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March for Justice at Avondale exposes company's problems

Protestors march at New Orleans workboat show

UNION SUPPORTERS staged a rally and march in front of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans on December 3, 1998. About 100 metal trades members waved signs and chanted to protest the refusal of Avondale Industries Inc. to recognize the union voted in by its employees.

At the height of the protest, Convention Center security closed all the doors to the building except one. The *Times-Picayune* quoted one boat show participant as saying the protest was causing inconveniences. "It's a real pain," he said.

The pain for workers at Avondale Industries Inc. is more severe than a one-day inconvenience. It comes from the five-year battle they've waged to get Avondale to recognize and negotiate with the union they voted for in 1993, and from the unsafe working conditions that continue at the shipyard.

Avondale workers and New Orleans Metal Trades members refuse to give up. They promise continued public action until they get results.



L-37 Bus. Mgr. Dave Hegeman (second from right) and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Marcos Lopez (third from right) march in the Dec. 3 rally. Photo by *Times-Picayune*, Alex Brandon.

"We're still fighting after five years," says Boilermakers Local 37 Business Manager Dave Hegeman. "A contract would have improved worker morale and productivity in that time, but they

wanted to fight. We'll just keep fighting until the company recognizes the union, negotiates a union contract, and begins treating their employees like human beings." □

EPA's plan to reduce NOx emissions means more work for Boilermakers

Mandate affects 22 states in eastern U.S.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL Protection Agency (EPA) has announced a plan for reducing the emissions of nitrous oxides (NOx) in 22 states. NOx is a major contributor to air pollution. The 22 eastern states named in the plan will be required to reduce NOx emissions by 1.1 million tons by the year 2003, or 28 percent by the year 2007.

The EPA says their new plan will significantly improve air quality in these and neighboring "downwind" states without placing undue financial hardship on any single industry. The plan incorporates a market-based "cap and trade" program which allows industries to buy and sell emission "credits." By not mandating which sources of NOx must be reduced, the plan is flexible enough to be cost-effective while reducing overall NOx emissions.

The EPA estimates that under their plan coal-fired power plants can reduce NOx emissions at a cost of between \$1,500 and \$1,700 per ton, compared with the \$2,000 to \$10,000 per ton local and state programs would cost. Even using that lower figure, EPA estimates that the mandated reductions will cost \$1.7 billion per year.

Critics of the plan say the EPA has underestimated the cost. The EPA plan relies on most coal-fired plants using selective noncatalytic reduction, a relatively inexpensive process. But industry representatives say many plants will need to use the more expensive selective catalytic reduction (SCR). SCR

retrofits generally take from two weeks to two months.

In the SCR process, ammonia is injected into flue gases, and the gases are then directed to the catalyst bed chamber where the mixture of NOx and ammonia are converted to elemental nitrogen and water vapor, two natural, nonpolluting components of air. Most of the work of retrofitting a plant

for the SCR process is performed by construction Boilermakers.

International President Charles W. Jones has called the EPA plan a "golden opportunity" for construction Boilermakers to get more work.

"We must work with our contractors to assure their customers that we have the manpower to get this enormous job done," he said. "If you're thinking

Continued on page 3

Boilermakers to the rescue

Volunteers rebuild bridge destroyed by flash flood

ALABOR OF LOVE. That's how the sheriff of Jefferson County, Ohio, describes the efforts of welders who built a bridge so Betty Jean Galich and her daughter, Madonna, could travel to and from their home.

On June 28, a flash flood destroyed the bridge leading to the Galich home in the village of Glen Robbins. Madonna is confined to a wheelchair because of spina bifida, and Mrs. Galich didn't know how she could afford to build another bridge. But Sheriff Fred Abdalla knew. A Boilermaker out of Local 154, Pittsburgh, Pa., Abdalla made a few phone calls, and help was on the way.

Local 154 member John "Scotty" Littlejohn was one of the first on the scene. He had already witnessed the flood's devastation when he volunteered to take equipment to the village



L-154's Harris prepares to weld lifting lugs.

Continued on page 7

Crew's high-wire act is good enough to take on the road



And that's what NTL crews do – take their 'act' on the road – traveling from job to job, performing the highly-skilled work the construction industry demands

THE CIRCUS MUST LOSE its appeal to these Boilermakers, whose work takes them to new heights every day. It may look like a high-wire act at left, but that's just how these Boilermakers move around on the job. At right, another Boilermaker demonstrates his balancing skills as he guides the crane operator. These are just every-day feats for these NTL members as they erect a 300,000 gallon water tower for Caldwell Tank in King, N. C. □



At left, Caldwell crew members John Sanborn Jr., John Sanborn Sr., Dewayne Cox, foreman R. P. Elliott, Darren Smith, and Andrew Weddle.



National Archives gets steam whistle for museum display



Scott Enge, an International representative for the Railroad Division, displays the steam whistle he donated to the National Archives. Pictured, left to right, are Boilermaker Archivist Tom Wands, Railroad Division Director Joe Stinger, Enge, and International President Charles W. Jones.

WORKING AS AN International representative, Scott Enge is on the road a lot. On one trip, he found a high-pressure steam whistle that someone was going to discard. Enge was able to rescue the whistle from its scrap yard destination by convincing the owner to donate the whistle to the Boilermakers' National Archives. Found in the Chicago area, a whistle of this type was used to signal workers to begin and end their day at railroad power house plants in the early 1900s. It was operated from a twin steam line and could be heard five miles away.

The whistle will be displayed at the National Archives in Kansas City. Archivist Tom Wands stresses the importance of saving these artifacts from destruction.

"There's more value in displaying Boilermaker-related tools and documents in the museum than any amount of money you could get for them at the scrap yard. If a member, or their family, wants to make a donation to the National Archives, the name of that member will be recorded for posterity."

For more information, contact Wands at 913 621-1880. □

L-592 earns Can Do Award

Members gain recognition for outstanding job performance

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 592, Tulsa, Okla., have earned a "Can Do" Spirit Award for their outstanding job performance for Midwest Industrial Contractors, Inc. at Conoco Refining and Marketing in Ponca City.

The project involved changing out cyclones in the regenerator and installing a new air distribution system in the bottom of the regenerator. Midwest's construction manager, Eldon Pittser, said there were numer-

ous heavy lifts and a lot of internal rigging involved in the project.

"This project was sold first with safety, followed by quality and productivity," Pittser said. "All three objectives were accomplished to the satisfaction of the contractor and the customer."

Intl. Vice Pres. George Rogers congratulates all the members involved in the project. He said: "It is quality and productivity such as this that will help secure our craft in the future."

Local 592 members were joined on this project by members of Boilermaker Locals 69, 74, 79, 83, 101, 132, 531, and 587. □

L-60 members save diver

I WANT TO SEND my personal thanks for the efforts of Local 60 (Peoria, Ill.) members – Willie Watkins, Craig Harrison, Terry Mason, John Mason, Dave Knight, and Bruce Sack – who assisted in the rescue of a diver at the LaSalle U-2 emergency core cooling system suction strainer replacement project on October 5. Their teamwork

and quick actions during an emergency in a confined space diving operation resulted in a rescue versus a retrieval. These men have again shown the dedication and involvement that I have seen from all of your members who have been on my project teams.

JON ROGOZINSKI
LaSalle Station Project Manager

The Boilermaker
Reporter

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In Brief

L-154's Ventrone is named Labor Man of the Year



L-154 BM Raymond Ventrone accepts the 1998 Labor Man of the Year award from the Italian Heritage Society of America.

RAYMOND C. VENTRONE, business manager of Local 154, Pittsburgh, Pa., has been named Labor Man of the Year by the Italian Heritage Society of America.

In a ceremony October 24, 1998, Ventrone, who has been a member of Local 154 since 1978, was recognized for his achievements and paramount dedication to the labor movement. Seven hundred people attended the ceremony at the Sheraton Hotel in Station Square, where community leaders were recognized for their service and accomplishments in the fields of art, medicine, labor, law, religion, and business.

Labor Dept. announces sweatshop initiative

THE LABOR DEPARTMENT has announced plans to form new rapid response teams to deal with the growing number of illegal sweatshops operating in this country. More than 200 additional inspectors will be assigned to the field so that the U.S. government can crack down on U.S. plants that violate federal wage and hour standards, said Labor Secretary Alexis Herman during an October 6 conference on creating a code of conduct for factories that produce goods bearing college logos.

Organizing wins up

THE NUMBER OF workers trying to join together in unions and their rate of winning union elections rose substantially in the first half of 1998, according to a Bureau of National Affairs report.

There were 1,611 government-supervised elections in the first six months, up by 8.9 percent over the first six months of last year. Unions won 833 of those elections for a win rate of 51.7 percent, up from 49.2 percent in the first half of last year.

These figures do not include organizing wins under the Railway Labor Act or under card-check recognition.

Shipbuilding News

U. S. Marine Repair buys NORSHIPCO

UNITED STATES Marine Repair, formerly known as Southwest Marine Holdings, has purchased the Norfolk Shipbuilding and Drydock Corporation (NORSHIPCO), where Local 684, Norfolk, Va., has represented employees since 1953. The purchase makes Marine Repair the largest non-nuclear ship repair, modernization, and conversion company in the U.S.

Based in San Diego, the company's holdings include Southwest Marine Inc., with divisions in San Diego and San Pedro, Calif.; San Francisco Drydock in San Francisco, Calif.; and a shipyard in Ingleside, Texas. According to a report in Technology & Repair, the purchase of NORSHIPCO brings the

Connie Mobley, retired labor leader, passes away

Leaves strong legacy as innovative organizer

CONNIE R. MOBLEY, 69, who retired in 1994 as field director of construction organizing and assistant to the International president, passed away on December 27, 1998. A 42-year member of Local 154, Pittsburgh, Pa., Mobley was instrumental in the development of the Boilermakers' Fight Back Program.

As an International Representative in the Construction Division in 1979, Mobley was one of the first key players of the Fight Back team who revolutionized the concept of organizing through his attempts to organize nonunion contractors in the construction industry.

Mobley began his Boilermaker career as a member of Local 154 in 1956. On January 1, 1978, Mobley was appointed temporary organizer with the National Transient Division to help organize Brown Steel Tank in Noonan, Ga. He became an Intl. Rep. of the Construction Division in March 1980, and became field director of organizing and assistant to the International President in July 1985. He retired October 31, 1994.

Mobley is survived by his wife, Lucy; son, Travis; daughters Glenda, Deborah, Cathy, Connie Jo, and



Barbara; six grandchildren; eight sisters; and five brothers. □

EPA NOx plan means more work for Boilermakers

Continued from page 1

about early retirement, you may want to wait a few years."

By September 1999, each of the states must submit a plan for reducing emissions, with needed controls in place by 2003. By 2007, all NOx emissions will have been reduced by 28 percent.

The 22 states involved are Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Although the retrofitting work will be performed in these 22 states, Boilermakers from all over are expected to benefit. High manpower needs should provide ample work opportunities for Boilermakers willing to boom out. Current estimates of the necessary manpower suggest we may even need to bring in Canadian Boilermakers.

Some of the affected states are challenging the current plan, but they are not expected to significantly alter its eventual implementation. In order to satisfy goals set by the 1991 Clean Air Act, NOx emissions must be cut significantly by 2007. This plan may be modified, but it will not be abandoned. □

How much bigger can two more years make your pension check?

Do the math - you could be surprised

IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING early retirement and are wondering how much difference it might make to hang on a few more years to ensure that our power plants can complete their SCR retrofits on schedule, this analysis may help you decide.

A Boilermaker whose contributions total \$65,000* and who elects to retire at 55 after 25 years of service will receive a basic benefit of \$1,829.48 per month, based on the following formula:

\$65,000 x 48.25% (current pension factor)	=	\$31,362.50
Less age reduction of 30% (1/2% x 60 months)	=	-9,408.75
Annual benefit	=	\$21,953.75
Divided by 12	=	\$1,829.48 per month

If this typical Boilermaker works 1,700 hours over each of the next two years and receives pension contributions of \$2.10 per hour, retiring at 57, the monthly pension benefit would be \$2,403.16, an increase of \$573.68 (more than 30%), calculated as follows:

Additional contributions (\$2.10* x 3,400 hours)	=	\$7,140.00
Add to previous contributions	=	\$65,000.00
	=	\$72,140.00
\$72,140 x 48.25%	=	\$35,168.25
Less age reduction of 18% (1/2% x 36 months)	=	-6,330.29
Annual benefit	=	\$28,837.96
Divided by 12	=	\$2,403.16 per month

In addition to increased basic benefits, a participant may, as a result of the additional pension service credit and age, also qualify for retiree coverage under Boilermakers National Health and Welfare Fund Plan Z, an unreduced 50 percent Husband-and-Wife benefit, or a decreased early retirement reduction factor.

Most Boilermakers also participate in the Boilermakers National Annuity Trust. Account balances in that trust will also be increased by the additional contributions.

* The figures given here are based on a typical Boilermaker's trust balance and hourly contribution rate. To get a more accurate picture of your own situation, recalculate the benefits based on the contribution rate for your local lodge, your age, etc.

company's revenues to approximately \$400 million per year, with a workforce of approximately 3,000. Each company making up United States Marine Repair will keep its own corporation structure and identity.

Another anti-PSA bill introduced

IN THE FINAL DAYS of the 105th Congress, yet another bill was introduced to radically restructure the Passenger Services Act (PSA), which limits domestic waterborne movements of passengers to U.S.-flag vessels. Supporters of the bill, H.R. 4673, contended that it was needed because "U. S. shippers have no interest in building these types of ships."

No interest? Well, to put the matter in some perspective: About the same time that H. R. 4673 was introduced, American Classic Voyages Co., which operates cruises in Hawaii and on the

inland rivers, announced that it has signed a letter of intent with Litton Ingalls Shipbuilding Co. to construct two cruise ships for the Hawaiian inter-island service with options to build up to four additional vessels. No interest? Try telling that to the Litton Ingalls Shipbuilding Co. or to the members of Boilermakers Local 693 (Pascagoula, Miss.) who will be building these ships.

L-680 members build double bottom units for Port Weller

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP at Port Weller Dry Docks, where members of Local 680, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, are celebrating the keel laying of the first of three vessels for Canada Steamship Lines (CSL).

The \$100 million contract for three new forebodies for CSL's aging lake fleet was signed in March, and the first double bottom unit was used as the

official keel in a ceremony on September 10.

Port Weller General Manager Charlie Payne credits the five-year labour agreement with Local 680 as a key component in securing the CSL project. It is the largest, single project in Port Weller's history. Already, Port Weller has increased its seniority roll of just over 200 employees two years ago to just over 400 today. And they plan to hire an additional 50 to 100 workers in the next few months.

For each vessel, Local 680 members will build a new forebody. They will cut off the existing forebody, replace it with the new forebody, and then completely outfit it with new self-unloading tunnels. The first vessel should be finished on May 29, 1999.

When completed, the rejuvenated lakers will sail the Great Lakes. The two-belt, gravity flow self-unloaders will primarily deliver coal to Stelco. Their new hulls will measure 740-feet in length, and 78-feet and one-inch in width.

Carhartt agrees to use union labor in future U. S. and Canadian construction projects

Maker of work and outdoor clothing signs agreement; BCTD agrees to prevent boycott of Carhartt products

CARHARTT, INC. and the Owensboro Building and Construction Trades Council have reached an agreement on future construction work by Carhartt. Carhartt has committed to the use of project labor agreements for future construction projects in the United States and Canada.

With the signing of this agreement, the Building Trades agreed to communicate the intent of this agreement to its members throughout both countries to discourage any boycott of Carhartt, Inc.'s products.

Encouraging workers to buy Carhartt clothing, Building and Construction Trades Department President Robert A. Georgine said, "If Carhartt sees a direct relationship between this agreement and sales levels, they will understand even better the value of working cooperatively with the building trades."

Carhartt opened its doors for business in 1889, producing outdoor and work clothing for children and adults, including coats, jackets, shirts, coveralls, bibs, bottoms, and jeans. □



Carhartt's products range from arctic wear and durable work clothes to knits, fleece, and light-weight clothes for spring and summer - even underwear and clothing for kids

Boilermaker members create specialized company to fit industry protection need

Rankin family designs heat-resistant suit for high-temperature repair and inspection service

BUTCH RANKIN received his 30-year membership pin from Local 83, Kansas City, Mo., in 1995. He also became a Boilermaker contractor that year, signing an addendum to the National Power Generation Maintenance Agreement for his company, High-Temp Repair and Inspection, Inc. (HRI). Working in environments as hot as 600 degrees in confined spaces and even hotter in open-air situations, the key to their service is the suit they designed to protect tradesmen from high temperatures and toxic fumes.

Butch started the company with his sons, Roger and Curt, both members of the Boilermakers National Transient Lodge. Plans for their company actually began in 1978, when they built a 500-degree test booth on their farm near Buffalo, Mo., and started experimenting with available protective clothing.

Roger says that heat-resistant suits have been around a long time, but no one had yet developed one that would fit through the standard 18-by-21-inch manhole. From 1978 to 1993, the Rankins worked on slimming down the suit and adding everything a man needs to survive in extremely hostile environments - from life support to cooling to communication.

"We hired companies to design what we needed and then we'd try it and take it back and say, 'This is the problem

we've got. Now what can we do to solve it,'" said Butch.

After years of research, the Rankins designed a suit with an outer layer of aluminized carbon-Kevlar backed by a moisture barrier and fireproof coveralls that protect HRI employees from heat, steam, and flame.

An aviation-type respirator provides breathing air from lines connected to the outside, while a back-up bottle carried inside the suit offers five minutes of emergency air.

Personal air conditioner cools the suit and workers communicate with "bone mikes," which pick up sounds from the vibration of a man's throat. Each suit is also equipped with a retrieval harness so a worker can be quickly removed from a work site.

While working in a 600-degree space sounds dangerous, the Rankins say the 27-pound suit makes the job almost routine. "When I first started doing this, it was kind of a rush," Roger says. "After you get used to it, it becomes old hat. Pretty soon it's just like putting on a welding hood."

In 1993, the Rankins received a patent for their suit and started to look for work. But it wasn't easy. Few companies wanted to try the suit without a track record. "Now that we've got some major players that we've done work for it's starting to snowball," said



Kneeling in front, l. to r., are Boilermaker members Curt, Butch, and Roger Rankin. They developed this protective suit so boilermakers and other tradesmen could work around toxic fumes and temperatures as hot as 600 degrees. Together with Jeff Enlund, standing at left, they founded High-Temp Repair and Inspection (HRI), a Boilermaker contractor.

Roger. "Every place we've ever had a crew sells the next job."

Their client list now includes refineries, power plants, and steel mills from Florida to California. Typically, HRI

makes repairs which allow a facility to keep running until regular maintenance can be scheduled.

Often, HRI performs work a company doesn't want their own employees to attempt. Such was the case when Clark Oil hired HRI to repair a flue gas line at its Hartford, Ill., refinery where escaping gas approached 1,000 degrees.

Despite the obvious risks, HRI is a safety conscious company, and so far, accident free. "No boiler is worth a man's life," said Butch, and no one is more concerned about safety than the men inside the suits.

The Rankins don't plan to market their design. Instead they have trained more than 40 area tradesmen to operate the equipment. And because their work often involves emergency repairs, it's not uncommon for the crews to get dispatched in the middle of the night.

Whether their suits are used for emergency calls or simply to buy time before a scheduled maintenance outage, the Rankins believe demand for their high temperature repair and inspection service can only grow.

Adapted by permission of *Rural Missouri*. □

Scholarship named for John Stender

Widow begins scholarship to honor husband - former IVP, state senator, and OSHA director

MARYRUTH STENDER has begun an endowed scholarship at the Rocky Mountain College to honor her husband, former Boilermaker International Vice President John Stender.

The scholarship will be awarded to students who demonstrate the qualities of leadership that indicate a capacity to provide the same leadership in the years following graduation that Stender did in his lifetime.

Students interested in applying for the scholarship, or those who wish to contribute to Stender's scholarship fund,

may contact Rocky Mountain College at 1511 Poly Drive, Billings, MT 59102.

Stender was born in 1916. His German immigrant parents settled on government allocated land in Montana, where Stender worked at area ranches during the depression, herding sheep and chopping wood for food. He attended Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Mont., hitch-hiked to Texas and Oklahoma looking for work, then returned to Montana where he worked at the Fort Peck Dam. He traveled to Washington to find work at a shipyard in Tacoma, Wash., where he joined the Boilermakers union in 1937.

Stender became International vice president of the Northwest Section in 1958. In 1962, he was elected to the

Washington State Senate where he served three terms. In April 1973, Stender resigned as International vice president of the Boilermakers union to become the first director of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford appointed Stender to serve as an assistant secretary of the Selective Service Administration. In 1976, he was named to an assistant secretary position with the Environmental Protection Agency.

In 1993, Stender died at age 76, after battling bone cancer for six months. He was posthumously awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa at the May 6, 1995 commencement of Rocky Mountain College. □

Labor plays key role in 1998 elections

Union members helped make election history in November

by Bridget Martin

NOT SINCE 1822, has the party in the White House picked up seats in the middle of the second term of a president. That's 176 years!

Your vote does count. Although we were outspent by a staggering \$110 million, labor won this election because we've got the people and we've got the power to elect our friends.

November 3rd's turnout for labor was the largest for labor in an off-year election since 1970! There is no debate over the fact that union household members accounted for 23 percent of all voters nationwide, despite the fact labor represents only 17 percent of the American voting age population (according to NBC/Wall Street Journal polling, as well as other survey research). That translates into 49 percent of adults in union households voting, compared to only 33 percent of adults in nonunion households.

So, although turnout overall in the 1998 elections was the lowest it's been since 1942, nearly half of members of union households turned out, a significant difference that profoundly affected the electoral outcomes across the country. The fact that union

turnout this year nearly equaled turnout in the 1996 presidential election would suggest a larger-than-average midterm union vote.

The combination of strong turnout and high loyalty made labor the most powerful force on November 3. Union members turned out at record levels and made the difference in race after race. Labor went into the 1998 election season continuing the plan started in 1996: issues, education, and turnout.

Labor began to re-engage ordinary working Americans who had come to believe that politics had nothing to do with them and engage those who didn't vote in 1994.

The unions of the AFL-CIO put together a coordinated effort: registered half a million more union members and family members, sent 9.5 million pieces of mail to union households, made 5.5 million personal telephone calls, created 511 separate pieces of worksite literature to educate union members about issues and candidates' records, and had almost 400 full time coordinators with several hundred more coordinators joining in the last few weeks and tens of thousands of union volunteers working on get-out-the-vote efforts.

1998 Election Turnout

8,000,000	more eligible voters in 1994;
4,000,000	more registered voters than in 1994;
72,500,000	Americans made it to the polls;
119,450,000	eligible voters stayed away;
36.1%	national voter turnout;
12	states had a higher turnout than in 1994;
36	states had a lower turnout than in 1994; and
1942	when millions of Americans were fighting World War II, was the last turnout lower.

(Source: CQ Daily Monitor, 11/9/98)

In an election year that has been anything but ordinary one thing is clear: we achieved a historic victory in 1998 and have further reduced what was already the narrowest margin in the House in over 40 years, putting us squarely on track to regain the majority in 2000. Congratulations and thank you! □

L-1 earns praise for election efforts

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 1, Chicago Ill., received the following letter from the Illinois AFL-CIO and the Chicago Federation of Labor praising them for their efforts in the 1998 elections:

"THANK YOU FOR sending members of your union to help elect Glenn Poshard on primary election day.

"With hundreds of union members working in the precincts on election day, labor was a key element in Poshard's victory in the Democratic Primary. With our continued support, Poshard will win the general election as well.

"Active union leaders ensure that labor is represented in the political process. As labor continues its effort, we will elect a pro-labor governor in November."

Local 1 was not alone. Numerous Boilermaker locals across the country joined in a tremendous effort to elect worker-friendly candidates. Our success in November bodes well for the elections in 2000. □

Take out an insurance policy
for your future . . . contribute to

CAF

The Boilermakers' Campaign Assistance Fund

CAF funds are used to support legislative activities
on behalf of Boilermakers and their families.

Send checks to: CAF- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
753 State Avenue, Suite 570
Kansas City, KS 66101

Contributions to the Campaign Assistance Fund are not deductible
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Who is Dennis Hastert?

New Speaker of the House is quiet, conservative, an inside operator, untarnished by scandal, honest, but no friend to unionized workers

AFTER 12 YEARS in Congress, J. Dennis (Denny) Hastert is still largely unknown outside Illinois's 14th district. He has been referred to by colleagues as "a workhorse, not a showhorse." He is an affable, quiet, plain-speaking conservative who keeps his word to his colleagues, has never been connected with a scandal, and has no plans to run for president.

In other words, he is almost the complete opposite of Newt Gingrich. Unfortunately, when it comes to legislation, his voting record is not very different. Hastert has a five percent lifetime voting record on Boilermaker-supported issues. On issues supported by the AFL-CIO, his score is nine percent.

Since 1995, Hastert has been Chief Deputy Majority Whip under Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Tex.), helping him round up the votes to get GOP-sponsored legislation passed. In this position, he has earned respect for being a loyal Republican and effective behind-the-scenes arm-twister.

Hastert has said he hopes to focus on Social Security, tax cuts, and the war on drugs in the 106th Congress. Those have been his main areas of interest since entering the House.

In earlier Congresses, Hastert has sponsored numerous bills related to the war on drugs and raising the Social Security earnings limit. He has referred to himself as GOP "point man" on health care reform, and was the only Republican on Hillary Clinton's Health Care Task Force in 1993.

However, as deputy whip, it was his job to rally opposition to the health care reform bill that resulted from this committee. Since then, he has helped craft

and get passed two Republican health care bills. He opposes allowing patients to sue HMOs, supports restricting malpractice suits, and advocates establishing tax-exempt medical insurance plans instead of providing universal health care.

According to the Federal Elections Commission, Hastert had nearly \$1 million in his campaign treasury for the 1998 elections, despite not having any serious opposition. Sixty percent of his campaign money (\$600,591) came from political action committees (PACs) and the rest (\$391,282) from individuals. PACs donating money came from a variety of industries - transportation, communication, electric, gas, finance, insurance, real estate, and other services.

In winning the speaker's chair, Hastert has been thrust into a position he claims not to have wanted. "This is not a job that I sought but one that I embrace with determination and enthusiasm," he said after the vote. He then vowed to work for bipartisan consensus, something that was sorely lacking under the leadership of Newt Gingrich.

Will he be true to his word? He does have a reputation for honoring his commitments; on the other hand, he supported congressional term limits of 12 years until last year, when that limit would have put him out of office. Like other politicians, he appears to say what he thinks people want to hear.

That's why it's always best to judge politicians by their votes, not their promises. In case you missed it, let me remind you: **Hastert's lifetime voting record on issues supported by the Boilermakers is five percent.**

We shouldn't expect much help from him. □

Bob Livingston's resignation shocks Congress, nation

IN AN PAINFUL EXAMPLE of the perils of partisan politics, Rep. Bob Livingston (R-La.) resigned his role as Speaker of the House before Congress had even voted him in. On Dec. 19, as the full House was preparing to vote on the articles of impeachment against President Clinton, Livingston announced that he would resign from the speakership immediately and from the House in a few months rather than face negative publicity regarding his extramarital affair.

Normally unflappable congressmen were stunned by the unexpected resignation. Rep. Paul Kanjorski (D-Pa.) called it "a very black day." He and numerous others lamented the scandal-fever that has gripped Washington, threatening the ability of elected officials to do their jobs.

Michael Scanlon, spokesman for Tom DeLay (R-Tex.), claimed that dozens of Republican members of Congress were getting "threatening" phone calls from newspaper reporters regarding alleged adulterous affairs.

In his resignation speech, Livingston said he regretted the hostility that had been bred in Congress over the past few years. "I want so very much to pacify our raging tempers and return to an era when differences were confined to the debate and not a personal attack or assassination of character," he told his colleagues.

He then proceeded to vote for all four articles of impeachment, charges which two-thirds of American voters consider to be merely a personal attack aimed at character assassination. □

Riding high or struggling to get by . . .

Which side of the wage and wealth gap are you on?

In the last issue of this paper, an article by David Kameras for AFL-CIO affiliates reviewed the gap in health care, wage, and wealth. In this continuing article, Kameras reveals a gap in retirement, education, and time.

The retirement gap

RETIRED WORKERS LOOK to three sources for retirement income: savings, pensions, and Social Security. But the growing inequality of income and wealth means that working families are saving less, leaving them without the reserves to maintain their standard of living. According to *Prosperity Gap: A Chartbook of American Living Standards*, the one-fifth of families with the lowest incomes have no reserves and could not maintain their standard of living by selling financial assets if they lost other income. Families in the lower-middle fifth could continue for about two weeks, while the one-fifth of families in the middle of the income distribution could last for only 3.6 months.

Yet retired workers may need their savings more than ever because of a decline in pension coverage and a shift toward market-based retirement plans. Fewer workers are covered by pensions these days – thanks in part to corporate layoffs and pension plan termination.

Pensions also have shifted dramatically from defined benefit plans, which guarantee a fixed payment, to riskier defined contribution plans – another example of shifting risk from corporations to working families to ensure corporate profits.

Of all government programs, Social Security has played the most important role in alleviating poverty and increasing income equality. But that may change. Some in Congress, playing on fears about the system's long-term viability, propose creating individual Social Security accounts that, through exposure to market risk, could threaten both the security and fairness that Social Security provides. Social Security's problems can be fixed without such risks.

"Social Security works because it offers universal coverage, which is another way to say, 'We're all in this together,'" says John Shure, vice president of the Twentieth Century Fund, a nonpartisan progressive public policy foundation. "Certainly, some people would rake in more under privatization than they would under the current system. But others would get less, and some would lose everything – just like those who play stocks, bonds, or, for that matter, slot machines in Atlantic City."

According to the Twentieth Century Fund's 1996 report *Social Security*, 26 percent of elderly recipients rely on Social Security for 90 percent of their total income, and for 14 percent, it's their only source of income. If Social Security were eliminated, half of Americans age 65 and older would fall into poverty.

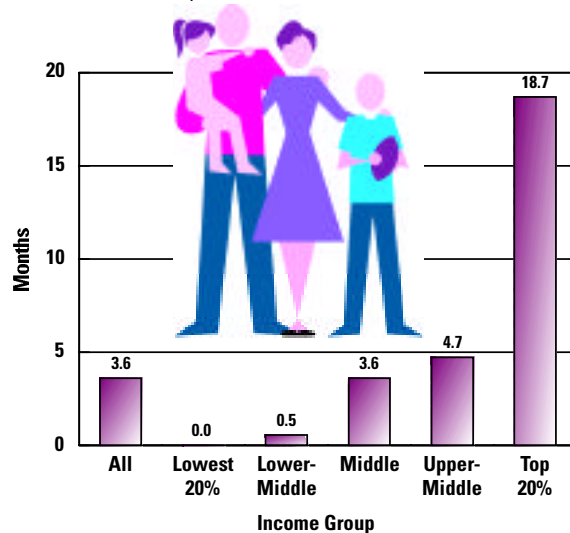
The education gap

EDUCATION IS AN IMPORTANT means to narrow the wage and wealth gap over time. Educational opportunities will either lessen or increase inequalities in income and wealth.

But schools face a huge wealth gap, shortchanging the children who most need a boost. Wealthier school districts have more of everything – computers, books, field trips – further widening racial and ethnic divides. "Emergency hiring, assignment of teachers outside their fields of preparation, and high turnover in underfunded schools conspire to produce a situation in which many poor and minority students are taught throughout their entire school careers by a steady stream of the least qualified and experienced teachers," according to a 1995 National Governors' Association report.

Many families won't last long on savings

Months until family financial failure without other income, 1989



Note: One-fifth of all families are in each income class. The one-fifth of families with the lowest incomes are the lowest fifth. The one-fifth of families with the highest income are in the highest fifth, etc. Source: Prosperity Gap: A Chartbook of American Living Standards; the AFL-CIO's Common Sense Economics for Working Families.

Economist Richard Freeman found that a child whose family is in the top fifth of U.S. income distribution (an average of \$117,500 per year), has an income greater than kids in 19 other advanced countries. But if the family makes \$19,680 or less, the child's real income ranks 19 out of 20. Children from low-income families are much more likely to suffer physical and mental disabilities, drop out of high school, and have low achievement-test scores. African American and Latino children are disproportionately affected.

To be prepared for school, kids need high-quality early learning experiences. Yet, despite day care costs that can range from \$4,000 to \$10,000 a year, quality care is difficult to find – except for wealthy families.

According to the 1997 national survey by the AFL-CIO's Working Women's Department, 62 percent of working mothers with children younger than six say child care is very important – yet only 13 percent of them get any child care help from their employers.

The time gap

IT'S TOUGH TO PASS ON family values if you have no time with your family. American workers put in longer hours than those in any other western industrialized country. For every 100 hours worked by a U.S. employee in 1995, his or her counterpart in the United Kingdom worked 93 hours; and in West Germany, 76. Most European workers get four or five weeks of vacation – compared with just over two weeks in this country – and receive paid maternity leave. But while U.S. workers at job sites of 50 or more employees are covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) – which provides up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave – FMLA provides little help to those who can't afford to miss a paycheck.

The irony is that many politicians seek to rally the public under the banner of "family values." But when middle- and low-income workers must spend more time at their jobs, often

working two or three jobs to make ends meet, families are rarely together.

Instead, stagnant wages have pushed record numbers of women, many with small children, into the work force. Even with more family members working more hours, families have not gotten ahead – they've barely kept up.

The bottom line

WHAT WILL IT TAKE to close the gap in wages, health care, retirement, education, and even time?

Union membership significantly lessens the disparities of income and wealth. The median earnings of union workers are \$640 a week, as opposed to \$478 for nonunion workers – and the advantage is even greater for union women, African Americans, and Latinos.

On average, union members have more health care coverage than nonunion workers, according to the Department of Labor, and are more likely to receive pension coverage. To lessen the inequality in child care, the unions are working to pass laws at the state, local, and national levels. Unions bargain for such benefits as paid parental leave, flexible schedules, and employer-provided child care. And by pursuing legislative and collective bargaining objectives, from overtime and scheduling limits to holidays and vacation time, unions are helping workers win back time for their families.

Unions achieve these goals through the strength of collective action. But keeping up the momentum means organizing workers as never before. The economic and political conditions that created these gaps – in wages, health, and retirement benefits, education, and free time – must change. Joining together, members and our unions can redirect our nation's economic policies. The bottom line is in the numbers – of union members. Through organizing, unions will enable working families to take back the economy – and to bridge the divide between those who are riding high and those who are struggling to get by. □

Test your knowledge of the new economy!

- After eight years of economic growth in the 1990s, average family income is higher today than it was in 1989.
 - True
 - False
- We're still the richest country in the world. What percentage of American families owns 70 percent of the nation's wealth?
 - 10 percent
 - 2 percent
 - 20 percent
- In the people's capitalism of the 1990s, the bottom 80 percent of American families, in terms of income, own what percent of stock, mutual funds, and pension funds?
 - 3 percent
 - 10 percent
 - More than 20 percent
- How many Americans have lost jobs through downsizing in just the last eight years?
 - 6 million
 - 5 million
 - 4.5 million
- Part-time and temporary workers now constitute what percentage of the U.S. work force?
 - Less than 6 percent
 - 15 percent
 - More than 20 percent
- Which European country can boast one of the region's lowest rates of unemployment and highest levels of productivity, and can also maintain the shortest average work year of any industrial nation?
 - The Netherlands
 - Switzerland
 - Italy
- Newport News Shipbuilding was forced to lay off thousands of workers after its only customer, the U. S. Navy, drastically cut spending at the end of the Cold War. When Newport News needed additional financing to begin building merchant ships, who provided the money that clinched the deal?
 - The U. S. government
 - Wealthy Virginia business leaders
 - Labor unions

Adapted with permission from the PBS series "Surviving the Bottom Line with Hedrick Smith."

Answers: 1. **False.** Despite eight years of economic growth, average family income is the same as it was in 1989.
2. **The top ten percent** of American families own 70 percent of the nation's wealth; two percent own nearly 50 percent of the wealth.
3. **Three percent:** the bottom 80 percent of American families, in terms of income, owns just three percent of all stock, mutual funds, and pension funds.
4. **More than six million** Americans have lost jobs through downsizing since 1988.

5. Part-time and temporary workers now constitute more than **20 percent** of the U.S. work force; Manpower, Inc., is the nation's largest employer.
6. **The Netherlands** has one of the region's lowest rates of unemployment and highest levels of productivity, and it also maintains the shortest average work year of any industrial nation.
7. **Labor unions** provided the necessary additional financing that clinched the deal to permit Newport News to begin building merchant ships.

Boilermakers to the rescue



L-154 member Fred Abdalla oversees bridge placement for a stranded family.



L-154 member John "Scotty" Littlejohn gets ready to unhook the chokers.

Continued from page 1

and help run the pumps to drain basements a few days earlier. His first call had come from Abdalla's brother, John, a retired Local 154 member who now serves as the mayor of Stratton, Ohio.

When Littlejohn got the call for the bridge repair, he arrived on the scene with Joe Zdinak, a welder from Stratton, and one welding machine. They thought they were going to build a walk bridge. One look and they knew they needed more help. So Abdalla got on the phone again and Local 154 member Curt Harris arrived with his portable welding machine. The Cardinal Power Plant then donated two welding machines, two welders, and a small rig to help set the beams. Abdalla even shed his uniform and donated working clothes so he could help complete the 14-foot wide, 60-foot long bridge. Prisoners from the Jefferson County Jail helped out on the ten-day project; some even coming back after their jail time was served. When the bridge was completed, the steel mill let these volunteers use their

125-ton crane to lift the 14-ton bridge into place. In the meantime, the Howard family built a temporary foot bridge so Mrs. Galich and her family didn't have to wade through the creek.

Two weeks later, the Ohio Edison Company donated the decking – two-inch grating weighing six tons, which brought the bridge's total weight to 20 tons. Littlejohn, Harris, and Zdinak then installed guard and hand rails, and now Mrs. Galich can drive her car over to her home.

"Whatever she needs later, we'll try to help her out if we can," said Abdalla. He told his local newspaper that most people who helped felt the same way he did about the situation: "If a family member was restricted to a wheelchair and had no way to get to and from her home, I would want someone to help me and these guys felt the same way. It's just a labor of love done by caring people who wanted to help," said Abdalla.

Abdalla enjoyed getting his hands dirty again; he really misses his work as a Boilermaker. Littlejohn says Abdalla "is a good Boilermaker and one hell of a sheriff!" □



TWENTY-ONE BOILERMAKER leaders earn certification to instruct safety classes by completing a four-day course at Local 182, August 3-6.

Boilermakers complete OSHA 500 trainer course

Course prepares them to teach OSHA 500 courses

TWENTY-ONE BOILERMAKER leaders from around the nation completed a four-day class to earn certification to instruct ten- and 30-hour OSHA 500 classes, August 3-6. Held at Local 182 facilities in Salt Lake City, Utah, the class is a "train the trainer" course in occupational safety and health standards for the construction industry.

Attendees included International Vice President Jack Sloan, Asst. to the International President Don Laceyfield,

Intl. Reps. Steve Eames and Tony Gallo, Western States Apprenticeship Coordinator Darrell Hickman, and MOST Administrator Bill Palmisano.

Local lodge leaders taking part in the training included Rondy Crawford and Ben Steilman of Local 11, Helena, Mont.; Glen Tubbs of Local 83, Kansas City, Mo.; James Collins, Dan Piraino, and Jay Rojo of Local 92, Los Angeles, Calif.; Jim Roberts and Landis Slider of Local 101, Denver, Colo.; Collin Carter, Bryan Cook, Terry Crader, and Brad John of Local 182; Rick Smith and Steve Trotter of Local 453, Knoxville, Tenn.; and Dave Caudill of Local 627, Phoenix, Ariz. □

Honors

Pins awarded for 40+ years of continuous membership

INTL. SECRETARY-TREASURER Jerry Z. Willburn reports that the following members earned their pins for 40 or more years of membership, September 28 to December 14, 1998:

65 Years			
Herman Kravos L-73	Herman L. Nall L-74	Milton Schleis L-487	
John Selby L-73	Paul F. Neal L-105	Richard Schulz L-105	
	P. C. Nicholson L-193	Walter Scowden L-193	
	John T. Panico L-28	Aaron Seabolt L-193	
60 Years			
Paul E. Hipsher L-73	Donald Paplham L-487	Bauman Shaw L-487	
William Klingler L-105	Charles Pero L-28	Melvin Shaw L-487	
Gasper Knafels L-73	M. E. Pierce L-627	Ray E. Sherman L-627	
Lerlow D. Winter L-72	Mark Pollitt L-M70	Gilbert Springer L-154	
Frank Zaborac L-M6	Richard Renner L-193	Jack T. Stagle L-627	
	Lloyd H. Riggle L-105	Louis Takovich L-193	
	William K. Rorex L-S56	Arthur Targett L-D327	
	T. Sampson L-28	Robert L. Theys L-487	
	Frank Segalla L-28	Leonard E. Trembl L-487	
	E. Skrabonja L-28	Jay D. Turner L-193	
	John Strickling L-193	Loyd R. Tyler L-74	
	Roy Tranby L-M68	Edgar Vivian L-D327	
	G. J. Van Hest L-28	Hayward Warren L-D327	
	Gus A. Wade L-627	G. Washington Jr. L-193	
	S. Wierzchowicz M194	Wesley Wittge L-74	
	Chas. E. Zemko L-7	Harry Yavicoli L-7	
55 Years			
Ludwig Coleman L-627			
R. Courtwright L-74			
George W. Davis L-154			
Michael Dynko L-73			
Louis Ferrari L-28			
Richard Frick L-1592			
Erwin Hollman L-1592			
Wm. Johnson L-627			
Ed Kokernak L-73			
J. Kondravy L-1592			
Steve Mehalick L-193			
Jessie D. Mekks L-105			
G. Messinger L-1592			
Joseph Pavlik L-1592			
Kenneth Rafter L-73			
Marvin Romig L-1592			
H. Schoenlaub L-105			
Francis Superko L-1592			
C. Tackett L-105			
E. Templeton L-627			
R. Weber Jr. L-1592			
50 Years			
Arthur Albert Jr. L-37			
Joseph Beagel L-193			
Guy F. Bess L-193			
Fred Blois Jr. L-28			
Charles Bonner L-28			
Ralph E. Bovard L-105			
Marvin Bowers L-193			
John J. Britt L-28			
J. Brown Jr. L-7			
Bill Buga L-193			
John Canellis L-28			
Arthur S. Crosby L-28			
Richard Darch L-193			
Alfonzo DiPietro L-193			
George E. Fatt L-193			
C. Fischer L-M70			
John Fitzgerald L-28			
John Fitzgerald L-28			
William Geaney L-28			
S. A. Grasso L-7			
Leonard Hall Sr. L-193			
C. A. Hardman L-169			
John Harmer Jr. L-28			
John E. Hughes L-193			
J. Huthmaches L-7			
James Liggett L-193			
John F. Liston L-105			
Jones C. Hobbs L-627			
Glen Holt L-M3			
R. Jedlinski L-73			
Virgil L. Johnson L-627			
Albert Key L-627			
John A. Kovaly L-28			
Norman Liberty L-28			
Joseph F. Martin L-74			
F. Mouery L-193			
Cletis J. Adams L-169			
R. Anderson L-7			
Charles W. Ashe L-193			
Frank E. Barnes L-193			
Rex J. Bartlett L-D327			
John Barton Jr. L-154			
Melvin Beaurain L-487			
Edward S. Blair L-193			
G. A. Brezinski L-487			
Gene E. Bridges L-S105			
Gordon F. Bryant L-191			
Frank Buskaritz L-1592			
John H. Butt L-D327			
John Carroll L-D327			
Robert F. Earle L-D327			
Farris A. Fraley L-105			
T. L. Frazer L-105			
V. L. Grimes Jr. L-193			
Wilbert Hansen L-487			
T. R. Harrison L-193			
Frank Hillier L-D327			
R. S. Hlinak L-487			
James Holland L-7			
Jerry Hunt L-M24			
Lewis Jernigan L-193			
Howard Jesso L-D327			
James A. Jones L-D327			
Fredrick Kamm L-28			
A. E. Kanovich L-627			
Edwin J. Karl L-487			
Daniel Kearney L-28			
John Kelly L-D327			
John S. Kelly L-191			
Thomas Kemme L-S105			
Kent L. Killen L-627			
Elmer O. Koehler L-487			
Robert Kraynek L-487			
Orville E. Kudick L-487			
Vernon Kuehl L-487			
Ambrose Linden L-73			
Fred Lovell L-D327			
Edwin O'Henley L-193			
Ansell Parsons L-193			
Bobby Petralia L-1			
Donald Petrick L-487			
Lester A. Riley L-105			
John I. Roberts L-193			
Francis Sacotte L-487			
H. Sappington L-193			
John A. Albritton L-433			
Wallace Andre L-487			
Eugene Basque L-73			
Raymond Batten L-D327			
Gordon Blouw L-M7			
E. L. Bowers Jr. L-193			
Charles Brake L-D327			
D. C. Broecker L-7			
Frank Bunyan L-73			
John Burkowski L-M18			
E. Campbell L-83			
W. Chamberlain L-7			
Elmer F. Charles L-487			
Guy Chiasson L-73			
George Clingan L-500			
Harry Colantino L-7			
John B. Craig L-73			
B. R. DeLaughter L-582			
Louis J. Denit L-487			
Raoul Doucet L-73			
R. A. Dumouchel L-73			
G. H. Ferguson L-191			
Nick Froudakis L-128			
L. Gauthier L-128			
C. M. Graham L-73			
William Haraby L-154			
H. Hoogendoorn L-549			
R. Hubbard L-154			
Jacob E. Huber L-487			
Edwin T. Huber L-627			
A. Kneringer Jr. L-647			
E. J. Laconti L-28			
G. R. Lennox L-154			
William R. Lynn L-27			
C. Marit Jr. L-487			
S. D. McCormick L-191			
T. D. McCuaig L-191			
John McDonald L-154			
Robert Oldham L-627			
Joseph Richard L-73			
A. Sosnowski Jr. L-193			
Ellis Steinhauser L-NTL			
E. D. Tedeschi L-549			
Louis A. Theys L-487			
Charles Trimmer L-154			
James L. Welsh L-79			
Howard Wendte L-S105			
Edward R. White L-73			
Herbert Wilton L-D327			

HISTORY

"THANKSGIVING 1935"



THE GREAT PLAGUE



CARRYING HIS BURDEN



Important Dates in the History & Future of Social Security

1700s

1789 The Federal Government begins providing pensions to disabled veterans of the Revolutionary War.

1795 Thomas Paine publishes his pamphlet, *Agrarian Justice*, in which he proposes a social insurance program for the young nation.

1800s

1862 Civil War pensions were first paid to disabled veterans.

1875 The first private pension plan in American industry is adopted by American Express.

1889 Germany is the first nation to adopt a social insurance program.

1900s

1912 The Progressive Party platform calls for the protection against the hazards of sickness, unemployment, and old-age through a system of social insurance. Theodore Roosevelt is the party's nominee.

1920 A Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund is established for Federal employees.

1934 President Franklin D. Roosevelt recommends to Congress the adoption of federal legislation to promote economic security and appoints the Committee on Economic Security to study the problem and develop a program of legislation.

1935 The Social Security Act passes Congress and is signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, establishing old-age benefits, benefits to blind people and crippled children, and aid to dependent children.

1940 Monthly benefits first become payable under old-age and survivors insurance to aged retired workers and their dependents and to survivors of deceased workers.

1950 Social Security Act amendments establish a program of aid to the needy who are permanently and totally disabled.

1956 The Social Security Act is amended to provide monthly benefits to permanently and totally disabled workers aged 50-64 and disabled adult children of deceased or retired workers

1961 Social Security amendments permit all workers to elect reduced retirement benefits at age 62.

1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Medicare Bill.

1974 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) goes into operation.

1980 Public Law 96-473 terminates benefits to prisoners.

1981 The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act begins a phase-out of student's benefits; stops young parents benefits when a child reaches 16; and limits the lump-sum death payment.

1984 Disability Benefits Reform Act makes it more difficult to qualify for disability benefits.

1996 The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act makes it more difficult for disabled children to qualify for SSI and ends the Federal Aid to Dependent Children Program begun in 1935.

1998 In his State of the Union address, President Clinton urges a nationwide discussion on how best to maintain Social Security.

2000s

2013 Projected year when Social Security payments begin to exceed income from payroll taxes and interest (if no changes made), causing the SSA to begin spending the interest on the Social Security Trust Fund.

2021 Projected year when Social Security will need to begin spending the Social Security Trust Fund principal (if no changes are made).

2032 Projected year in which the Social Security Trust Funds will be depleted (if no changes are made). Income from payroll taxes will only provide three-fourths of the money needed to pay benefits.

Railway Retirement Act paved the way for Social Security

Then, just as now, opponents said we couldn't afford to provide workers a secure retirement

IN 1935, WHEN PRESIDENT Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed social insurance legislation to Congress, he had already earned a reputation as a president willing to expand the federal government in order to protect U.S. citizens from unemployment, poverty, and hunger.

In 1933 and 1934, he had instituted a far-ranging program of economic reform to help the country lift itself out of depression. Many of those programs were being tested in the courts, and a few were eventually struck down.

The idea of a federal social insurance program to provide old-age pensions was not new. The year before Roosevelt proposed Social Security, Congress passed the Railway Retirement Act, establishing old-age pensions for railway employees.

At that time, a very large portion of the Boilermakers union were railway workers. They strongly supported the Railway Retirement Act, and when the Social Security Act was introduced, the Boilermakers supported it as well.

Most other industrialized countries had long before started old-age pensions and other social welfare programs. As Charles M. Kelley wrote in the December 1934 *Boilermakers Journal*, "This action is long overdue. Of all 'civilized' countries, only India and China, besides America, are without old-age pension systems. The comparison is far from flattering to the USA."

Businesses opposed Social Security

JUST AS TODAY business interests want to privatize Social Security, in 1935, many people opposed it on the grounds it was too expensive. They argued that people who are too old to work – and blind people, crippled children, and other dependent children, all of whom were included in Roosevelt's legislation – were better off relying on charities for assistance.

That argument was contradicted not only by workers, but also by the executives of the nation's largest charities.

Kelley quotes from the congressional testimony of the director of the Old Age Pension Commission of the Fraternal Order of Eagles: "The poorhouse system is expensive, ineffective, and unnatural. The pension plan is to be preferred."

As proof of that claim, they provided a study showing that providing pen-

sions for the needy aged in New York state would cost \$5.5 million less than caring for the same number in poorhouses. Cost-efficiency remains an important aspect of today's Social Security program. Administrative costs for the Social Security Agency are less than one percent; no private pension or charity can boast anything even close to that low level.

We cannot simply forget American workers

IN HIS 1934 article, Kelly quotes Dr. John O'Grady, secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, who told a congressional committee that "more than 30 percent of the ordinary wage earners in the United States are unable to save anything for old age."

The same is true in 1998. For millions of retired Americans, Social Security is their only source of income. Middle income older Americans – our members, for example – get on average two-thirds of their income from Social Security. By contrast, they receive only 15 percent from private pensions and 10 percent from savings.

O'Grady pleaded with Congress to pass Social Security: "There is no movement that should make a more striking appeal to the American public than the movement for old age security. We have given very little thought to the workers who have dedicated their lives to the upbuilding of our industries, but have been compelled to spend their last years in poverty."

Kelley ends his article by praising Boilermakers for leading the way: "When finally America has a pension for all its aged, the railroad workers can pride themselves that they blazed the way, with the railroad retirement plan."

Boilermakers of today can be proud of the support our union has given to Social Security and Medicare. As the article and cartoons on this page show, our union has long been at the forefront of political action on behalf of working people.

As Congress gets ready to reconsider Social Security and Medicare, we would do well to remember why working men and women struggled so long and hard to get them in place.

We can't afford to let Congress "reform" these two programs right out of existence. As the debate continues, let our views be known. □



Time 2K Crunch

Will the world's computers be ready for the year 2000?

IN 1970, SOME MORTGAGE companies began having problems calculating payment schedules for 30-year mortgages. Their computer programs used two-digit dates, leaving off the "19." When programs extended payments out to the year 2000, they read the year as 1900, and didn't know what to do.

This event was probably the first instance of what has come to be known as the "millennium bug," or the year 2000 (Y2K) problem. Since then, the problem has appeared numerous times. In 1993, Boeing had a problem with a computerized ordering system that used a seven-year lead time. A 100-year-old woman received an invitation to attend kindergarten when a computer handled a birth date of '93 as being in 1993.

On January 1, 1999, computerized taxi meters in Singapore went dead, computers at police offices in three Swedish airports failed, and station KFQD in Anchorage, Ala., was unable to receive their Associated Press wire stories. All three problems were caused by variations of the Y2K problem. They are a hint of what may occur on January 1, 2000.

How big is the problem?

COMPUTERS TOUCH nearly every aspect of our lives. Businesses, banks, and governments rely on software that uses two-digit dates. More significant, many chips embedded in complex systems have two-digit dates programmed into them. These chips perform essential functions in power plants, factories, water systems, and telecommunications.

If all of the computers and computerized systems that contain two-digit dates were to fail on Jan. 1, 2000, we would have a global catastrophe of unparalleled proportion. But of course that won't happen.

Many of the newer software programs and computers use dating sys-

tems that will work fine in the year 2000. Older software programs can be fixed. Chips can be replaced. If necessary, entire units with Y2K problems can be replaced.

The problem is that some businesses and government agencies got a late start. They know how to fix the Y2K problem, but there simply isn't enough time left to get it all done. And our world is so interdependent, a few failures can have a great impact.

Utilities are biggest threat

EMBEDDED SYSTEMS in energy utilities pose the biggest challenge facing the nation as 2000 approaches, according to utility executives. Energy companies must manually modify the embedded systems that are used in telecommunications equipment, pipelines, and control systems.

The United States' electric power system includes thousands of power-generating plants and millions of consumers, tied together by power grids. One electric power plant alone may have thousands of embedded systems. Because of the interconnected nature of the grid, Y2K errors in some embedded systems could cause a ripple effect, much like the blackout in the six western states that occurred in 1996.

How many problems will occur, and how much they will affect our lives, is a subject of great debate. Some people are predicting worldwide catastrophe. Some say the problems will be minimal and will be taken care of in a few days. Both extremes are probably wrong.

Peter Jager, a technology consultant whose essay "Doomsday 2000" is credited with alerting governments and business to this problem over five years ago, is probably the world's most knowledgeable person regarding Y2K problems. In the January 1999 issue of *Scientific American*, he predicts that as many as two million Y2K problems in the U.S. may not get fixed by the end of this year, resulting in power problems,

transportation problems, or telephone problems that affect up to 15 percent — or about one in seven — of U.S. households. A few of these problems may take as long as a month to fix.

That sounds serious. And the United States and Canada are far ahead of most countries, especially those in the third world. Because our countries rely on foreign trade,

worldwide computer problems may adversely affect the world economy.

Many businesses and government agencies have been working on Y2K for years. They should experience no serious malfunctions on January 1, 2000.

The Social Security Administration has been working on the problem for three years and recently announced that their systems are now Y2K compliant. You can count on your check being delivered.

Our International offices, the pension and health and welfare offices, and the Brotherhood Bank assigned committees in 1997 to assess all systems for possible Y2K problems, schedule updating for the systems, and perform tests to make sure they will work after Dec. 31, 1999. This work is on schedule.

W a 1 1 Street has already tested their systems and found only a few minor problems, which they can easily fix in time. Insurance and banking systems are well on their way to compliance.

Smaller businesses, however, are lagging. An October 1998 study showed that 23 percent of businesses had done nothing to prepare for the year 2000. Eighty-five percent of those were small businesses.

What you can do

IF YOU WANT TO find out how well your bank, utility, or other business is prepared for Y2K, contact them and ask what they are doing and what they expect come January 1.

Keep in mind that the Y2K problem is systemic; they might have fixed their own computers, but if the computers they tie into are not compliant, their systems may not work. The most important question to ask them is, "What are your contingency plans if you have problems, or if your vendors, suppliers, or partners have problems?"

As for your home, many electrical appliances over three years old, such as microwaves and VCRs are suspect. You should contact the manufacturer for detailed information. Many companies now have web sites where you can get all the Y2K information you want about their products.

Despite some rumors, the computers that run modern cars do not rely on dates, so they will work just fine.

If your home computer is an IBM or IBM clone built before 1997, you will probably need to make a few changes. Often this is as simple as making a small change in your autoexec.bat. Contact the manufacturer for details. Better yet, go online and visit their web

site, where most companies not only explain what to look for, but usually offer a free fix if their hardware is not Y2K compliant.

Two software programs that identify and fix IBM BIOS problems, BIOS Test and Fix from Viasoft and YMARK2000 from National Software Testing Lab, can be downloaded off the Internet for free. See the box in the lower left corner of this page for their web addresses.

Macintosh computers will not experience a date problem until 2040. If you are still using an old Apple II, do the smart thing; spring for a new computer. Those iMacs are under \$1,000.

For information on such peripherals as printers, monitors, scanners, etc.,

Cut to the chase: Will I get my pension check on time?

Count on it. The pension and health and welfare offices have been working on the Y2K problem since 1997, along with the Brotherhood Bank and International offices. Work is proceeding; testing will occur later this year.

whether for PC or Mac computers, contact the manufacturer. Most of these companies have web sites. In addition, few peripherals rely on dates.

For noncompliant software, you will need to upgrade to a more recent version. A product search at the EDS vendor2000 site (see box at lower left for address) will tell you whether your version of the software is compliant and what version you need to upgrade to if it is not.

Some people are taking even more radical steps. Henry Ford's great-grandson, Al Ford, in Gainesville, Fla., has put \$75,000 worth of solar equipment on his home just in case the power goes out on Jan. 1, 2000. He explains that after Hurricane Andrew, he suffered weeks without air conditioning.

Most people can't afford to refit their homes with alternative sources of power, but they are stockpiling food and water. Companies that sell survival equipment are raking in the cash from customers who fear pandemonium when the computers shut down.

You say you don't trust your bank's electronic account. You're not alone. In fact, the U.S. Treasury plans to print an extra \$50 billion this year to accommodate expected runs on banks toward the end of the year.

Is all this survival preparation really necessary? Probably not, but it never hurts to have some extra food and water on hand for the New Year.

And even though he firmly believes that the Y2K problems will not cause global disaster, this writer sees no reason to get on an airplane just before midnight, Dec. 31, 1999. □

Year 2000 Links

YMARK2000

http://www.nstl.com/html/nstl_ymark2000.html

VIASOFT

<http://www.viasoft.com/>

EDS Vendor Site — for software information

<http://www.vendor2000.com/>

The Cassandra Project — <http://www.cassandraproject.org/>

New contract summaries

A brief listing of recent agreements signed and ratified by Boilermaker local lodges

L-5 – New York City

JACK MELLON, ABM of Local 5, New York City, N.Y., reports contract ratification, effective October 1, 1998 to September 30, 2000, for seven Local 5 members who repair boilers and tanks at **Delta Welding Corp.**, and effective June 15, 1998 to June 14, 1999, for 11 Local 5 members who work in the production of heating boilers and fuel tanks at the **Rockmills Steel Products Corp.**

L-6 – Oakland, CA

MICHAEL GRABOWSKI, BM-ST of Local 6, Oakland, Calif., reports contract ratification, effective May 18, 1998 to May 17, 2001, for ten Local 6 shop members who work at the **ACME Galvanizing Company, Inc.**

L-7 – Buffalo, NY

INTL. REP. ROCCO DE ROLLO reports contract ratification, effective October 1, 1998 to September 30, 2001, for members of Local 7, Buffalo, N.Y., who work at **K & E Fabricating Co., Inc.**, and for Local 7 members who work at the **Nicholson & Hall Boiler Corp.**

L-28 – Newark, NJ

INTL. REP. ROCCO DE ROLLO reports contract ratification, effective October 14, 1998 to

October 14, 2000, for members of Local 28, Newark, N.J., who work at **Steel Style, Inc.**

S56 – S. Pittsburg, TN

MEMBERS OF LOCAL S56, South Pittsburg, Tenn., have ratified a contract, effective Aug. 19, 1998 to Aug. 18, 2001, for five members who work in the production and maintenance of fireplace inserts and home-building products at **Hutch Manufacturing** in Loudon, Tenn.

L-83 – Kansas City, MO

LARRY HORSEMAN, vice president, and Jim Berry, asst. bus. mgr. of Local 83, Kansas City, Mo., report contract ratification, effective October 1, 1998 to October 1, 2003, for 15 Local 83 members who work in the production and maintenance unit at **Davenport Machine & Foundry** in Davenport, Iowa, making machine castings and custom dehydration equipment, and effective Nov. 17, 1998 to Nov. 17, 2001, for 20 Local 83 members who work in the production and maintenance unit at **Thermal Ceramics** in Emporia, Kan., making insulating products.

L-85 – Toledo, OH

INTL. REP. RON LYON reports contract ratification, effective Oct. 15, 1998 to Oct. 14, 2001, for members of Local 85, Toledo, Ohio, who work at the **L. E. Mitchell Welding Company, Inc.**

L-104 – Seattle, WA

TIM CARRAND CHUCK HUGHES, business representatives of Local 104, Seattle, Wash., report contract ratification, effective November 4, 1998, for a one-year renewal at **A & W Fabrication**; effective July 21, 1998 to July 1, 2001 for 51 Local 104 members who perform maintenance and repair of boats, fishing vessels, and barges at **Duwamish Shipyard, Inc.**; effective July 21, 1998 to July 1, 2001, for 102 Local 104 members who build tug boats and repair boats at **Marco Seattle, Inc.**; effective July 30, 1998 to July 1, 2001, for 16 Local 104 members who repair fishing boats at **Pacific Fisherman, Inc.**; effective May 1, 1998 to May 1, 2001, for two Local 104 members who perform industrial metal plating at **Precision Engineering, Inc.** (the first Local 104 contract at this facility); effective September 18, 1998 to January 31, 2001, for 19 members of Local 104 (previously represented by Local 568, Tacoma, Wash., prior to September 30, 1998

consolidation with Local 104) who work in the metal fabrication shop and perform mobile ship repair at **Puglia Engineering, Inc.**; effective Dec. 7, 1998 to Nov. 30, 2001, for 20 Local 104 members who fabricate steel tanks and other structures at **Reliable Steel, Inc.**; effective October 12, 1998 to February 1, 2001, for seven Local 104 members who fabricate steel at **Rienke Fabrication**; and effective September 30, 1998 to September 30, 2000, for 12 Local 104 members who work in the production and maintenance of tanks and miscellaneous steel fabrication at **T-Bailey**.

L-S105 – Effingham, IL

INTL. REP. GARY BRYANT reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 3, 1998 to Oct. 6, 2000, for 1,005 members of Local S105, Effingham, Ill., who work at **Fedders**.

L-117 – Superior, WI

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 117, Superior, Wis., have ratified a contract, effective June 30, 1998 to June 30, 2003, for 98 members who perform ship repair at the **Fraser Shipyard**.

L-146 – Edmonton

INTL. REP. JOHN ROWE, former BM-ST of Local 146, Edmonton, Alberta,

You don't get what you deserve . . .
... you get what you negotiate

UNION LEADERS, like these pictured here, work long hours to negotiate the best benefits they can for Boilermaker members.



Negotiating a two-year contract for the members of Local D375, Paulding, Ohio, at the Lafarge Corporation, are, front row, l. to r., D375 VP Mike Miller and IR Carey Allen; back row, l. to r., D375 Pres. Cecil Crawford and Rec. Sec. Jeanne Brown.

Canada, reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 1, 1998 to Oct. 31, 2001, for 15 Local 146 members who produce and manufacture vessels at **Altex Heat Exchanger Ltd.**; effective April 1, 1998 to March 31, 2001, for 83 Local 146 members who produce vessels for the refinery industry at **DACPO Industries Ltd.**; effective August 1, 1998 to July 31, 2000, for 114 Local 146 members who work at **Exchanger Industries**; effective January 1, 1998 to July 31, 1999, for 60 Local 146 members who work at **Maloney Industries Plants Two and Three** (this is the first agreement at these locations for Local 146 members); effective Sept. 1, 1998 to Aug. 31, 2000, for 50 Local 146 members who work at **Universal Industries Corp.**; and effective July 1, 1998 to June 30, 2002, for Local 146 members at **Weatherford Canada Limited**.

L-177 – Green Bay, WI

INTL. REP. LEN GUNDERSON reports contract ratification, effective July 26, 1998 to July 25, 2001, for three members of Local 177, Green Bay, Wis., who work at **Wisconsin Fabrication**.

L-D209 – Speed, IN

INTL. REP. J. C. TODD reports ratification of a four-year contract, effective December 14, 1998, for 153 members of Local D209, Speed, Ind., who work at **Essroc Materials**.

S228 – Santa Fe Springs

INTL. REP. HENRY JUAREZ reports contract ratification, effective November 1, 1998 to October 31, 2003, for 30 members of Local S228, Santa Fe Springs, Calif., who work in the production

and maintenance of porcelain enameling at the **Holiday Porcelain Enamel Company**.

D229 – Springfield, MO

CLGAW DIVISION DIRECTOR CHARLES HUNTBACH reports contract ratification, effective October 1, 1998 to September 30, 2000, for 57 members of Local D229, Springfield, Mo., who work in the production and manufacturing of lime products at **Ash Grove Cement**.

D375 – Paulding, OH

INTL. REP. CAREY ALLEN reports ratification on December 16, 1998, of a two-year contract for members of Local D375, Paulding, Ohio, who work at the **Lafarge Corporation**.

L-483 – Alton, IL

INTL. REP. JAMES PRESSLEY reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 1, 1998 to Oct. 31, 2003, for 46 members of Local 483, Alton, Ill., who fabricate steel at **Kopetz Manufacturing, Inc.**

D559 – Corner Brook

INTL. REP. ED MATTOCKS reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 2, 1999 to Jan. 31, 2004, for 51 members of Local D559, Corner Brook, Nfld., Canada, who make wall board for the **Atlantic Gypsum Group Limited**.

L-1510 – Russellville

INTL. REP. MIKE WILSON reports contract ratification, effective Aug. 15, 1998 to Aug. 15, 2003, for 106 members of Local 1510, Russellville, Ark., who work in the production and manufacturing of Ladish forged fittings and flanges at the **Trinity Fitting and Flange Group**.

A summary analysis of these contract settlements

Prepared by the Research and Collective Bargaining Department of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers

THIS ANALYSIS OF THE 35 agreements outlined above is based on information provided in the Contract Summary and Transmittal Report forms.

These 35 agreements cover a total of approximately 2,647 employees.

Wage Increases

THIRTY FACILITIES received pay increases in 1998, averaging \$0.49 an hour or 3.67 percent. In 1999, 30 facilities will receive pay increases averaging \$0.42 an hour or 2.90 percent. Twenty-three facilities will receive pay increases in 2000, averaging \$0.41 an hour or 3.38 percent. Eight facilities will receive pay increases in 2001, averaging \$0.40 an hour or 3.42 percent. Six facilities will receive pay increases in 2002, averaging \$0.37 an hour or 3.63 percent.

Pension

THIRTY-THREE FACILITIES participate in some type of pension program. There are 19 facilities which participate in

the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust. Their contributions range from \$0.25 to \$3.00 per hour. Average benefits are: first year – \$1.15; second year – \$1.17; third year – \$1.18. These reflect annual increases of about one percent.

Eight facilities offer a 401(k), seven have company-sponsored plans, two have profit sharing plans, and two participate in the Boilermakers National Annuity Trust.

Shift Differential

TWENTY-SIX AGREEMENTS provide a second shift premium. Their cents-per-hour premium ranges from \$0.10 to \$1.00. The average is \$0.47 an hour.

Twenty-five agreements provide a third-shift premium. Their cents-per-hour premium ranges from \$0.10 to \$1.50. The average is \$0.59. The remaining agreements pay on a percentage basis or provide full pay for a reduced shift.

Sickness & Accident

TWENTY-SIX AGREEMENTS provide weekly sickness and

accident indemnities. Of these, 16 pay a set dollar amount ranging from \$150 to \$325 per week. Average rates are: first year – \$216; second year – \$217; third year – \$219.

The remaining agreements provide a percentage of the employee's earnings. The length of time off ranges from 13 weeks to unlimited. The most common is 26 weeks, found in 12 agreements.

Life Insurance/AD&D

THIRTY AGREEMENTS provide life insurance. The amounts range from \$5,000 to \$30,000. The average benefit for the first contract year is \$13,308.

Twenty-seven agreements provide **Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) insurance**, ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000. The average is \$13,703.

The remaining agreements multiply wages by 2080 hours for the benefit amount, or have no provision at all.

Vacation

TWENTY-SEVEN AGREEMENTS provide a one-week vacation. Thirty-four agreements pro-

vide a two-week vacation. Thirty-three agreements provide a three-week vacation. Twenty-seven agreements provide a four-week vacation. Eleven agreements provide a five-week vacation, and one agreement provides a six-week vacation.

Paid Holidays

ALL OF THE AGREEMENTS provide paid holidays. The number of paid holidays ranges from seven to 15. The average is ten.

Other Provisions

THIRTY-ONE AGREEMENTS provide **funeral leave**.

Paid leave for **jury duty** is found in 23 agreements.

Union leave language is found in nine agreements.

Twelve agreements provide all or partial reimbursement for the purchase of **safety shoes**.

Five agreements provide paid leave for those persons who spend two weeks at **military encampment** each year.

Two provide a **severance payment package**, and four have a **Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) clause**.

HMOs drop hundreds of thousands of seniors

450,000 'unprofitable' senior citizens have lost medical coverage

ENTICED BY PROMISES of extra benefits, prescription drug coverage, and big savings, hundreds of thousands of older Americans chose to leave the original Medicare program in favor of a health maintenance organization (HMO).

Now those HMOs are dropping these eligible Medicare recipients, who will lose their coverage because the insurance companies decided senior citizens aren't profitable enough.

According to a report by the National Council of Senior Citizens (NCSC), 33 managed care companies – including Aetna-U.S. Healthcare, PacificCare, Prudential HealthCare, United HealthCare, Oxford, and Humana – announced in September that they would withdraw from Medicare in many service areas and drop their Medicare beneficiaries effective January 1, 1999.

Since then, a total of 450,000 seniors in 30 states and the District of Columbia have received notices from the HMOs that their coverage is being terminated.

The crisis occurred when the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), which oversees Medicare, refused an unscheduled rate increase demanded by the HMOs.

Since Medicare and the HMOs had agreed in May on what the rates would be in 1999, HCFA saw no reason to change the arrangement just days before the new contracts were to go into effect.

But, according to the HMOs, the Medicare payments they agreed on

were "too low" to cover their expenses. In addition, the HMOs wanted to postpone compliance with new HCFA regulations and to cut back some benefits offered to members. When HCFA refused their demands, the HMOs did not renew their contracts and pulled out of Medicare.

The senior citizens who lost their insurance coverage can enroll in another HMO (if there is one in their area) or re-enroll in the original Medicare program, which means a loss of benefits (such as prescription drug coverage) and higher out-of-pocket costs for medical care.

If they choose Medicare, they can also purchase Medigap coverage, a supplemental insurance policy which averages \$104 a month.

Timing couldn't be worse for HCFA, as it launches the "Medicare+Choice" program, mandated by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. This program is intended to expand the reliance of senior citizens on HMOs.

The NCSC has consistently warned seniors to "Just say no to Medicare+Choice" because they feared seniors will end up being victimized. Now their fears have come true.

NCSC Director Steve Protulis said "our major concern has always been that one day Medicare would be turned over to the insurance industry and that HMOs would make business decisions based on their balance sheets rather than on the needs of their patients... (this) proves our fears were justified."

Protulis predicts that "this is just the beginning. Medicare+Choice is already failing before it is even scheduled to start. With seniors being kicked out of their Medicare HMOs, the idea already seems to be on life support." □

How to Apply for a Boilermaker Scholarship

BOILERMAKER SCHOLARSHIPS are open to high school seniors who will be entering their first year of a two- or four-year academic program at a degree-granting, accredited college or university within one year of their high school graduation and are dependents of Boilermaker members in good standing (includes son, daughter, legally adopted child or dependent of active, retired, disabled, or deceased members).

Scholarship awards are based upon academic record, extra-curricular and outside school activities, career goals, and performance on a written essay. Candidates must submit an official application (postmarked between January 1 and March 31), proof of relationship to a Boilermaker member, SAT and/or ACT test scores (for U.S. citizens only), a high school transcript, and a 300-500 word essay on a specific theme. The 1999 essay topic is: "What should be the role of organized labor in today's local or national legislative issues that affect workers." Applications for the 1999 awards will be available in mid-December. Contact your local lodge for more information and an application form.

Some local lodges have their own scholarship programs. Scholarships are also available through the Union Plus credit card program and some state and regional labor councils. For information on their scholarships, contact these organizations directly.

Guide lists union-sponsored scholarships, awards, student financial aid

UNION MEMBERS CAN receive a free copy of the AFL-CIO Scholarship Guide, a directory of 3,000 scholarships worth nearly \$4,000,000 that are offered directly by individual unions, state federations, and local central bodies. Scholarships listed in this guide are normally only available for union members and their families from the union sponsoring the scholarship. If a scholarship is awarded to the general public, it will be indicated in the eligibility part of the specific scholarship listing. Single copies of the guide are available without charge for union members only. Copies are \$3.00 each for all others. Requests and checks (payable to the Secretary-Treasurer AFL-CIO) should be sent to the AFL-CIO Department of Support Services, 815 16th St., N.W., Room 209, Washington, D.C. 20006. The guide is also available online via LaborNet in the General Information Library.

MAKE IT SAFE



If you weld or grind, you may be exposed to manganese

To prevent over-exposure, follow these tips

If you experience any symptoms, contact a toxicologist or doctor specializing in occupational medicine

BEING A BOILERMAKER, chances are that you have come into contact with manganese fumes or dust during welding and/or grinding. This occurs because of the use of manganese either in the welding rods themselves or in the metal being welded or ground. The purpose of this article is to inform you of the potential hazard and symptoms of exposure and hopefully help you avoid over-exposure.

Manganese is a naturally occurring element which is found in our air, drinking water, food, and even vitamin supplements. In fact, it is vital to many body functions and is found in our bones, cartilage, and connective tissue. However, like many things in life, too much manganese can cause potentially serious health problems.

Most Boilermaker exposures to manganese are encountered in welding and grinding. In the railroad industry, this would specifically include electric-arc track welding and grinding operations in frogs, switches, and other pieces of track equipment where the metal alloy contains manganese. While the main route of exposure is by inhalation, that is breathing it, it can also be ingested into the body while eating, drinking, or smoking. Dermal absorption, or transfer through the skin, does not normally occur because of the nature of the metal.

Manganese, once in the body, distributes itself fairly evenly via the blood stream. It is naturally eliminated by the body primarily through the feces, but to a lesser degree in our urine. The body fairly rapidly eliminates it which is why neither blood nor urine tests for it are particularly conclusive in determining whether or not one has been over-exposed. In some of the reported cases, people who have had abnormally high levels in their blood or urine exhibited no symptoms, while people with pronounced symptoms had only normal levels of it in their blood and urine.

The immediate symptoms of over-exposure are:

- unexplained flu-like symptoms
- vomiting
- lack of energy
- fever
- chills
- dryness of the mouth or throat

Long-term, chronic over-exposure can lead to:

- muscle weakness or tremors
- headaches
- leg pain
- slurred speech
- mood swings/personality changes
- muscular rigidity (similar to that of Parkinson's disease)
- lung problems.

If you experience or have any of these symptoms, you should consult

with a physician, preferably one who specializes in toxicology (a toxicologist) or occupational medicine, as soon as possible after being exposed and experiencing the symptom or symptoms. It is important to do this quickly because the metal is eliminated from the body rapidly. Also, if your employer has done any air sampling of the fumes or dust, you should attempt to get copies of the results to have available for your doctor.

In the case of railroad employees, it is advisable to turn in a report of personal injury (p/i report) to protect your rights under the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA) should your problems be found to be caused by manganese exposure at work. It is important to remember that just because you have the symptoms previously mentioned, there are numerous other things that can cause these other than over-exposure to manganese. That is why it is crucial to see a doctor who specializes in occupational medicine or toxicology so that he or she can do the proper testing to determine whether it is manganese or something else that is causing your symptoms. In any event, if you experience these symptoms you should promptly consult a physician. When you do so you need to tell them that you think they may be manganese related and give them a detailed history of the type of work you do. This would include how much time you spend welding and/or grinding, whether it's inside or outside of doors, what type rods you are using, and what type of protective clothing and equipment, if any, that you use.

To help eliminate or reduce your exposure, there are several things you can do.

1. Use welding blowers or fans, even outdoors if they are available.
2. If blowers aren't available, respirators may be used, however, you need to bear in mind they can restrict both your breathing and side vision which can create other hazards at work.
3. Always wash your hands with soap and water before eating, drinking, or smoking.
4. Keep your work coveralls, aprons, and gloves separate from your "street" clothing and launder separately.
5. Frequently clean your welding hood with soap and water to prevent breathing in dust build-up.

As approved counsel for the Boilermakers union, Jones & Granger has an obligation to assist members who may have been affected by manganese exposure. Some of the carriers have tested their employees. If you have been diagnosed, it is important to seek legal advice before the three-year statute of limitations expires (in some jurisdictions this time period begins when you first seek medical attention). If you have questions concerning this important issue, please contact Mark Kressenberg at Jones & Granger, attorneys at law, 10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 888, Houston, TX 77024. Or call toll free at 1-800-231-3359.



L-11 retiree enjoys cruise on U.S.-built, U.S.-crewed ship

FIRST I WANT to thank the crew at the pension office. When I relocated from Billings, Mont. to Tucson, Ariz. last year, the pension office made the change without a flaw or gap in deposits to our new bank.

Also, the *Boilermaker Reporter* is on time at our new address. It keeps me up to date on programs, plus it lists the members we lost. I see an old friend listed there now and then.

In the last issue, a story on Local 693 building U.S. cruise ships listed the "S.S. Independence" as a U.S.-built, U.S.-crewed ship for American Hawaiian Cruises. I just wanted you to know that they have two! My wife and I took a cruise on their other one, the "S.S. Constitution." It was the best ten days – although hard on a blue-collar purse, but worth it. These are the only cruise ships which fly American flags, hire an all-American crew and personnel, and (get this) they are the only cruise ships which pay income tax to the U.S.A.

D. E. PRINDLE, L-11 retiree
Tucson, Ariz.

Meek on recent publications

I WANT TO SAY that I agree with S. Deem of Local 667 (ltr. published in V37 N2) as to the quality of boilermakers being sent out. I have been retired from Local 744 for five years and things were bad then, so I can imagine what is going on now. Too many brothers, cousins, and in-laws are coming out and starting to work on someone's name rather than their own skill.

Also, I was glad to see the picture of the Chevronts (published in V37 N3 – four generations of the Chevront family belong to Local 667). I know them all and like them all; good craftsmen all of them. I was also saddened by the death of (L-744 member) Bob Fleenor, another good man gone.

KE MEEK
Local 744 retiree

Wilson wants more flexible plan

I UNDERSTAND that you must wait six months before returning to the dentist, but with our irregular work patterns, I think this should be changed. For instance, if you know that a job is starting next month, which is your check-up time, why can't you go ahead and see your dentist one-month early? Otherwise, when you return from the job two to four months later, nine months have passed since your last dental check-up. I think if "the powers that be" want to help with some of the inconveniences in the life of a Boilermaker, they could relax the six-month rule so we can see our dentist early before leaving for our lengthy, out-of-town jobs.

ACY WILSON, Local 112
Clinton, Miss.

Garner wants craft agreements

I AM A25-year member of Local 169 in Michigan. In the past few years, when our work has been slow, I have accepted jobs with other crafts in our area. These crafts contacted our hall,

and then our dispatcher sent me and other Boilermakers to these jobs. When our local has had an abundance of work, we have done the same thing for the other crafts in our area.

I am pleased that most of the crafts in this area have this kind of positive relationship. But now here is the problem. Even though all of the crafts I have worked for in the past would like to pay into my Boilermaker benefits, they cannot because we do not have a reciprocal agreement with them.

My local business agents say it is not in their power, but in the power of the International to make these reciprocal agreements. My question to you is, why not reciprocal agreements for the benefit of the working man?

Reciprocal agreements would not only benefit the working man in our trade, but the working man in other trades as well when he works for the Boilermakers.

There are many ways working men are hurt by the lack of these agreements, but I think one of the worst ways is with the health and welfare benefits. For example, in the last ten months, I have worked over 900 hours and paid in more than \$3,000 for health insurance. But because I have worked for both Boilermakers and Sheetmetal Workers during this time, I do not have enough hours to qualify for the benefit. As of November 1, 1998, I must pay \$469.59 a month for my family's coverage through the COBRA plan. This does not make any sense to me! I know these reciprocal agreements would take some time and effort on the part of our International, but I think it would be time and effort well spent.

MICHAEL D. GARNER, L-169
Taylor, Mich.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Boards of Directors of the Health & Welfare and Pension Trusts determine all their policies. Requests for changes can be sent to them c/o Keith Reed, executive director of both trusts, at 754 Minnesota Ave, Suite 522 Kansas City, KS 66101-2766 913-342-6555

Townsend: Get even with NAFTA

NAFTA CONTINUES to exacerbate the disempowerments we have been suffering. You have spoken for U.S. workers and families, both union and nonunion, in warning us of its effects.

John Sweeney's strategies may eventually prove effective; however, Pat Buchanan and Jim Harris have spoken for us, also.

NAFTA is a family, women's, and workers' issue, not a partisan or racial issue. As more of us are forced into an underclass, nobody will speak for us.

I am attempting to gain some media interest in the matter from widely-published journalists. It seems that local editors respond better to local writers.

The four-fifths of us who have half the wealth, at least for now, aren't getting a fair shake.

We kept prevailing wages. Will we get even with NAFTA?

GEORGE F. TOWNSEND, NTL
Nashville, Tenn.

Perry encourages training

IN RESPONSE TO Steven Deem of Local 667, who states "welding is only a tool of the trade," from the Jul-Aug paper:

Yes, Steven, welding is a very important and vital tool for the Boilermaker. In our area, welders are in big demand, especially tube welders who now get \$1.00 more per hour than a mechanic, plate welder, or rigger.

I, like yourself, also knew how to weld before I entered the apprentice-

ship program, and I can tell you a little about what a 90s apprentice goes through. They start out at 60 percent wages. If they take a weld test and pass, they go up to 65 percent – that is approximately \$1.00 more per hour.

There are classes to attend to meet the yearly hours an apprentice must have as established by the state. Then there are lessons, a yearly test to study for, and OJT modules to complete as well as monthly job reports.

Some apprentices have families. Most have some sort of social life. And in between all of this, in their spare time, some drive two to three hours to the union hall to practice welding. Others enroll in trade schools in between jobs. Jobs that used to take six weeks are now done in three weeks or less. It looks good on paper, but it leaves little time for the journeyman to teach an apprentice.

Oftentimes, apprentices get no hands-on training, they only get to watch. So the bottom line is moderation, not four years or 90 percent before an apprentice can learn to weld. Apprentices need you and your expertise to teach them how to weld along with everything else so eventually he or she can do it all.

JOSEPH G. PERRY, L-242
1995 Graduate Apprentice
Spokane, Wash.

Grateful to his union, L-687

I AM WRITING in response to the disappointed disabled Boilermaker in your Sep-Oct issue.

I became disabled in December 1995. During the six months it took for my pension to become effective, my brother Boilermakers and the union helped me in an outstanding way. I would like to thank them for everything they did for me and my family. Boilermaker members continue to call and visit to see how I'm doing. This means a lot to me.

I worked as a union boilermaker for 16 years and my monthly benefit is very satisfactory, because I didn't work for a non-contributing employer unless absolutely necessary. I would like to add that we have received annual raises since my pension began. My health insurance expires December 31 of this year, and having the insurance for this long has helped tremendously.

Again, my thanks to my union!
CHARLES DOUG SKIPPER, L-687
Charleston, S. C.

L-647's Larson on booming

AS A CONSTRUCTION worker out of Local 647 (Minneapolis, Minn.), I've been on the road regularly since completing my apprenticeship in the mid 1970s. For the most part, I've got to admit I enjoy the life.

I did spend nine years (1981-1990) working as president and dispatcher for my local. That experience, coupled with my many years of booming, has shown me that Brother Devereaux's letter in the Sep-Oct issue is the rule rather than the exception. I have been treated very well by some locals and rather poorly by others.

In general, the traveling construction worker is made to feel unwelcome over the phone and at the dispatcher's window. Once a boomer offers proof of hours, the dispatcher should talk to him. Let him know if a big layoff is coming up or if your local looks for help from a neighboring local. There is no excuse for treating traveling Boilermakers like they just crawled out from under a bridge.

Boomers can help, too, by having all their stuff in order – current dues receipt, Common Arc and MOST cards, proof of hours and/or graduate

apprentice credentials. If we act like Boilermakers, hopefully the offending locals around the country will start treating us like Boilermakers.

ROBERT M. LARSON, L-647
Ramsey, Minn.

L-500's John Clinton says: Don't penalize retirees

ARETIREE CANONLY work 40 hours in a month, or he has to pay back his pension. Sometimes a job lasts longer than originally scheduled. When this happens, a retiree who had agreed to work a two- or three-day job has to either forfeit his monthly pension check or quit. If he quits, this leaves the contractor short handed because he can't get someone else to come on a job for only five or ten hours. I think this is unfair to the contractor and the retiree should be able to finish the job without penalty.

JOHN R. CLINTON, L-500 retiree
Walterville, Ore.

Hayworth disagrees with Wisconsin endorsement

I WAS VERY disappointed to read in the Sep. •Oct. issue of the *Boilermaker Reporter* that the Boilermakers are endorsing a pro-business, anti-union [candidate for] governor in Wisconsin. I feel . . . we shouldn't endorse candidates just for the sake of endorsing someone and in the future if both candidates are pro-business, anti-union [we shouldn't] endorse either one of them.

BOB HAYWORTH
Local 177 president
Green Bay, Wis.

L-7's Havens is concerned about Y2K compliance

AS A BOILERMAKER retiree, I am curious, after reading all this stuff about the year 2000 bug, as to whether or not there will be any problems receiving my pension check when we click over to the year 2000.

My check is electronically sent to my bank.

ALLEN J. HAVENS, L-7 retiree
Bath, N.Y.

Tucker: Don't push Bill out yet

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY is jealous because old Billy has done more and accomplished more for our people, our nation, as well as internationally, than any other president since Franklin Roosevelt. As president, old Billy's record reflects our great economy and the balancing of our national budget. After 12 years of Reagan and Bush, our nation went broke. It took a Democratic administration to pull us out (again). Old Billy had to fight a Republican Congress, but he got the job done.

Don't push old Billy out yet.

God bless America. And may God bless those who have to work with their hands in order to make a living. Our nation was and still is being built by the sweat of the brow. Boilermakers are proof of our extended great economy and most of that sweat!

DOUG TUCKER SR., L-592 retiree
Spavinaw, Okla.

Tell your fellow members what you think!

SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO:
The Boilermaker Reporter
753 State Ave. Suite 570
Kansas City KS 66101
FAX: (913) 281-8104
E-mail: dcaswell@boilermakers.org
or cdillon@boilermakers.org

A house even a doll would love to live in

After building boilers for 30 years, Delbert Page is a stickler for details despite crippling arthritis

by Jeannine Athens

HANDMADE FURNITURE FILLS a white, two-story house featuring pink gingerbread on its exterior. Beside it, a three-story Victorian-style home is under construction.

The inhabitants would have to be Lilliputian-scale, but completing these houses is no small undertaking.

Delbert "Dean" Page, 72, has spent the past 18 months building doll houses.

Meticulous craftsmanship goes into crafting small details – a task made more difficult by debilitating arthritis.

"He has arthritis from head-to-toe and his hands are so crippled," said wife Rosemary Page. "You have to wonder how he does this. Everyone who sees this is amazed at how he does it," she said.

Page's brother bought the first doll house to make for his granddaughter. The task was too much for the grandfather and the doll house ended up in Page's hands.

The project came at a good time. Page was diagnosed with cancer and the hours spent creating the doll house took his mind off physical limitations.

"I would go nuts if I didn't get up, move around, and do something," he

said. "I'd probably be in a wheelchair if I didn't. I just do a little bit at a time. If I get tired, I stop and give my fingers a rest."

That house – measuring 21 inches wide, 17 inches deep, and 25 inches high – took Page about eight months to complete.

The second house stands almost four-feet tall and is close to completion, with eight months of time already spent on the project.

Page's arthritis forced an early retirement, at the age of 55, from his work as a union boilermaker.

Before moving into an apartment, Page had a small shop behind his Valparaiso house, where he would craft wood items. A calendar holder, magazine rack, desk, and potato bin are some of the projects he displays in his home.

Neighbors Ann and John Dusich are amazed at the painstaking detail in the homes, as well as Page's ability to work on the projects.

"They are beautiful, absolutely gorgeous," Ann Dusich said. "They are like nothing I have ever seen before."

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Delbert Page of Valparaiso admires two highly-detailed doll houses he built in the past two years. Page has rheumatoid arthritis and took up the intricate work to force dexterity for his fingers. Photo by Larry A. Bretts/Post-Tribune.

Local 73's Marshall Gray retires

First retiree from MM Industries

MARSHALL GRAY, a four-year member of Local 73, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, is the first employee to retire at MM Industria since it opened its doors for business in 1996.

In the photo at right, Gray holds his retirement gift, a miniature replica of the vessels he and his fellow Local 73 members manufacture at MM Industria. □



Former business manager now coaching grandsons to victory

FORMER GULF COAST District Lodge Bus. Mgr. Harold M. Creel has always loved football. Over the years he has coached little league and some of the players the union helped to "suit out" have gone on to play for the National Football League – Alonzo Johnson, David Winddom, and Robert Brazzille. Now Creel is realizing another personal goal – coaching his grandsons.

"I always wanted to live long enough to coach a grandson," Creel told L-112 BM-ST David Klug, and now Creel has coached three grandsons to the county championships.

Before Creel became the Hiland Park Razorbacks' coach in 1997, the team had not experienced a winning season. In the 1997-98 seasons, the Razorbacks accumulated a 16-5 record, going 11-0 in 1998 to win both the division and county championships. Team members include three of Creel's grandsons – Jimmy Warr, Kenneth Creel Jr., and Chris Burton.

Creel still misses the Boilermakers and believes this union is the envy of the Building Trades. He told Klug that Local 112 is one of the most productive locals in the country and is right on track.

Creel joined the Boilermakers in 1963, and transferred his card to Local 112 in



Retired business manager, Harold Creel, with three members of the county football champions, grandsons Kenneth Creel Jr. (#51), Jimmy Warr (#2), and Chris Burton (#50).

Mobile, Ala., in 1976, where he served as business manager and secretary-treasurer until 1993. He retired on Jan. 1, 1997. □

Local Lodge 27 honors three members with dinner, watch



The Executive Board of Local 27, St. Louis, Mo., wishes a happy retirement to Intl. Reps. Jack Griffith and Jim Stevens and L-27 Inspector Charles Green. Front row, l. to r., Pres. David Snead, BM-ST Don Link, Stevens, and Griffith. Back row, l. to r., Green, Trustee Todd Timmerberg, Rec. Sec. Mike Evansco, Trustee Vas Vangle, Inspector Danny Green, and Vice Pres. Dennis Schroeder. Not pictured is Trustee Herman Biele.

L-27 Inspector Charles Green and Intl. Reps. Griffith and Stevens retire

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD of Local 27, St. Louis, Mo., honored three Boilermakers by hosting a retirement dinner in December. Receiving a plaque and watch as a symbol of Local 27's appreciation for their dedication and hard work were Charles E. Green, a 40-year Local 27 member who served 14 years as inspector and executive board member; International Representative

Jack Griffith, a 45-year Local 27 member who served as president and assistant business manager of Local 27 prior to his appointment as a construction representative; and International Representative James Stevens, a 32-year member who assisted the industrial membership of Local 27.

Local 27 Business Manager and Secretary-Treasurer Don Link praised all three for their dedication to the membership of Local 27. "These Boilermaker brothers will truly be missed. I wish each one of them a long and healthy retirement," said Link. □

Glenn's flight shatters age myth

"GO FOR IT!" That's what John Glenn told older Americans when he returned from his second space flight at the age of 77. Not only did this senator from Ohio make space history, but he shattered many stereotypes about aging. As a result, we may never look at the aging process in quite the same way again.

In the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) *Bulletin* Allan J. Lichtman, history chair at American University, said that Glenn's flight "shows how extraordinary human beings are in responding to challenges

and how artificial so many [age] barriers are."

Geriatric Psychiatrist Gene Cohen, M.D., of the Center on Aging at George Washington University, said Glenn's flight "shows that it's never too late at any age to make creative contributions." Richard Leone, president of the Century Foundation, calls the Glenn flight "a sensational example of what's possible. It made me feel I ought to be getting out and doing more."

Older Americans are livelier than ever. Don't count them out. □

Union Buying Power

With Union Privilege benefits, your union membership doesn't cost, it pays!

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS—it's the idea that got the labor movement started. Workers band together for mutual gain: fair wages, good benefits, and safe working conditions. It's a proud tradition. Today more than 13 million men and women are members of unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

You may not have thought about it, but that strength can work for you when you are off the job, too. At home, your family's needs are much like those of other union families. You want to own a home, take vacations, have good medical care, enjoy educational opportunities, build financial security, and pay affordable prices for products and services. Most of all, as a consumer, you want to be treated with respect.

That's the whole concept behind the Union Privilege benefit programs — using the consumer buying strength of

13 million union members to negotiate money-saving benefits with companies that want your business and that are good enough to receive your union's endorsement.

None of your dues money goes into the development or operation of any Union Privilege program. Many of the benefits offer special union features, such as letting you skip a payment if you are on strike, laid off, or disabled. And Union Privilege does the homework for you, searching out the right suppliers, negotiating the best deals, and carefully monitoring programs to make sure they work the way you want them to.

The result is that you spend less of your hard-earned money. For example, members who use the low-rate Union Plus Credit Card save about \$100 per year in interest charges.

Thousands of Boilermaker members have taken advantage of these member-only programs. Over 1,000 Boilermakers have used the Union Privilege Legal Service Program alone. Since more than 75 percent of union members using the Legal Service do so for free, that is a lot of money saved.

And members who both buy and sell through Union Member Mortgage and Real Estate save \$850, on average. Boilermaker members have used the Union Privilege Mortgage program to purchase homes valued at over \$11 million, enjoying significant savings.

Some programs come with money-back guarantees. Other extras, like credit counseling and consumer information, are offered as well.

For more information, visit the Union Privilege web site (www.unionprivilege.org), or call 1-800-920-4460. □

Union Member Accident Insurance makes unique offer

No-cost, at-work accident insurance coverage increased to \$10,000; other benefits added

UNION MEMBERS who sign up for or already participate in the Union Member Accident Insurance Program will now receive \$10,000 worth of no-cost union-workplace accidental death insurance plus an additional \$2,000 worth of no-cost 24-hour worldwide, all-cause accidental death insurance.

"The expanded no-cost at-work insurance and the additional no-cost round-the-clock coverage were developed exclusively for union members and represent bonuses that are virtually unheard of in the insurance industry," said Union Privilege President Charles McDonald. "This benefit is another one of the reasons why it pays to join the union."

In addition to the expanded no-cost coverage, members who purchase Union Member Accident Insurance receive "Inflation Guard," a new benefit that automatically provides an additional five percent of coverage benefits every two years for ten years — with no

increase in premiums — until the policy reaches 25 percent of its original cost.

"This means that if a member purchases \$100,000 worth of coverage, he or she will receive five percent more coverage every two years, for as long as ten years," explained McDonald, "thus increasing the total insurance value to \$125,000."

The program's insurance coverage for children will also increase to ten percent of the member's insurance amount, up from five percent.

The program enhancements were added both to encourage members to remain in the union and as an incentive for them to keep their insurance policies in effect. Current policyholders will receive notice of their increased benefits in January.

Union Member Accident Insurance makes it easy and affordable for union members to give their families the financial security they need and

deserve in the event of an accident involving serious injury or death.

In addition to the no-cost insurance benefits, the program also offers more complete protection, including up to \$200,000 of round-the-clock coverage at low rates. This insurance covers accidental death and the loss of sight, speech, hearing, and limbs.

Other additional coverage benefits include:

- \$50,000 more for a covered accidental death that occurs at a union workplace;
- \$100,000 more for a plane, train, boat, taxi, or bus fatality; and
- \$25,000 more for a motor-vehicle fatality.

All union members ages 18 to 69 are eligible to enroll, regardless of health or occupation, and coverage is guaranteed. A medical exam is not required, and members may continue their coverage after age 70 at 50 percent of the original benefit amounts.

For program details, members of participating unions may call 1-800-899-2782 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. □

Walt Disney World Hotel offers discount to union members

Stay in the heart of Walt Disney World Village for \$89 (\$99 during peak season) per day in 1999

THE UNIONIZED Hotel Royal Plaza, located in the heart of Walt Disney World Village, is offering a special "Union Leisure-Rate" to union members. The new 1999 members-only Union Leisure-Rate is \$89 per day during off-season and \$99 per day during peak season (February through April), effective through Dec. 26, 1999.

The discounted Union Leisure-Rate is good for single through quad occupancy and is subject to availability. To obtain the discount, call the hotel's reservations department at 1-800-248-

7890, ask for the Union Leisure-Rate when you make your reservation, and show your union card when you check in (for details regarding hotel accommodations, amenities, or nearby attractions, check out the hotel's web site at <http://www.royalplaza.com>).

Hotel Royal Plaza offers complimentary transportation to all Disney theme parks — including The Magic Kingdom, EPCOT Center, Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park, and Typhoon Lagoon — as well as preferred status at Disney's five championship

golf courses. The hotel is within walking distance of the Disney Village Marketplace and Pleasure Island. Other nearby attractions in the area include Universal Studios Florida, Sea World, Wet'n'Wild, and Animal Kingdom. In addition, Kennedy Space Center, Busch Gardens, and Cypress Gardens are within an easy drive. (When renting a car, use the Hertz discount. Call 1-800-654-2200; the union ID number is 205666.)

The Walt Disney World Hotel Leisure-Travel Discount is another money-saving benefit brought to you exclusively through Union Family Savers. □

Members Only

The money-saving programs listed below are available only to Boilermaker members and their immediate families.*



UNION PLUS CREDIT CARD

A credit card is available.

For information call:
1-800-522-4000



LEGAL SERVICE

Free and discounted legal services. Includes a free consultation (up to 30 minutes).

For information call:
1-800-452-9425



LIFE INSURANCE

Term insurance is available for members; spouses and children may be included.

For information call:
1-800-899-2782



DENTAL SERVICE

Offers predetermined discount fees for dental services and procedures.

For information call:
1-800-257-8352



MORTGAGE & REAL ESTATE

Buying, selling, refinancing made easier, more affordable. Special savings on real estate agent services.

For information call:
1-800-848-6466



ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Workplace accidental death insurance is available.

For information call:
1-800-899-2782



UNION FAMILY SAVERS

Savings on everyday consumer products and services — including Hertz car rentals, Disney World hotel stays, hearing aids, and more.

For information call:
1-800-452-9425

For more information on these members-only benefits, call

1-800-452-9425

BOILERMAKERS UNION PRIVILEGE BENEFITS

*Includes retired members. Parents and children of members and retired members with retired member cards are eligible for the mortgage program and union family savers directly; they are eligible for other programs through the Boilermaker member. Program restrictions may apply to members outside the continental United States. Phone 1-800-452-9425 for clarification of eligibility and more information on how you can apply.

IN MEMORIAM

WITH DEEP SORROW the International Brotherhood records the death of these members as reported to the Intl. sec.-treas.'s office and extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families.

LODGE & NAME	73	Graham, Clifford M.	104	LeMay, Armand C.
M18 Rohloff, Edwin F.	82	Carlson, John O.	104	Price, William F.
M18 Wilson, James C.	83	McNevin, Charles R.	104	Tunis, Vernal L.
21 White, William J.	83	Roles, Bobby D.	107	Walker, Kenneth
28 Cunningham, M. J.	92	Glagovich, John	D109	Head, Stephen L.
72 Bladdell, Walter A.	92	McCallister, Selmer	D109	Lemon, Charles R.
72 Burton, Harold E.	92	Neal, Wayne A.	110	Thomas, Matthew L.
72 Rubio, Arturo	92	Smith, Ernest F.	112	Brown, Walter R.

139 Trivett, Fred D.	433	Lariscy, Robert B.	749	Efigenio, Frank F.
146 Neufeld, Cornelius I.	455	Kornegay, Haule A.	801	Flynn, Daniel J.
146 Schluter, Christopher	549	Spruill, Daniel	908	Sowell, Ronald E.
191 Smith, Lionel A.	555	Mikolasek, Edward	920	Merrifield, Roger W.
195 Petty, Clifford	555	Shepley, John E.	1086	Prosen, John
263 Moore, Clarence	587	Smith, James L.	1099	Storkel, Arnold G.
263 Treece, Reggie L.	627	Stressman, James L.	1509	Czubakowski, A.
374 Fulk, Bert	667	Nibert, Leroy	NTL	Lands, Thomas E.
374 MacGowan, Charles	682	Burke, Waylan S.	NTL	Lowman, Rodney A.
374 Mericle, Paul M.	693	Ouzts, Cleveland C.	NTL	Young, Alvin
397 Bassett, John F.	S699	Rabideau, Shirley A.	NTL	Spinnenweber, G. E.
429 Grigsby, Fielding L.	726	Campbell, Gary		

DEATH BENEFITS

THE DEATH BENEFIT PLAN under the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust has paid the beneficiaries of the following deceased members who were covered by the plan since the last issue of our publication.

LODGE, NAME & BENEFIT	83	Roles, Bobby D.	3,000.00	193	Bartley, Earl W.	3,000.00	627	Gruenwald, Donald J.	570.00
1 Cargile, Charles M.	\$3,000.00	83 Tillotson, Rodney E.	2,409.11	193	Haddle, Woodrow W.	3,000.00	627	Kerwin, Daniel A.	3,000.00
1 Konopka, Gustave J.	3,000.00	83 Wilson, David C.	1,000.00	197	Malatino, James J.	3,000.00	636	Brown, Richard P.	3,000.00
1 Lindbeck, John G.	3,000.00	84 Trinkle, Francis E.	3,000.00	199	Lord, Albert T.	3,000.00	638	Cross, John J.	3,000.00
1 Powers, Jesse C.	3,000.00	85 Barat Jr., Andrew J.	3,000.00	199	Swearingen, Sherman V.	3,000.00	647	Bengtson, Donald	3,000.00
1 Rodway, James W.	3,000.00	85 Dewey, Irvin S.	3,000.00	202	Pugh, Herbert O.	3,000.00	647	Classen, Oren H.	3,000.00
5 Gambitsky, Edward	3,000.00	85 Part, William	3,000.00	242	Petry, Leonard V.	3,000.00	647	Durst, Ralph K.	3,000.00
5 Litchmore, Albert G.	3,000.00	85 Scott, Arthur G.	3,000.00	263	Honeycutt Sr., James E.	3,000.00	647	Holmes, John P.	3,000.00
5 White, William J.	3,000.00	87 Dugan, Lawrence P.	3,000.00	263	Melson, Romie J.	3,000.00	647	Kingsbury, Frank K.	2,434.03
6 Adams, Ernest J.	3,000.00	92 Abel, Lilburn J.	3,000.00	263	Treece, Reggie L.	3,000.00	647	Peters, Lester E.	3,000.00
6 Barnett, Bruce A.	3,000.00	92 Adams, Walter E.	3,000.00	290	Dawson, Doney W.	3,000.00	651	Rosenberg, Marion L.	3,000.00
6 Booth, Bryon R.	3,000.00	92 Betancourt, Louis B.	3,000.00	300	Kowalcheck, Jacob	3,000.00	667	Carter, Jeffery A.	6,000.00
6 Cruz, Ernest Antonio	3,000.00	92 Ferrell, Frank M.	3,000.00	305	DeLaRosa, Frank	3,000.00	667	Duncan, Earl	3,000.00
6 Denison, Walter E.	3,000.00	92 Fisher, Milton R.	3,000.00	305	Wagner, Henry A.	1,000.00	667	Workman, Mansford D.	3,000.00
6 Dennis, James Floyd	3,000.00	92 Glagovich, John	3,000.00	305	Wagner, Henry A.	2,000.00	673	Kleber, Hugh	3,000.00
6 Efigenio, Frank F.	3,000.00	92 Hoops, Robert W.	3,000.00	358	Betchey, William J.	3,000.00	679	Harding, Farris J.	3,000.00
6 Henry, Cleo P.	3,000.00	92 Hopper, Albert D.	3,000.00	358	Lemley, William A.	3,000.00	687	Grooms, Ernest R.	3,000.00
6 Hillesland, Thomas	3,000.00	92 Kasper, Joseph T.	3,000.00	363	Cooper, Ralph L.	3,000.00	688	Lizana, Clarence A.	3,000.00
6 Kaminski, Vincent	3,000.00	92 Keller, Bob V.	3,000.00	363	Hartung Sr., Robert	3,000.00	700	Young, Orville	3,000.00
6 Malenfant, George J.	3,000.00	92 Liberato, Harry	3,000.00	363	Layton, Robert J.	3,000.00	744	Brown, Dave	3,000.00
6 Nicholson, Milburn T.	3,000.00	92 McCallister, Selmer	3,000.00	363	Satterfield, Stanley	3,000.00	744	Davis, Ama C.	3,000.00
6 Price, Ralph F.	3,000.00	92 Sanders, Edward S.	3,000.00	363	Tice, William T.	3,000.00	799	Hinkle, Robert T.	3,000.00
6 Raman, Siri R.	3,000.00	92 Selcer, Leo A.	3,000.00	374	Aders, William Joseph	3,000.00	802	DiCave, John R.	3,000.00
6 Rohrs, Howard	3,000.00	92 Smart, Elmer E.	3,000.00	374	Beech, William E.	3,000.00	802	Helton, Willie M.	3,000.00
6 Stamats, Steve G.	3,000.00	92 Smith, Ernest F.	3,000.00	374	Charlton, John D.	3,000.00	802	Malampy, Robert W.	3,000.00
6 Valadez, Manuel	3,000.00	92 Tapia, Florenio	3,000.00	374	Gee, Paul E.	3,000.00	802	Wenchak, Alyk	3,000.00
6 Young, Virgil	3,000.00	96 Morse, John A.	3,000.00	374	Gustavson, Robert A.	3,000.00	802	White, Edwin	3,000.00
7 Bienko, John J.	3,000.00	96 Prescott, Lonnie L.	3,000.00	374	Hendershot, Larry E.	3,000.00	807	Claycomb, Robert E.	3,000.00
7 Caplick, Joseph L.	3,000.00	101 Kalaher, Carl	3,000.00	374	Keelen, Omer J.	3,000.00	1086	Pillion, Charles L.	3,000.00
7 Stroth, Evevett	3,000.00	104 Arndt, John A.	3,000.00	374	Manis, Walter D.	3,000.00	1212	Mathews, Lilmon E.	3,000.00
7 Wilson, Lyman L.	3,000.00	104 Booth, Arthur E.	3,000.00	374	Reder, Sylvester J.	3,000.00	1230	Hayden, Robert H.	3,000.00
10 Bonner, Ernest L.	3,000.00	104 Clements, Charles L.	5,830.98	374	Woolsey, James E.	3,000.00	1234	Baker, Shirley	1,500.00
10 Buttrum, Edgar J.	3,000.00	104 Earles, Roger L.	3,000.00	401	Burton, Harold E.	3,000.00	1240	Prater, Kyle	3,000.00
10 Hoover, David C.	3,000.00	104 Fromel, Garth	3,000.00	433	Horne, Everett W.	3,000.00	1248	Fisher, Artie	3,000.00
10 Jackson, Jesse Lee	3,000.00	104 Johnson, John R.	3,000.00	433	Murphy, Lawrence F.	3,000.00	1248	Mateja, William P.	3,000.00
10 Jasmann, Robert E.	3,000.00	104 LeMay, Armand C.	3,000.00	433	Stevens, William R.	3,000.00	1509	Arenas, Hilavon J.	3,000.00
10 Terrell, Clayton	3,000.00	104 Overland, Charles E.	3,000.00	449	Haykey, Charles C.	3,000.00	1509	Bickelhaupt, Ernest W.	3,000.00
10 Tomlin, Robert E.	3,000.00	104 Price, William F.	3,000.00	449	Hegnet Sr., Maynard	3,000.00	1509	Buchen, Ruth A.	3,000.00
10 Winter, Dudley	3,000.00	104 Roberts, Haywood A.	3,000.00	449	Simon, Donald L.	3,000.00	1509	Court, Dominic A.	3,000.00
11 Chism, Harold G.	3,000.00	104 Separovich, John	3,000.00	449	Tanck, Clarence E.	3,000.00	1509	Klismet, Bernard J.	3,000.00
11 Downey, Gerald V.	3,000.00	104 Wells, Forrest C.	3,000.00	454	Limbaugh, Marrell C.	3,000.00	1592	Bittner, George F.	3,000.00
13 Halat, Frank G.	3,000.00	104 Woods, Lee R.	3,000.00	454	Newby, Clinton C.	3,000.00	1592	Kline, Earl	3,000.00
13 Kogoy, John F.	3,000.00	105 Manning, Walter L.	3,000.00	454	Ritchie, Oscar F.	3,000.00	1593	Hall, Eva D.	3,000.00
13 Strader, Franklin J.	3,000.00	105 Martin, Ira C.	1,500.00	455	Brown, Roy M.	6,000.00	1668	Beagle, James A.	3,000.00
26 Beckham, Earl R.	3,000.00	106 Smith, Odie	3,000.00	455	Owens, Robert L.	3,000.00	1670	Hill, Chester A.	3,000.00
26 Cole, Marion	3,000.00	106 Woodridge, William J.	3,000.00	455	Rye, Oron V.	3,000.00	1670	Johnson, Sylvester	3,000.00
26 Hodge, Huey P.	3,000.00	108 Boyd, Kice C.	3,000.00	D472	Rouleau, Robert James	3,000.00	1670	Judson Jr., Calvin A.	3,000.00
27 Keilty, Joseph R.	3,000.00	108 Johnson, Curtis L.	3,000.00	487	Blahnik, Ernest	3,000.00	1670	Moffett, James C.	3,000.00
27 Tsolainos, Deborah L.	778.63	112 Lofton, Sidney J.	3,000.00	500	Dodge, Donald J.	3,000.00	1978	Herrin, Richard D.	684.31
27 Walker, William L.	3,000.00	112 Smitherman, Alfred E.	766.48	502	Abasteh, Rahman	3,000.00	2000	Ellis, John T.	446.32
27 Watterson, Thomas B.	3,000.00	117 Britton, Abraham	3,000.00	502	Atha, Charles J.	3,000.00	2000	Large, James D.	210.13
28 Bertram, William H.	5,000.00	124 Lascelle, Kenneth	3,000.00	549	Plemmons, Raymond D.	3,000.00	2000	O'Connell, Robert R.	214.69
28 Bobinski, Peter Paul	5,000.00	132 Lausen, Robert L.	3,000.00	549	Sorensen, Erik	3,000.00	2000	Allen, Albert E.	3,000.00
28 Cunningham, Michael J.	5,000.00	154 Henderson, Thomas C.	3,000.00	549	Swoffard, Charles B.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Bunda, Harold J.	3,000.00
28 Selert, Albert	8,000.00	154 McAvoy, John F.	3,000.00	568	Craig, Eugene P.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Doake, Paul K.	3,000.00
29 Fabyan, Joshua E.	3,000.00	154 Miller, Darwin G.	3,000.00	568	Loftin, Fred E.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Grigsby, Fielding L.	3,000.00
29 McMakin, Francis J.	3,000.00	154 Smith, George E.	3,000.00	577	Haggstrom, Clifford C.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Little, Errence C.	3,000.00
29 Smith, Russell L.	3,000.00	169 Asherhart, Kermit R.	3,000.00	582	Burns, Paul C.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Long, Carlton H.	3,000.00
35 Burkhardt, Robert J.	3,000.00	169 Attard, George J.	3,000.00	582	Miletello, Joseph S.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Mann, Donald Eugene	3,000.00
37 Duco Jr., Fabian E.	3,000.00	169 Chislea, Joseph E.	3,000.00	582	Morgan, Arthur H.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Martin, Ernest G.	3,000.00
37 Miller Jr., George	3,000.00	169 Daniel, Arley B.	3,000.00	583	Denney, Felton E.	3,000.00	2000	NTL McGee, Doyle E.	3,000.00
37 Sanchez, Edwin J.	3,000.00	169 Hon, Cecil D.	3,000.00	583	Parnell, Ben	3,000.00	2000	NTL Meaux, Purvis A.	3,000.00
37 Smothers, Ledell	3,000.00	169 Hughes, Archie E.	3,000.00	587	Matt, Michael Ray	3,000.00	2000	NTL Mercer, Leonard W.	3,000.00
37 Swann, Loyd B.	3,000.00	169 Mott Sr., Carl W.	3,000.00	587	Smith, James L.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Nelson, Glen W.	3,000.00
37 Vance, Billie G.	3,000.00	174 Martin, Clarence J.	3,000.00	587	Williams Jr., Joseph H.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Rhodes, Ronald E.	3,000.00
72 Bauer, Helmar A.	3,000.00	174 Warpehoski, John	3,000.00	590	Underwood, Homer D.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Shoemaker Jr., Harvey L.	3,000.00
72 Buckley, George H.	3,000.00	175 Gray Jr., Kenneth P.	3,000.00	592	Hopkins, Clarence J.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Spears, Arthur	3,000.00
72 Griffin, James A.	3,000.00	175 Wells, Kenneth E.	3,000.00	592	Lewis, Enoch F.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Stephenson, Joseph B.	3,000.00
72 Hurley, John P.	3,000.00	182 Crane, Calvin M.	3,000.00	592	Tiffey, Sherman C.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Thomas, William H.	3,000.00
72 Johnson, LaVern I.	3,000.00	182 Hurlbrook, Venile O.	3,000.00	627	Cowen, John E.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Wagner, James P.	3,000.00
72 Judd, Paul L.	3,000.00	182 Lawrence, John R.	3,000.00	627	Elliston, Fred R.	3,000.00	2000	NTL Young, Alvin O.	3,000.00
72 Koschnick, Emil A.	3,000.00								
72 Leer, Garvin O.	3,000.00								
72 Nieminen, Fred E.	3,000.00								
72 Pfenning, Richard J.	3,000.00								
72 Rubio, Arturo	5,274.63								
72 Smith, Gorman R.	3,000.00								
72 Staninger, Earl M.	3,000.00								
72 Wyatt, Nolas F.	3,000.00								
74 Symms, Robert V.	3,000.00								
79 McCollister, William	3,000.00								
79 Myrick, Robert T.	3,000.00								
79 Watson, Danny E.	609.70								
83 Alcantar, Frank V.	3,000.00								
83 Harris, Kenneth D.	3,000.00								
83 Jones, Oscar S.	3,000.00								
83 McLamb, Harold D.	3,000.00								

IF YOU HAVE NOT yet been furnished this information, contact your local lodge, secure the beneficiary forms, complete the required information and forward to the Administrative Office of the Pension Fund, 754 Minnesota Avenue, Suite 522, Kansas City, KS 66101, at the earliest possible date. NOTE: These additional death benefits can only be derived for members who worked under a collective bargaining agreement with an employer contributing to the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust.

Moving? Tell us where...

Name _____
 New Address _____
 City _____
 State or Province _____ Zip _____
 Local Lodge No. _____ Register No. _____
 (Also please notify the secretary of your local lodge.)

Mail form to:

EPA clean air plan will create more work for Boilermakers

Mandate to reduce NOx emissions spells golden opportunity for construction Boilermakers

IN SEPTEMBER, Carol Browner, director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), announced a wide-ranging plan for cleaning up the air in 22 states in the eastern U.S. Her plan mandates reducing smog-causing nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions by 1.1 million tons by the year 2003, or 28 percent by the year 2007.

This ruling will provide a financial bonanza for construction Boilermakers over the next eight years. One of the most efficient technologies for reducing NOx in fossil-fired boilers is through selective catalytic reduction (SCR). The majority of modifications required for implementing SCR technology in existing boilers is performed by Boilermakers.

The EPA plan provides for a market-based "cap and trade" program to reduce the costs of compliance.

In this program, businesses earn "credits" for reducing emissions. These credits can be sold to other businesses. The plan does not specify which sources of emissions should be reduced, but simply sets the target for reduction. In this way, utilities that reduce their emissions can sell excess credits to industries unable to reduce theirs.

Over the next four to eight years, construction Boilermakers will be needed

in numbers we haven't seen in a long time. An SCR retrofit generally takes a unit off line anywhere from two weeks to two months. Utilities throughout all of the 22 states named in the plan will need to retrofit equipment. The EPA estimates that compliance measures will cost about \$1.7 billion a year. A sizeable portion of that money will go to the Boilermakers who do the work necessary to make the additions and modifications required by the SCR technology.

This is a golden opportunity for Boilermakers. We must work with our contractors to assure their customers that we have the manpower to get this enormous job done. Although the work will be performed in only 22 states, the amount that needs to be done in only a few years time is so great that the local lodges in those areas will no doubt be

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Construction Boilermakers considering early retirement should look at the increased benefits two more years of steady work can bring. It could be 30 percent or more.

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contacting other lodges to help supply the necessary manpower. They will need experienced, skilled craftsmen. Boilermakers from all over the

U.S. and Canada can expect to benefit from the work resulting from the implementation of Browner's plan.

All Boilermakers need to recognize the opportunity – and the challenge – the EPA's mandate provides us. Construction Boilermakers stand to get more hours in the next few years than they've been getting the last few, but

only if we can man those jobs. If we cannot provide a reliable source of available, skilled manpower, customers will be forced to go to other sources to get this retrofit work done in the time allotted. That would have a disastrous effect on our future work. We cannot afford to let it happen.

If you're in the apprentice program or are new to the trade, keep developing your skills because Boilermaker contractors are going to need lots of hard-working, highly skilled Boilermakers for this work.

Those Boilermakers who have been considering early retirement in the next year or two should reconsider. By staying in the trade you will be eligible for Health & Welfare coverage – a benefit that is expensive to purchase and very necessary with today's rising medical costs – and the advantage of having a few thousand additional hours in pension contributions is considerable.

According to an analysis by the pension office, if the average Boilermaker works two years beyond age 55 at 1,700 hours each year, he or she will receive an additional \$573.68 per month in benefits on retiring at 57. That's nearly \$600 per month for the rest of your life just for putting in two more years instead of retiring at 55. Few people in this age group stand to benefit so greatly from sticking it out a few more years.

The extra work generated by the EPA plan will begin showing up soon. Power plants and other facilities will have to rush to meet the EPA's compliance deadlines. The 22 states involved must submit their plans for compliance by September 1999, and controls must be in place by 2003.



Charles W. Jones
International President

A few of the states involved have challenged the EPA's plan, but their lawsuits will not significantly affect its implementation. A plan for NOx reduction similar to Browner's proposal will eventually be agreed upon, and whatever the specific details of that plan, it will require major improvements in lowering NOx emissions, and the utility industry will be doing a great deal of SCR retrofitting over the next four to eight years.

We owe it to our contractors and their customers to provide the manpower needed to do this work as efficiently and safely as possible. Doing so will put money in our members' pockets, increase their pension benefits, and ensure that all of our families breathe cleaner air in the future.

With results like these, we really can't lose. □

NOTE: For a detailed analysis of possible increased retirement benefits from working two more years, see page three.

Guest Editorial

Social Security – A Young Voter's Concern

By Hans Riemer

POLITICIANS AND PUNDITS are promoting a plan for reforming Social Security that is supposed to greatly appeal to young people like me. Their idea is to partly privatize it – or, more precisely, to cut Social Security benefits and hike the retirement age, while requiring us to invest some of our payroll deduction in the stock market in hopes that these investments will make up for the lost benefits.

It is not clear just why they think we'll like this. What I see is a raw deal. Especially for my generation. For starters, we need the current benefits. Social Security is not just for senior citizens. Fully one-third of beneficiaries are not collecting retirement money; they are getting disability or survivors benefits. In fact, Social Security provides more life insurance than all private sector plans combined. Its disability insurance is the only such coverage most young families have.

And young people lose big if the politicians cut this insurance and leave us to rely on our private investment accounts to make up the difference. Our individual accounts won't be able to provide us with significant disability and survivor protections precisely

because we are young and so have not had time for our investments to grow.

As for the longer term, trends in today's jobs – and in the "jobs of the future" – do not bode well for our retirement prospects. Private pensions are going the way of the dodo.

Take a look at the small business sector. Businesses with fewer than 25 employees created 75 percent of all new jobs last year. Only about 18 percent of employees in these businesses, however, had a retirement plan, according to the Department of Labor.

Things are even worse for temporary workers, a portion of the labor force that has grown explosively in recent years. About one half of all temp workers are between the ages of 20 and 34, and a recent national survey by the Economic Policy Institute found that less than four percent of temp workers had a pension through their temp agency employment.

Some of our jobs still do come with a retirement plan, but few of these can really be called a "pension." Rather than a guaranteed lifetime benefit based on salary and employment (a pension), more and more of today's plans are individual investments that young workers finance by reducing their take home pay. While these

401(k)'s provide advantages in portability and control, they are not secure. In fact, they require workers to bear alone all the risk of stock market gyrations or unlucky investments.

Given the trends in the new workplace, the very last thing we need is for the policy makers to privatize Social Security, too. What we need is just the opposite – to be able to count on Social Security to be there for us regardless of our private luck.

What Washington is calling its most "politically viable" privatization plan would fund individual accounts by cutting my generation's guaranteed Social Security benefits by 30 to 40 percent and raising our retirement age to 70. (They call it the "21st Century Retirement Act," though it sounds more like a non-retirement act to me.)

And for what purpose? According to the Social Security Administration, benefits can be paid in full for more than 30 years. The projected shortfall after that is based on very pessimistic assumptions – for instance, that eco-

nomomic growth for the next 75 years will be less than one-half of our historical rate. Rescuing Social Security for my generation doesn't require measures even remotely as extreme as this privatization plan.

The politicians have it all wrong if they think we find this plan appealing. In a recent poll of 18 to 34 year olds conducted by Peter Hart Research Associates, young people stated pretty clearly where they stand.

"No thanks," was their answer. If raising the retirement age and reducing guaranteed benefits for present and future retirees are what it takes to invest about one-sixth of payroll taxes in an individual account, young people oppose the idea by about two to one.

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Politicians are wrong if they think young workers support privatizing Social Security, cutting our benefits 30 to 40 percent, and raising the retirement age to 70. We oppose this plan two to one.

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