se tenait sur le balcon de sa chambre à l’Hôtel Lorraine.

Un accord fut finalement conclu le 16 avril. La grève s’arrêta.

**COMPARONS 1968 À 2011**

Bill Lucy est l’un des rares dirigeants syndicaux restants qui était là. Cela a été plus qu’un honneur de l’entendre parler, pour nous, les points entre les luttes de 1968 et celles de 2011. Tandis qu’il établissait des parallèles entre la lutte des travailleurs du secteur public à Memphis et celle des travailleurs des services publics aujourd’hui, il nous a rappelé que Dr King croyait profondément dans le lien essentiel entre les droits des travailleurs et les droits civiques.

Dr King a risqué et finalement perdu la vie, dit-il, à Memphis, en luttant pour les travailleurs.

La coalition avec les travailleurs a amplifié la force du mouvement pour les droits civiques et a grandement aidé les africains-américains (et autres) à obtenir les droits civiques et politiques dont ils avaient été privés pendant des siècles. C’est une leçon importante pour quiconque veut être efficace et réussir une action politique - une leçon que le lendemain, un tireur d’élite a assassiné le leader des droits civiques alors qu’il se tenait sur le balcon de sa chambre à l’Hôtel Lorraine.

Un accorde fut finalement conclu le 16 avril. La grève s’arrêta.

**LA ASAMBLEA AFRO-AMERICANA DE ATU RECIBE UN MENSAJE DE UNA FIGURA GIGANTE EN EL SINDICALISMO Y EN EL MOVIMIENTO PRO DERECHOS CIVILES**

Sentado escuchando atentamente el discurso de Bill Lucy ante la Asamblea Afro-Americana de ATU el 20 de mayo, me hizo recordar todo lo que yo había aprendido sobre el movimiento pro derechos civiles, y también sobre todos los movimientos dedicados al progreso social, político y económico, incluyendo el movimiento sindical.

Lucy, el recientemente jubilado secretario-tesorero del sindicato AFSCME, discursó ante la Asamblea Afro-Americana sobre la crítica importancia de construir coaliciones con la comunidad en general donde nosotros trabajamos.

**NOUS AVONS BESOIN LES UNS LES AUTRES**

Nous devons travailler dur pour trouver des alliés, les comprendre et comprendre leurs besoins, pour leur expliquer les nôtres et pour travailler avec eux afin d’atteindre des objectifs mutuellement bénéfiques. Nous devons trouver un terrain d’entente commun avec les groupes défendant les droits civiques, les personnes âgées, les questions religieuses, l’environnement, les droits de l’homme et tout autre groupe luttant pour un changement progressif.

Comme Bill le fit remarquer, aujourd’hui - plus que jamais - nous avons tous besoin les uns des autres. Notre pouvoir est multiplié lorsque nous établissons des coalitions avec la communauté élargie.


**50È ANNIVERSAIRE DES MARCHEURS POUR LA LIBERTE**

Enfin, cela a été une source d’inspiration de voir le documentaire récemment sorti et les autres commémorations du 50ème anniversaire des Marcheurs pour la Liberté, de voir ceux qui ont risqué leur vie simplement parce qu’ils prenaient des bus intérêts, dans le Sud en 1961.

Quand ils arrivèrent à Birmingham, AL, ils furent accueillis par des foules en colère à qui les autorités locales avaient promis l’immunité de poursuites s’ils battaient ou tuaient les Marcheurs pour la Liberté.

**EL LLAMADO A LA CONCIENCIA**

Lucy estaba en Memphis organizando a los trabajadores sanitarios, quienes eventualmente se fueron a la huelga el 12 de febrero de 1968. Él sabía que los trabajadores sanitarios por si solos no podrían superar la fuerza de Henry Loeb, el alcalde de la ciudad, su represivo y coercitivo aparato y el sentimiento existente en ese tiempo contra el movimiento sindical, lo cual dominaba el Sur del país sin un llamado a la conciencia. Y, él sabía, que el llamado a la conciencia solamente sería respondido si el público en general le concedía a los trabajadores la clase de autoridad moral generada por acción pública no violenta.

El llamado a la conciencia fue grandemente fortalecido cuando el Dr. King vino a la ciudad el 18 de marzo haciendo un discurso ante una concentración de 17,000 personas. El 28 de marzo él lideró una marcha pública que fue dispersada violentamente cuando la policía atacó a los asambleístas con porras, gases lacrimógenos y disparando armas de fuego. Un joven de 16 años de edad fue muerto a tiros.

El Dr. King regresó a Memphis el 3 de abril para participar en una manifestación pública, durante la cual él hizo su ahora famoso discurso “Yo He Arribado a la Cima de la Montaña.” En el siguiente día, un francotirador asesinó al líder de derechos civiles cuando el Dr. King salió al balcón fuera de su habitación en el Hotel Lorraine.

Un acuerdo fue finalmente logrado en el 16 de abril. La huelga había terminado.

**COMPARANDO EL 1968 CON EL 2011**

Bill Lucy es uno de los pocos líderes sindicales que quedan de aquellos que estuvieron presentes. Fue mucho más que un honor el oír sus palabras, haciendo la conexión entre las luchas de 1968 y las de 2011. Cuando él describió el paralelo entre la lucha por los trabajadores sanitarios de Memphis, y los empleados públicos de hoy día, él nos hizo recordar que el Dr. King profundamente creía en el vínculo crítico entre los derechos de los trabajadores y los derechos civiles.

El Dr. King arriesgó y eventualmente perdió su vida. Lucy declaró, ahí mismo en Memphis, luchando a favor de los trabajadores.

La coalición con el movimiento sindical amplió la fortaleza del movimiento pro derechos civiles y ayudó de gran manera a los Afro-Americanos (y a otros) a lograr los derechos civiles y políticos que se les había denegado por siglos. Esta es una importante lección para cualquier persona que quiera ser efectiva y exitosa en la acción política -- una lección a la cual hoy día el movimiento sindical y la ATU deben prestar mucha atención.

**NOSOTROS NECESITAMOS EL UNO DEL OTRO**

Nosotros debemos trabajar arduamente para encontrar aliados, entenderlos a ellos y sus necesidades, explicarles nuestra propia necesidad, y trabajar con ellos hacia el logro de objetivos mutuamente beneficiosos. Debemos buscar un terreno común con grupos de derechos civiles, jubilados, religiosos, medioambientales, derechos humanos y otros grupos que luchan por un cambio progresivo.

Según Bill declaró, hoy – más que nunca – nosotros necesitamos el uno del otro. Nuestra fuerza es multiplicada cuando construimos coaliciones con la amplia comunidad.
Ese es el punto que ha sido enfatizado en recientes conferencias de ATU en varios sitios en Canadá y Estados Unidos. Nosotros debemos continuar con ese esfuerzo. Nuestra sobrevivencia – sin duda, la sobrevivencia y el bienestar del movimiento sindical en su totalidad – depende de ese esfuerzo.

QUINCUAGÉSIMO ANIVERSARIO DE LOS JINETES DE LA LIBERTAD

Finalmente, ha sido de gran inspiración observar el recientemente publicado documental y otras conmemoraciones del quincuagésimo aniversario de los Jinetes de la Libertad, quienes arriesgaron sus vidas simplemente viajando en autobuses racialmente integrados en el Sur durante el 1961.

Cuando ellos arribaron en Birmingham, AL, ellos fueron confrontados por turbas inflamadas, enojadas y furiosas las cuales habían recibido promesa de autoridades locales, en caso que ellos apabullaran o y masacren en su totalidad – depende de ese esfuerzo. Nuestra sobrevivencia – sin duda, vamos a enfrentar con ese esfuerzo. Nuestra sobrevivencia – sin duda, vamos a enfrentar con ese esfuerzo. Nuestra sobrevivencia – sin duda, nos merecemos cada dólar que ganamos, y que nosotros lucharemos con todo lo que esté a nuestro alcance para proteger nuestros miembros y sus familias!

NO SE OLVIDEN DE WISCONSIN

Con toda certeza no podemos olvidar al Gobernador Scott Walker de Wisconsin; qué gran broma es este señor; que bien equivocado es este gobernador! Por favor, que alguien lo despierte a las 4:00 AM y deje que este tipo maniobre a través de acumulación de nieve que llega hasta las rodillas en temperaturas bajo cero a fin de que otros puedan ir a sus empleos, y cumplir con citas escolares y médicas. ¡Digále a él que nosotros no merecemos cada dólar que ganamos, y que nosotros lucharemos con todo lo que esté a nuestro alcance para proteger nuestros miembros y sus familias!

‘EL VERANO Y EL GANARSE LA VIDA ES FACIL’

Ahá! Yo creo que he oído en alguna ocasión anterior esa expresión en una canción. Suena bien, y para algunos de nuestros miembros actualmente lo es. Observemos con cuidado eventos en el estado de la Florida. Tres meses atrás el movimiento sindical estaba bajo un severo ataque y su situación aparente se desesperaba.

Nuestros dirigentes y miembros estuvieron muy ocupados en ese estado, y se movilizaron para enfrentar de frente esos feroces ataques.

El resultado final: Florida se escapó casi sin rasguños, a pesar del ataque lanzado por el Gobernador Scott contra las familias trabajadoras y nuestros miembros.

NOS OUBLIEZ PAS LE WISCONSIN

Bien sûr, nous ne pouvons pasoublier Scott Walker, Gouverneur du Wisconsin, quelle farce; quel individu mal pensant. S’il vous plaît, quelqu’un pourrait-il le réveiller à 4h00 du matin et le faire travailler dans la neige jusqu’aux genoux et avec des températures inférieures à zéro pour que d’autres puissent se rendre à leur travail, à l’école et chez le médecin. Dites-lui que nous méritons tout ce que nous gagnons et que nous allons nous battre avec tous nos moyens pour protéger nos membres et leurs familles.

Hé, Gouverneur, il est temps de vous rappeler à vous et vos copains, que nous officiers et nos membres sommes prêts à sonner l’alarme. Peut-être que si vous les gars devaient travailler pour tout ce que vous avez, vous ne seriez pas si prompts à détruire les FAMILLES DE TRAVAILLEURS!

‘SERVICE ESSENTIEL’

Ces attaques vicieuses ont lieu dans plusieurs autres États ainsi qu’au Canada. A Toronto, le gouvernement provincial a déclaré que la section syndicale 113 était un “service essentiel” ce qui a éliminé leur droit de grève. On s’attend à ce que cette idée s’étende également dans d’autres villes de l’Ontario.

Destinez quoi, Monseur le Premier Ministre, la section syndicale 113 et toutes les autres sections syndicales qui seront attaquées en Ontario ou ailleurs seront prêtes à se battre pour leurs membres et leurs familles et faire tout ce qu’il faudra pour s’assurer qu’ils peuvent négocier avec la direction sur un pied d’égalité.

Partout en Amérique du Nord, que ce soit au nord, au sud, à l’est ou à l’ouest, le travail est l’objet d’attaques sévères, mais rassurez-vous, ces attaques ne feront que nous rendre plus forts.

En conclusion, nous vous souhaitons tout ce que vous pouvez désirer. Sortez et profitez du beau temps, mais essayez de garder un doigt sur ce que vous pouvez désirer. Sortez et profitez du beau temps, mais essayez de garder un doigt sur ce que vous pouvez désirer. Sortez et profitez du beau temps, mais essayez de garder un doigt sur ce que vous pouvez désirer. Sortez et profitez du beau temps, mais essayez de garder un doigt sur ce que vous pouvez désirer. Sortez et profitez du beau temps, mais essayez de garder un doigt sur ce que vous pouvez désirer. Sortez et profitez du beau temps, mais essayez de garder un doigt sur ce.

En toute solidarité
Bob Baker

VICIEUSOS E INJUSTIFICADOS

Les membres de l’Ohio ont eu également un hiver rude, en luttant contre des attaques vicieuses et injustificadas du Gouverneur Kasich. Cet homme politique terrible et insensible a fait tous les coups fourrés imaginables et a ôté le droit de négociation pour mettre cette mesure sur le bulletin de vote en Novembre. Nous allons GAGNER et annuler vos attaques fourvoyées contre les travailleurs et leurs familles.

IN TRANSIT | May/June 2011 27
LA CAMPAGNE POUR FAIRE APPARAÎTRE LE PRÉSIDENT COMME N’ÉTANT «PAS UN DES NÔTRES»

J’espère que vous suivez les nouvelles candidatures pour la présidence des États-Unis - à la fois déclarées et non déclarées. C’est le moment où les candidats à la présidence testent la réponse du public aux thèmes qu’ils utiliseront ou pas pendant les primaires et au-delà.

Alors vous entendrez des candidats attaquer Barack Obama de toutes sortes de façons pour savoir quel type d’attaque résonne bien chez les électeurs. Une des choses que je vous exhorte à faire, c’est d’écouter les conseils d’un sous-texte particulier dans bon nombre de ces attaques qui projettent le président comme n’étant «pas un des nôtres».

PREUVE INUTILE

L’exemple le plus évident de cette stratégie est utilisé par le «mouvement birther.» Les birthers, bien sûr, insistent sur le fait que le Président Obama n’est pas né aux États-Unis et, par conséquent, qu’il n’est pas constitutionnellement éligible à la présidence.

Maintenant qu’Hawaï a publié le long formulaire et certificat de naissance longtemps recherché du Président Obama, vous pourriez penser que cette controverse serait finalement éteinte. Mais, bien sûr, les Birthers insistent maintenant sur le fait que la longueur du formulaire ne fait qu’augmenter le nombre de questions qu’ils se posent sur les origines du président.

Il faut s’y attendre, car l’objectif des Birthers n’est pas de savoir où le président est né, mais plutôt de le décrire comme autre chose qu’un Américain, un outsider, peut-être, même, quelqu’un qui a un agenda caché pour changer fondamentalement ou détruire les États-Unis.

C’est pourquoi vous entendrez les gens dire que le Président est en fait un musulman, pas un chrétien, que ses valeurs ont été façonnées en Indonésie; ou qu’il est un Afghan; ou qu’il est un Socialiste. Sans aucune éthique, les adversaires du président espèrent que ces allégations totalement infondées généreront suffisamment de peur et de collère irrationnelles pour compromettre sa capacité à gouverner et pour saper sa campagne pour un second mandat.

JOIGNEZ VOUS À MOI DANS LE MOUVEMENT DE LA VÉRITÉ

Par conséquent, je vous demande de vous joindre à moi pour surveiller ces tactiques entre maintenant et les élections de novembre 2012. Faites comprendre ces tactiques à vos amis, surtout ceux qui croient en ces mensonges et expliquez la stratégie qu’il y a derrière celles-ci.

Si chacun d’entre vous fait cela, nous pourrions créer un mouvement qui contrecarrer et neutraliser cette campagne de diffamation et qui témoigne de la vérité.

LA CAMPAIGN QUE INTENTA DESCRIBIR AL PRESIDENT COMO ‘NO UNO DE NOSOTROS’

Yo espero que ustedes estén acompañando las noticias sobre las varias candidaturas emergentes para Presidente de los Estados Unidos – ambas declaradas y no declaradas. Este es el momento cuando los aspirantes a la presidencia ponen a prueba la reacción del público a los temas que ellos pudieran utilizar durante los comicios de primarias y mas allá.

Así, usted oirá a candidatos atacando al Président Obama de todas las maneras imaginables, a fin de determinar qué clase de ataque tiene mayor resonancia con los votantes. Una de las cosas que yo les insto a ustedes es que escuchen con cuidado las insinuaciones de un subtexto en particular en muchos de estos ataques que intentan describir al presidente como “no uno de nosotros.”

INNECESARIA PRUEBA

El más obvio ejemplo de esa estrategia es utilizada por el “movimiento de prueba de nacimiento.” Los seguidores de esa estrategia, desde luego, insisten que el Presidente Obama no nació en los Estados Unidos y es, por lo tanto, constitucionalmente ilegible para ser Presidente.

Ahora que el estado de Hawái ha distribuido públicamente el formulario amplio de certificado de nacimiento usted pensará que esta controversia finalmente dejaría de existir. Pero, desde luego, los partidarios del “movimiento de nacimiento” ahora insisten en que el formulario amplio solamente aumenta el número de preguntas que ellos tienen sobre los orígenes del presidente.

Esto era de esperarse, porque el objetivo es que el presidente no es actualmente un musulmán, no un cristiano: que sus valores fueron moldeados en Indonesia; o ellos hasta dicen, según lo hizo el comentarista Glenn Beck, que Obama odia a la gente de raza blanca. Beck fue forzado a retractarse de ese último comentario, lo cual probó ser demasiado absurdo, aun hasta para su propia empresa de televisión Fox.

Ustedes también verán degradantes “fotografías distorsionadas” del presidente Obama con el rostro pintado, vestido como un guerrero tribala Africana del presidente. Estas declaradas y ostensibles fotos puramente racistas con certeza asustarán a algunos, y ridiculizarán la herencia Africana del presidente.

Ninguna de estas declaraciones necesitan prueba, y ninguna de esas imágenes necesitan ser endosadas por un candidato para crear falsas impresiones e incitar el racismo.

SUTILEZA

Mucho más suelto, sin embargo, son las aserciones de que los “verdaderos” Americanos – usualmente representados por candidatos y votantes de la extrema derecha—deben rescatar el país del agare de los usurpadores quienes han traido los “verdaderos” valores Americanos.

Una vez que el público se trague esta propaganda, no es una exageración esperar que ellos crean que el Presidente Obama instalará paneles de muerte, o convertirá al país en un estado Musulmán o Socialista. Los poco éticos opositores del presidente esperan que estas alegaciones sin fundamento generarán suficiente miedo e ira irracional que comprometan la habilidad del presidente de gobernar, y así socavar su campaña para un segundo periodo presidencial.

UNÁNSE A MÍ EN UN MOVIMIENTO DE LA VERDAD

Por lo tanto, yo les estoy solicitant a ustedes a que se unan a mí en mantener vigilancia sobre esas tácticas, desde ahora hasta la elección del 2012. Infórmeles a sus amigos sobre estas mentiras, especialmente a aquellos que creen en esas mentiras, y explíquenles cuál es la estrategia detrás de tales calumnias.

Si cada uno de ustedes toma esta iniciativa, nosotros podremos crear un movimiento de contra jugada que venga a neutralizar esta campaña de calumnias y darle vigencia la verdad.
Les néo-démocrates gagnent 102 sièges lors des élections historiques et forment le parti d’opposition du Parlement conservateur

Un profond changement dans la politique canadienne a eu lieu le 2 mai, lorsque les candidats du Parti conservateur ont été élus et ont pris la majorité des sièges à la Chambre des Communes – ce qui leur a donné le plein contrôle du Gouvernement Canadien. Après deux gouvernements minoritaires successifs, Stephen Harper, Premier ministre conservateur, a finalement atteint son objectif de remporter une majorité absolue (166 sièges sur 308) à la Chambre basse du Parlement.

Mais les nouvelles n’étaient pas toutes mauvaises pour les progressistes. En venant en deuxième position avec 102 sièges, le Parti Néo-démocratique (PND) a émergé comme l’opposition officielle de la 41e législature. C’est 60 sièges de plus que le PND n’a jamais eu - le plus grand nombre au cours des 50 ans d’histoire du parti travailiste.

Le PND a surpris le Parti Libéral, en le détrônant de sa deuxième position. Les libéraux sont descendus de 77 à 34 sièges (le plus bas de leur histoire).

Les choses ont été encore pire pour le Bloc Québécois (parti du mouvement séparatiste québécois). Le «BQ» a été réduit de 47 à 4 sièges - trop peu, même pour être reconnu comme un parti officiel par le Parlement.

Elizabeth May, Chef du Parti Vert de la Colombie-Britannique, a remporté le premier siège jamais obtenu par un membre du Parti Vert au Canada.

Certains observateurs pensent que les résultats indiquent que le Canada se dirige vers un système à deux partis dans lesquels les partis tels que le Parti travailliste, ont grandement acclamé Layton quand il a demandé aux électeurs: «En qui avez-vous confiance» pour négocier un nouvel accord de campagne partout au Canada.

Maintenant, en tant que chef du parti de l’opposition officielle, Layton jouera un rôle beaucoup plus important dans le débat parlementaire, et les visions des Travailleurs seront sur le point d’être plus largement connues.

Il semble se réjouir de l’occasion. Le 11 mai, les délégués à la Convention du Parti Canadien du Travail, ont grandement acclamé Layton quand il a dit que le Canada a maintenant la plus grande opposition unie depuis 31 ans.

Il leur a dit, «quatre millions et demi de Canadiens ont élu plus de néo-démocrates que jamais auparavant. Ils nous ont donné un mandat clair pour mettre les familles des travailleurs au premier plan. C’est un mandat que Stephen Harper (Chef du Parti conservateur et Premier ministre) ferait bien de respecter - et en travaillant ensemble, notre équipe néo-démocrate s’en assurera».

Layton affirme que son équipe est prête à travailler à la poursuite de ses engagements de campagne pour améliorer les retraits publiques, pour renforcer les soins de santé canadiens, pour relancer la création d’emplois et proposer des solutions concrètes pour que les familles de travailleurs puissent joindre les deux bouts.

Il a dit que les progressistes ont besoin de changement pour construire le plus grand mouvement que le Canada ait jamais connu. «Nous pouvons bâtir le Canada que nous désirons, en ne laissant personne pour compte.» Il a demandé aux délégués de retrouver leurs manches et de bâtir le pays.

PLUS FACILE À DIRE QU’À FAIRE

Mais c’est plus facile à dire qu’à faire, Stephen Harper est le premier non-Québécois à remporter une majorité depuis John Diefenbaker en 1958. Et les experts prédissent que s’il continue à être politiquement adroit comme il l’a été jusqu’à maintenant, lui et ses collègues du Parti conservateur pourraient conserver le pouvoir pendant de nombreuses années à venir. Ce n’est pas de bon augure pour les transports en commun ou les travailleurs.

«D’autre part,» Dera dit, «Les travailleurs sont également très heureux pour la première fois au Canada depuis la création du parti Néo-démocratique il ya 50 ans, d’être maintenant l’opposition officielle et ils présenteront directement au Parlement les questions concernant les travailleurs.

En remarquant que les conservateurs auraient été élus par une majorité tout à fait comparables, il en tire l’équivalent de plus de 100 sièges. Le parti travailliste, devrait être très vigilant. Il ya des élections cette année dans trois provinces.

Pour cette raison, Dera dit, «Nous, dans le mouvement ouvrier, devons être très vigilants. Il ya des élections cette année dans trois provinces. Nous allons travailler très dur pour nous assurer que les conservateurs n’obtiennent pas un gouvernement majoritaire dans ces provinces sinon nous aurons un «double problème».

Pour en savoir plus sur les résultats des élections fédérales canadiennes, consultez:
The official work of General Executive Board Member Fred Fay, for the last two years, has led him into some of the most important situations that the Association has been forced to meet and deal with... However, one of the most interesting experiences of Bro. Fay was connected with his work in organizing in Kansas City.

Nearly two years ago, upon appeal of motormen and conductors employed upon the Kansas City system, Board Member Fay was dispatched to assist them in organizing. He was confronted with the tactics of a bitterly opposing management, and the contest crystallized into a franchise election fight. Board Member Fay was active in the defeat of the company.

After this contest he was withdrawn from Kansas City. A few months ago, appeals were again made for an organizer and Bro. Fay was again sent to Kansas City. He found the company equally as vigorous in opposition as at the time of his previous attempt. However, he received the united support of organized labor and developed a considerable membership.

It was finally determined to call a general meeting and to do this: Board Member Fay and others took advantage of an automobile that was loaned to them by one of organized labor’s Kansas City friends. With this automobile, it was the plan to go from barn to barn and address the car men, urging them to attend the meeting.

The company officials were evidently prepared to receive them. The automobile drew up before the Troost Avenue barn, where the superintendent opened fire with a large water hose. The stream was directed against Bro. Fay.

While the water came in blinding force, he was enabled to follow its course and succeeded in reaching the superintendent, who was handling the nozzle. The superintendent endeavored to strike him over the head with the nozzle, but the blow landed, for the time, rather harmlessly on Bro. Fay’s breast.

It gave him an opportunity to get hold of the superintendent and it is predicted by those present that the superintendent will use some other means to thwart organizers in the future. The Kansas City Herald, in speaking of the affair, states that the previous reputation of the superintendent as a pugilist vanished by the incident.

A number of motormen and conductors witnessed the discipline inflicted upon the superintendent. However, Bro. Fay and his associates successfully planted the foundation for what will prove to be one of the leading locals in the Association.
Idaho Falls Local Honors Its Veterans

Local 1517-Idaho Falls, ID, honored its military veterans presenting each with a framed “certificate of appreciation” at its regular monthly meeting on May 10. In a letter to their members Local President Bob Haderlie, and Financial Secretary Cory Taylor wrote “We have chosen this evening to honor our Bus Operations’ Veterans who have served their nation with honor and bravery, as well as serving the ATU with hard work and integrity.”

Members honored at the meeting included:

Ray M. Perry, U.S. Army, World War II  
Dennis R. Peterson, U.S. Navy, Vietnam  
Stephen K. Dickmann, U.S. Army, Operation Desert Storm  
William A. Ravenscraft, U.S. Navy, Vietnam  
Don Barry Cox, U.S. Army  
Ronald L. Lee, U.S. Marines, Vietnam  
Rod J. Moad, U.S. Army  
Fred Wesley Olsen, U.S. Marines, Vietnam  
William Sensenbach, U.S. Army, Vietnam  
Dan L. Hill, U.S. Army National Guard, Vietnam  
Ed W. Andersen, U.S. Army, Vietnam  
Larry D. Hawker, U.S. Army National Guard  
Rob Bell, U.S. Army  
Norman Wyatt, U.S. Army National Guard, Vietnam  
Buzz Smith, U.S. Army  
Glen W. Horsch, U.S. Army  
Wally D. Moses, U.S. Army  
Joel P. Wright, U.S. Army, National Guard, Vietnam  
Darrell Kibbee, U.S. Army, Vietnam  
Claude V. May, U.S. Navy, Vietnam

Tom Dixon, U.S. Navy, Operation Desert Storm  
Reed J. Pettingill, U.S. Army, Operation Iraq Freedom  
Jim Neff, U.S. Army  
Gene Stoddard, U.S. Army, Vietnam  
Jon Eaton, U.S. Army National Guard  
Joe Talbot, U.S. Marines, Korean War  
Bob Surton, U.S. Navy, Korean War  
Clive J Randall, U.S. Navy, World War II  
Bob Melendez, U.S. Army  
Thomas J Edwards, U.S. Army, Vietnam  
C. Paul Schlaflke, U.S. Army, Korean War  
Don Peters, U.S. Army  
Keith Cook, U.S. Navy, Korean War  
Doyle G. Ellis, U.S. Army  
Robert I. Wartchow, U.S. Navy, World War II  
Don Ellis, U.S. Air Force, World War II  
Harold Vossler, U.S. Navy, World War II  
Raymond G. Cromwell, U.S. Army National Guard, Vietnam  
Harold D Stoddard, U.S. Marines, World War II