Local Lodges 27 and 83 hold regional tripartite meeting

Union, owner, employers discuss common issues

REPRESENTATIVES OF 27 employers and owners met in Kansas City, Mo., on January 20, 2001, for the first regional tripartite conference sponsored by Lodge 83, Kansas City Lodge 27, St. Louis; the Kansas City Power & Light Co. (KCPL) and Enerfab. Representatives of the Greater Kansas City Building Trades also attended.

These locals are carrying the tripartite concept to the local and regional level, ensuring that lines of communication remain open between Boilermakers, owners, and contractors. Presentations made at the conference explained the Boilermaker apprenticeship program and the many cost-saving services provided by MOST, including employee verification, safety training, drug and alcohol screening, pulmonary function and respirator fit testing, safety prescription glasses, and helping to meet manning needs.

Roger Erickson, bus. mgr. Local 83, presided over the meeting. He offered these remarks: “Anytime owners, contractors, and labor come together to discuss problems that hinder our industry and to seek solutions together, it is encouraging.”

Contractor and owner representatives also addressed the meeting, discussing several areas of concern, including manpower and workload. Demand for Boilermakers is expected to be much heavier this year than usual.

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Construction conference looks at manpower challenges, new work

NEARLY 200 BOILERSMAKER Construction Division local lodge leaders and staff from all over the U.S. and Canada met in Miami Beach, Fla., Feb. 26 to March 4, to discuss upcoming work, safety, jurisdiction, the apprenticeship program, and recruiting members.

International President Charles W. Jones opened the meeting with remarks on the growing amount of work for construction Boilermakers and the need to ensure that we can man all of our jobs this year without damaging our reputation for providing excellent work, on schedule, under budget, and safely.

Most lodges in the U.S. are experiencing a sudden increase in Boilermaker work after more than a decade of low demand. Although we are happy to see the work, the sudden jump is challenging. Over the past 20 years, some lodges have seen their membership base deteriorate because we did not have enough work to train apprentices.

Just as he did last year, President Jones exhorted local lodges to recruit skilled, experienced workers from the nonunion sector. “We have done an excellent job of increasing the number of apprentices now studying the trade; but apprentices are by definition still learning. In the nonunion sector, there are thousands of welders, riggers, and mechanics with several years and many thousands of manhours of experience. They can be valuable assets in our efforts to man our jobs.”

After International Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Wilburn briefly discussed the finances of the Brotherhood, Dan Everett, national coordinator of the Boilermaker Apprentice Program, gave an update on the number of apprentices currently in the program. More demand for skilled Boilermakers has encouraged local lodges to be more aggressive in their efforts to recruit apprentices. During the middle 1990s, the number of indentured apprentices had fallen far below the levels required to fulfill our journeyman/apprentice ratios in most area contracts. Aggressive recruiting has turned that around in the last year, and all vice-presidential area reports having enough apprentices to meet those ratios in 2000 and 2001.

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Joe Meredith retires

CONSTRUCTION DIVISION Director Joe Meredith retired Jan. 31, 2001, after serving the International Brotherhood for 27 years as an Intl. rep., asst. to the Intl. pres., and director of the Construction Division.

Joe was initiated into Boilermakers Local 453 on Dec. 22, 1964, and was the first graduate of their apprentice program in 1968.

The following year, he won the first Paul Wedge Award for Outstanding Apprentice in the Southeast.

In 1973, Joe graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering, and later earned a Masters in Labor Studies from Antioch University.

He was also appointed Intl. representative in 1973, and soon became the International’s craft jurisdiction expert, representing the Boilermakers in dozens of jurisdictional disputes and arbitrations. On Oct. 1, 1977, Joe was named asst. dir. of the Construction Division, and on June 13, 1983, he was promoted to division director. On Sept. 1, 1996, Intl. Pres. Charles W. Jones named him asst. to the International president.

Joe has taught Trade Technology to first and second-year apprentices at the National Center for several years and has represented the Boilermakers on numerous boards, including the Building and Construction Trades Jurisdictional Directors Committee, the Common Arc Board of Directors, the National Board Inspection Code Committee, the National Joint Rules and Standards Committee, the Special Committee on the Construction Industry, and the Standing Advisory Committee on Construction.

Joe’s good humor and agreeable personality made him popular with all of the people he worked with.
Cancer survivor sends special thank-you

John Clendennen credits Health & Welfare employees with saving his life

WHEN NTL MEMBER John Clendennen was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1996, his first thought was to simply give up. It had been only two years since he’d lost his wife to cancer, and the doctors said his was inoperable. What was the point?

But his daughters convinced him to undergo chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Doing so would give him a 15 percent chance of surviving.

“The next year was agony. Chemotherapy and radiation are harsh treatments. Sometimes he was so weak he couldn’t get out of bed. Boilermakers Health & Welfare (H&W) assumed nearly all of the considerable cost involved, but he had the paperwork to deal with, and in his weakened condition, he often couldn’t figure out where to start.

One of his many phone calls to the H&W office for guidance put him in contact with Cheryl Mosier. John says that was the turning point in his therapy.

“She guided me through piles of paperwork that could never have completed on my own,” he said. “And she always had a wonderful attitude and a great sense of humor. Every time I phoned her, she made my day better.”

Several times during his ordeal, John made Cheryl a promise: If he survived, he would come to Kansas City and take her to dinner.

In February of this year, he made good on that promise. His cancer has been in remission for several years, and he no longer requires treatment. So at the first opportunity, he stopped off in Kansas City to take Cheryl and her husband to dinner.

“You have no idea how special this woman is,” John told the Reporter.

But Cheryl said she was just doing what everyone in the office does. “There’s a lot of paperwork to be filled out. People often have trouble with it, and if they’re sick and not feeling well, they can be cranky. You have to have a sense of humor about the job. That’s why John and I hit it off. We have the same sense of humor.”

John was quick to agree. “The entire staff was great,” he said, “but Cheryl was special.”

He is on full disability now and has moved to Idaho to start a new life with a new partner. His only complaint in the entire ordeal is that he had no income during the months between diagnosis and being declared disabled by Social Security. “We really need some kind of disability insurance to cover that gap,” he said.

But at the moment, that seems like a small problem. His cancer is in remission, and he knows who to thank.

“I had great doctors,” he said. “But if it hadn’t been for the staff of the Boilermakers Health & Welfare — especially Cheryl Mosier — I wouldn’t be alive today.”

Holt earns 50-year pin

International President Charles W. Jones presents a 50-year membership pin to Glenn Holt (r.), former International President of the Metal Polishers International Union and was elected to the National Lodge in Kokomo with his wife Marilyn, but he has lost weight, given up playing and singing on the radio, and is no longer known as Chubby Lee.

At the LEAP conference, International President Charles Jones presented a 50-year membership pin to Holt and commended him for his lifetime of service to the working men and women in the Metal Polishers Union and now the Boilermakers union.

L-696 member wins county seat

Elected by a wide margin, he’s now chairman of board of commissioners

THREE YEARS AGO, Steve Gromala, an electrician at Marinette Marine Corp. and former president of Local 696, Menominee, Wis., heard Legislative Director Anide Abbott speak on the importance of having working people in public office. Andy’s words struck a chord with him. Working people do not get enough representation in political circles.

So when his district seat on the Menominee County Board of Commissioners came open, he decided to take a chance. With the promise of support from his local lodge, Gromala started a “grass roots” campaign for the office.

The Republican Party selected a well-known businessman for their nominee, and pumped thousands of dollars into his campaign. Gromala walked door to door asking for the support of working families, and spent $1,460 of his own money, mainly on a newspaper ad. When the votes were counted, he had more than 80 percent.

Once on the board, Gromala was quickly appointed chairman of the finance committee and the law enforcement committee. He also served on two other committees, becoming the only commissioner serving on all four of the most important committees. And he was selected to serve on the Airport Commission and the local hospital board.

In November 2000, when he ran for re-election, Gromala was unopposed. This year he was elected chairman of the board of commissioners.

Steve Gromala is proud to serve his community in these and many other ways, and he encourages all union members to run for office. “Workers need to have a voice on city councils, county boards, school boards, planning commissions, and zoning boards,” he says.

And the only way to get that voice is to get workers elected to those positions.
Construction conference looks at manpower needs

Continued from page 1

bill of minorities is rising more slowly. Our difficulty recruiting minorities may be a byproduct of low unemployment and the growing information industry. Like many vocations, we are losing qualified candidates to computer jobs. As growth in the information industry slows down, we expect to see more minority applicants for the apprentice program.

Construction Division Director Dale Branum and International Rep. Michael DiCicco discussed work performed under the national agreements and answered questions regarding jurisdiction.

MOST safety training is showing good results

BILL PALMISANO, administrator of Mobilization, Optimization, Stabilization, and Training (MOST), reported they performed more than 23,000 drug screenings in 2000. Of the 4,262 random tests performed in 2000, less than one half of one percent were positive.

MOST also processed over 5,000 temporary visa applications from Canadian members seeking work in the United States. MOST is able to streamline the visa application process and help our members from Canada work in the U.S. With unemployment in Canada now above seven percent, many Canadian Boilermakers are seeking work in the U.S. Many U.S. locals expect manpower shortages throughout the year.

Safety instructors David Haggerty and Bridget McManamon discussed the MOST safety training programs. These programs continue to be an effective way to keep our members from suffering injuries, as has been proven by the NAACB safety index (see story page 4). More than 4,000 construction members went through the construction safety and health class in 2000, and another 83 went through the new class on scaffold safety. In addition, MOST trained and certified 204 Boilermaker safety trainers in their OSHA 500 course. Palmisano pointed out that grants from the Center for the Protection of Worker Rights (CPWR) pay for Hazardous Waste Operations (HAZ-WOP) training.

Two locals were singled out for their success in safety training — Locals 74 and 154. Ren Keck, bus. mgr. of Local 74, discussed training done in his local. Both the owner, Reliant Energy, and the employer, B&W, were strongly committed to safety. In addition to providing special training, they distributed numerous incentives each day to members who worked safely.

Local 154 Bus. Mgr. Ray Ventronfe said, “I am very proud of how Local 154 members have taken this training. They have worked hard and it is making a difference on the job.”

He said that his members have gone out of their way to get the safety training, even coming in on weekends during the busy periods of the year. Local 154 has put 95 percent of their members through the MOST safety course, and about 95 percent through the scaffold course. They expect that number to go up substantially as soon as they can schedule another training session.

Owner representatives discuss new work

KEN PHY, OF ENTERGY, presented a detailed discussion of the construction and transport of nuclear fuel casks, which are used to move and store spent nuclear fuel.

As nuclear power plants around the country age, they will need to store their spent fuel. The federal government has not yet named the site they intend to use for long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel. Nuclear power plants will need to store this material onsite or at a short-term facility until the long-term storage is available.

Phy projects that nuclear power plants will be doing a great deal of work in this area in the near future. Much of that work will be done by Boilermakers. Phy’s discussion centered on the technical aspects of building and moving the storage casks, specifically those made by Holtec.

Entergy is already involved in the FitzPatrick project, which will provide dry storage facilities and transfer 200 spent fuel assemblies by October 2002.

Doug Kieta, representing Calpine, stressed a great deal of discussion with his presentation. Calpine employs nonunion contractors on several of its sites. Kieta’s indifference toward unions was evident in a remark he made regarding union Boilermakers working for nonunion contractors.

Financial advisors explain trust fund investments

PAUL ERLENDSON of Callan Associates discussed investments made by the national funds and the possibility of modifying the pension and annuities programs we now have to allow for individual investment. He provided a chart that lists the average returns for different groups of stocks over the past 20 years, arranged by rate of return. Each group had good years and bad, but rarely two good years in a row. For example, the listing for 1999 was a mirror image of the one for 1998 — the stocks that made the most in 1998 made the least in 1999, and vice versa. This chart showed very clearly why the fund money managers use a conserva-

tive investing approach that relies heavily on the guaranteed returns of government bonds.

In 1999, while some stocks soared, one third of stocks lost ground. In 2000, most stocks lost ground. And this year, that trend has worsened as many internet companies have bankrupted.

The trust fund managers cannot accept that level of risk: when investing the money you need to invest, by taking a conservative approach, they do not enjoy huge gains, but they also do not suffer huge losses.

Erlendson also said that the annuity program we now have in place cannot be modified to allow for individually directed investment.

We could start a new fund that allowed this, but Erlendson said that the expense of tracking individual investments for the thousands of Boilermakers on the annuity program would be enormous. That expense would be borne by the members holding the annuities, so they would be more likely to lose than to gain from directing their own investments.

Locals 27 and 83 hold regional tripartite meeting

Continued from page 1

While addressing the meeting, Ralph Boehm, manager of maintenance services for KCPL, surprised the group by suggesting a way to report upcoming manpower needs that will help all three groups—owners, contractors, and the Boilermakers—a plan for future work without revealing any company’s confidential information.

Attendees endorsed the plan as a good way to avoid manpower problems caused when several companies schedule major maintenance projects at the same time. They agreed to ask their companies to consider the plan.

Between the two of them, Locals 27 and 83 represent Boilermakers in all of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. Tracking proposed work in the entire area will be a big job, but the rewards could be great for the contractors and owners we serve — not to mention our overworked dispatchers.

This proposal is more proof that the tripartite approach is worth the effort. Because most Boilermaker work takes place in the months with agreeable weather — the spring and fall — manpower shortages have always plagued our industry. If this reporting method works in this small arena, other areas may try it.

Erickson closed the meeting with the observation that it was “extremely successful.” He urged all parties to “keep these lines of communication open.”

Ralph Boehm, manager of maintenance services at KCPL, addresses the regional tripartite meeting, ranked by Local 83 Bus.Mgr. Roger Erickson, at left, and Jim Prothe, superintendent of construction services at KCPL, at right.
Local Lodge 132 wins NACBE safety award

Twenty-two locals have no lost-time injuries in 2000

MEMBERS OF LOCAL Lodge 132, Galveston, Tex., won the national safety award for 2000 presented by the National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE). They finished the year with no lost-time accidents, but even that didn’t guarantee the title because 56 locals did the same thing. To determine the winner, NACBE had to compare compensatory accident rates.

NACBE also presented awards to the lodges with the lowest lost-time accident in each vice-presidential area. The following lodges won:

Western States:
- Local 182, Salt Lake City
- Great Lakes:
  - Local 374, Hammond, Ind.
- Southeast:
  - Local 69, Little Rock, Ark.
- Northeast:
  - Local 7, Buffalo, N.Y.

NACBE presents this award each year to encourage Boilermakers to keep safety foremost in their minds. The award has helped. Since NACBE began tracking injury rates in 1990, the Boilermakers have reduced their lost-time injury rate by 90.1 percent.

“Each year’s injury rate with the rate in 1990, Erickson calculates that by working more safely, Boilermakers have avoided 12,519 lost-time injuries since 1991. Avoiding those accidents has enabled employers and owners to avoid over $375 million in direct costs and at least $1.878 billion in indirect costs.

How much money is $1.878 billion? It would employ more than 3,000 Boilermakers for 1,500 hours a year over the 10-year period in question.

And although the benefit to Boilermakers is not that direct, when we save money for our employers by working safely, they can win more bids and we will get more work.

Better still, we ensure that every Boilermaker goes home safe and whole every day.

A key reason our injury rate is declining is that more lodges and more members are participating in safety training classes provided by MOST. No one goes to work intending to get injured, but matters to details or lack of knowledge of safety procedures can lead to accidents.

MOST programs teach practical safety methods, ones that are successful on the job. They teach Boilermakers to recognize conditions that may lead to accidents and take steps to correct them before any accident occurs.

Unions join civil rights community to celebrate Martin Luther King Day

Working families honor King’s legacy

ON MONDAY, JANUARY 15, over 600 union members and leaders in Greensboro, N.C., participated in an annual parade on Martin Luther King Day. The parade followed five days of King Day celebrations, including educational seminars, community service events, rallies, and religious services. Boilermaker Intl. Vice Pres. Jim Hickenbotham joined AFL-CIO Sec-Treas. Richard Trumka, Exec. Vice Pres. Linda Chavez-Thompson, Vice Pres. Clayola Brown, and Civil and Human Rights Director Richard Womack at the festivities to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his civil rights and workers’ rights legacies.

“AFL-CIO King Day celebration is a unique opportunity for the union movement to show that our goals are the same as Dr. King’s — to ensure that all American workers have the right to come together to improve their lives and to be treated with dignity and respect,” said Brown.

The community service activities were a high point in the five-day celebration of King’s legacy. Working families participated in several community service projects in the Greensboro area on January 13, including the Poplar Grove Head Start center, where they moved and repaired playground equipment, painted the building’s interior, and did general landscaping. While one crew worked at the center, another group sorted, packed, and distributed more than $20,000 worth of clothes, paper, and canned goods to local charitable groups. Others counseled families at a local shelter and landscaped a faith-based health center.

“Dr. King combined his love of the community with a commitment to progressive change. We want to show people that change is possible if you organize,” said Womack.
HE NEARLY 200 Boilermaker local lodge leaders who attended this year’s Legislative Education-Action Program (LEAP) conference in Washington, D.C., March 19-23, learned the true meaning of a word the president has been using a great deal lately: bipartisanship.

The word wasn’t spoken all that often, but the idea was evident. Two of the six members of Congress who addressed the meeting were Republicans and four were Democrats.

Speakers included congressmen in leadership positions from both parties. Minority Whip David Bonior (MI-10) and Minority Leader Dick Gephardt (MO-3) represented the Democrats, along with Rep. Neil Abercrombie (HI-1) and Rep. George Miller (CA-7). The Republicans were represented by Rep. Frank LoBiondo (NJ-2) and Rep. Don Young (AK-at-large), who is the chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Young was also chosen as the Boilermakers Legislator of the Year for 2001 (see story page 9) because of his work with us on legislation involving our railroad and shipbuilding members.

These congressmen and all of the speakers at the conference repeated an important refrain: we need Republican votes to get our bills through Congress. Republicans hold a five-seat majority in the House of Representatives, and although the Senate is split directly down the middle, with 50 Democrats and 50 Republicans, the tie-breaking vote (if needed) will be cast by Republican Vice President Dick Cheney.

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Although President Bush entered the office under a cloud of illegitimacy because of uncounted ballots in Florida and the fact that his opponent got more than half a million more votes than he did nationwide, the new president immediately abandoned the moderate pose he had held through his campaign and began an unprecedented attack on unions and working families.

He issued a series of executive orders intended to weaken unions, including an order banning project labor agreements on federal construction projects and one that reversed a Clinton order intended to ensure that companies doing business with the federal government abide by the law. Now companies that break labor and safety laws can get federal contracts again.

Congress seemed powerless to stop the president. In fact, they helped him. One of their first orders of business was to block the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) new ergonomics rule.

This rule was originally proposed by Elizabeth Dole when she was Secretary of Labor under the first Bush, but business interests managed to delay its implementation for ten years. Then Congress used a power they had granted themselves in 1996, to revoke rules made by government agencies to set aside the ergonomics rule.

Bush signed the order, saying that it was too burdensome to business. Revoking the rule lets businesses ignore the ergonomics needs of their workers. President Bush would rather see that burden borne by the 1.6 million workers who develop carpal tunnel syndrome, trigger finger, back problems, and other repetitive stress disorders each year.

In the first two months of Bush’s administration, Congress seemed willing to pass any legislation Bush sent them. In recent weeks, their attitude has begun to change. First the Senate passed a campaign finance reform bill that the president opposed (he spent a record $185 million getting elected and raised countless millions in soft money for the Republican Party). Then the Senate attacked has $1.6 billion tax cut, paring it down to $1.2 million. This action not only drags out the process for approving the bill, leaving it open for more detailed scrutiny, but it also sends a message to the White House. From the moment he proposed this tax cut, the president has been very firm about what he wants. Although he has avoided saying he would veto an altered tax cut bill, he has stated more than once that he will only accept a $1.6 billion cut — no more and no less.

The McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Reform Act passed 59 to 41, with 12 Republicans voting against the
Annual LEAP conference stresses importance of continuous political action

Excerpts from Speeches to the LEAP Conference

Charles W. Jones
International President

"PRESIDENT BUSH has a great speech writer. He’s going around the country telling people that he wants to give your taxes back to you, to give you more money to spend so you can improve the economy.

"Yet the New York Times says more than 40 percent of the tax cut will go to the richest one percent of Americans. The bottom 80 percent, which includes nearly all workers, will have to share less than one-third of that cut. And the bottom 20 percent will get less than one percent of that cut.

"The surplus he wants to spend is mainly Social Security money. He’ll throw it all in one pot to make it look like he has enough money for a huge tax cut for his rich friends. Then we’ll run out of money for Medicare.

"Bush said he didn’t want seniors to have to choose between food and prescription drugs. But under his prescription drug plan, a widow making $15,000 has to pay $6,000 for prescription medicine — that’s $500 a month on prescription drugs — before she can get a dime from Bush’s plan. That leaves her $9,000 to pay for housing, utilities, and everything else, including food. I have a feeling she would be choosing between food and her medicine.

"We need a rail system and to get our roads in better shape, but there won’t be any money for that. He has to give those taxes back to the rich to repay them for getting him elected to office.

"Bush may have snuck into office under the coattails of his daddy’s friends on the Supreme Court, but your vote did count. We split the Senate and have almost 50 percent of the House. Without those people in office, Bush would run right over us. Those are the people you will be talking to all of this week and those are the people you need to keep talking to all year.

Ande Abbott
Legislative Director

"THE BOILERMAKERS LEAP conference is the longest running legislative conference in town. We do have impact, people on the Hill know us and they remember us.

"If we don’t stand up for working people, no one will. There are all kinds of nonprofit associations that watch out for the environment and government waste and animal rights and God knows what else. New York Times."Bush said he was in Congress he opposed everything. Dick Cheney. When he was in Congress he opposed everything. Unorganized workers have no way of being politically active.

"If the Bush tax cut goes through, our social safety net will fall apart. We’re heading for a recession. A tax cut for rich people won’t help that. With a five trillion dollar debt, we shouldn’t be talking about a surplus. We should be talking about making Social Security stronger, about a real prescription drug plan for Medicare, one that helps low-income retirees.

"We need to get active now for the 2002 elections. We could lose some seats. We need to activate areas that have never been active before. In the districts where our members work hard, we elect pro-worker candidates. But there are a lot of districts where unions are not at all or are doing very little. We need to get them active, to register voters, and get out the vote.

"The most effective way to get your message across is leaflets at work.

Bridget Martin
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

"IN THE 2000 ELECTIONS union voters made a difference. Labor stayed focused on the issues.

"Union voters as a percentage of the total vote is going up. It was 19 percent in 1992, 23 percent in 1996, and 26 percent in 2000.

"Now what do Boilermakers do? We raise money for pro-labor candidates. We increase union voter registration. In 1998 and 2000, candidates spent $2.5 billion getting elected. Labor was outspent by businesses 15 to one in political donations. In 1998, it was only eight to one.

"Boilermakers are doing a good job raising money for CAF — the Campaign Assistance Fund. That’s the money we donate to candidates for their campaigns. Donations have been going up for several years. We raised over $700,000 in 1999 and 2000.

"But LEF contributions are going down. That’s the Legislative Education Fund. That’s the money we use to put on this conference, print the LEAP manuals, and do other things to educate our members about politics and the political process. We need to get those contributions back up.

"Right now we have one of the biggest union busting companies in the country. It’s called the Boilermakers. When he was in Congress he opposed everything. Labor was outspent by businesses 15 to one in political donations. In 1998, it was only eight to one.

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How important is the tie-breaking vote?

WITH THE SENATE split 50-50, Democrats to Republicans, Republican Vice President Dick Cheney is the deciding vote in the case of a tie.

Just how important is that tie-breaking vote, really? Very important. It has already been used to block an effort to help retirees.

Senators Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and Bob Graham (D-Fla.) proposed an amendment to trim $178 billion off of Bush’s proposed tax cut and set that money aside to pay for a prescription drug plan for retirees on Medicare.

The Senate vote was split party lines, with Republicans demanding the tax cut exactly as Bush wrote it. Dick Cheney cast the deciding vote to kill the amendment, ensuring that seniors won’t get their prescription medication, but the rich will get their tax cut.
Rep. Neil Abercrombie
Dem. — 1st Hawaii

"LABOR WAS OUR [Democrats'] biggest supporter. It’s no surprise that the first thing Bush did was cut the labor management committees and project labor agreements. That hurt labor and brought it into the maritime industry. That he is right now going after Davis-Bacon. All those things are good for unionized workers. He had to pay back the corporate leaders who bought him his job.

"[They] Republicans use the NRA as a wedge to get between working people. The NRA board is not for working people. We need to form our own gun association that would be pro-worker and use it against them.

"There will be no shipbuilding program because management is going to tax the cut. They are going to use our Medicare money, too.

“We spent 15 years getting out of that hole, 13 years figuring out a way to have a surplus instead of a deficit so the national debt could go down instead of up, and the first thing they did was cut the surpluses which is give it to the rich guys. It’s not a tax cut; it’s a tax grab.

"When there was a problem, we had a way to sit down and work it out. We had a way to compete with big money and big groups.

“I have to give President Bush credit. He is a smart political operator. He was able to use the issues to our advantage.

"The deficit climbed every year, and remember where their support was. When we had in all of history, because you encouraged your members to vote and informed them of the issues. If you keep doing what you’re doing, we’ll have the House back in 2002.

“Two weeks ago, Congress struck down the ergonomics rule. Efforts started ten years ago to write that rule. Clinton finally got it in place in his last few months in office. Then the business interests pulled it up for review, no warning, and they allowed only one hour of debate. One hour of debate on a rule that took ten years to write. They don’t want the public to know.

“When Reagan asked for his tax cut of $850 billion over five years, we thought it would lead to deficits and high interest rates. I was getting calls from home to give the president a chance, we need a tax cut, so against my better judgment I voted yes.

“The deficit climbed every year. By 1992, we were $3.5 trillion in debt, interest rates were sky-high, unemployement was high, and we were paying $235 billion a year in interest.

“One list what Clinton had to do to get rid of that deficit. But it was right for the country. We got the deficit down and we’ve been talking surplus for the last three years.

“I don’t want to give Bush a chance. I gave the last one a chance and we’ve been cleaning up the mess ever since.

“I want a tax cut for the middle class and those who aspire to the middle class. I want lower interest rates to boost the economy, not lower tax rates for the rich.”

Rep. Don Young
Rep. — At-Large Alaska

“I BELIEVE IN building with union workers.

“The infrastructure of this country is way behind the country’s economic and population growths.

“If we want to compete in the global economy, to get goods to market and receive goods, then we need to build highways and railroads and ships. We need to use all of our resources, and that includes the petroleum resources in the Alaskan wilderness.”

Rep. Dick Gephardt
House Minority Leader
Dem. — 3rd Missouri

“ORGANIZED LABOR as a whole turned out better than I had in all of history, because you encouraged your members to vote and informed them of the issues. If you keep doing what you’re doing, we’ll have the House back in 2002.

“THERE WILL BE reports coming out in a few weeks that show Al Gore won in Florida by 10,000 votes. He won nationally by over a half a million votes. We’ve got to change the antiquated laws so that people’s votes count.

“There are real workers in D.C., but there are those who come here who don’t live in the real world.

“Only one way people of this country have ever gotten ahead. That’s by standing up and fighting. For working people, fighting back has never been more important than now.

“Bush talks about being a compassionate conservative. Yet he is cutting project agreements, breathing life back into the Alaskan wilderness.

“If we join with President Bush, then we won’t have to worry about workers’ interests, because they’ll be on the endangered species list.

“Does it worry you to think that with Dick Cheney’s bad heart, Bush is only a heartbeat away from the presidency?

“As labor leaders, you need to do five things to fight back against Bush:

1. Educate and mobilize your workforce.
2. Build coalitions.
3. Organize new members.
4. Take action at the state level. We need to gain control of state legislatures.
5. Speak out about our vision for America.

“There are some fights we can’t win, but if we work together, there are many we can win. We owe it to our children to fight to make our vision of America a reality.”

David Medina
Legislative Representative
AFL-CIO

“BUSH DOESN’T LIKE the idea of campaign finance reform, but he knows it is coming. His people in Congress will tack on amendments intended to harm unions and working families.

“They’ll tack on a “paycheck deception” amendment. In fact, Bush has said he’ll veto the bill if it comes to his desk without this provision. Paycheck deception requires union members to union before proceeding with any political activity. This amendment is intended to make it harder to have member approval for every
Continued from page 7

political action, we’ll never be able to get anything done.

Another amendment raises the individual contribution limits from $1,000 to $3,000. Less than one percent of all Americans gave $1,000 to a candidate in the 1999-2000 election cycle. The richest one percent. This amendment is intended to make them three times as powerful.

“Bush says his tax plan will cost $1.6 trillion, but it will really cost $2.6 trillion. He has hidden a lot of costs and put off the biggest part of the cuts for five years from now, when he will no longer be in office and someone else can take the heat for the problems it creates.

“The Bush administration wants to use all of the surplus for tax cuts. There will be no money left for prescription drugs or education.”

Judy Mazo
Sen. Vice Pres.-Dir. of Research
Segal Company

“HR 10 WOULD FIX the problems in Section 415 of the IRS code without creating any new problems. It was passed by the House last year, but was attached to unacceptable Senate riders and died with them

“The bill gives multi-employer pension plans (like the Boilermakers pension) the same exemptions that federal employees get.

“It would apply to those already retired as well. They could get back benefits in increments.

“Congress needs limits for the top earners like doctors and CEOs, not union construction workers.”

Dennis Boston
Vice Pres.-Dir. of Legislation
Bro. of Railroad Signalmen

“LAST YEAR OUR railroad retirement bill passed the House 295-5. We had 83 sponsors in the Senate. But it never got to the floor for a vote. How we’re working with every major railroad and retiree organization to plan a strategy to get railroad retirement improvements through.

“We want to bring the age for full retirement down from 62 to 60 with 30 years of service. We want to give surviving spouse the full Tier II annuity, not just 50 percent. We want to reduce vesting from ten years to five, reduce caps that penalize employees who leave the industry.

“We want to reduce carrier taxes and require the carriers to ensure that the Railroad Retirement Account maintains a sufficient fund to benefit ratio in the future by agreeing to automatic future tax increases if necessary.


Stanley Kolbe, Jr.
Director of Legislative Affairs
SMACNA

“It is called Skilled Worker Enhancement Act promotes training by companies unable to meet federal standards. It offers $15,000 per trainee, per year.

“Meanwhile, companies that meet federal standards. It offers $15,000 per trainee, per year.

“They’ve broken. We want to take back of the railroad retirement money for the federal government.

“We can’t let government abandon its standards.

Cindy Brown
American Shipbuilding Assoc.

“The U.S. Navy has 316 ships in its fleet — the smallest fleet since 1937. They are procuring six ships, the lowest level of ship purchases since 1932. Yet the number being called on has increased 300 percent — putting a strain on our ships, our sailors, and maintenance crews.

“The Navy says they need 360 ships. If you figure a ship’s life at 30 years, we need to build 12 ships a year just to maintain a 360 ship navy.

“The Congressional Budget Office says we need to spend $12.5 billion to build ships. That’s twice what is in the current federal budget.

“ Bush’s radical tax cut is reckless and unfair to working families.

BUSH’S tax cut eats up every penny of the non-Social Security surplus plus part of the Medicare surplus. Rather than put $960 billion in the pockets of the wealthy, we could provide full prescription drug coverage ($400 billion), safe, modern schools for all children ($185 billion), and health care for 12 million uninsured children and adults ($315 billion).

Bush budget’s dirty trick — hidden costs

PRESIDENT BUSHT’S tax cut is deceptively expensive. It delays much of the cost of the tax cut into later years, so that the revenue shortfalls will be another president’s problem.

Bush has played this dirty trick before. He duped the Texas legislature to the tune of $110 million with a cheap accounting trick. His budget for 2000-2001 provided Medicaid funds to nursing homes for only 23 of 24 months. That knocked $110 million off the deficit column he submitted to the legislature.

Now legislators will have to add that $110 million to the 2002-2003 budget. But of course, G.W. is in Washington now, so it isn’t his problem.

When Texas lawmakers realized the swindle Bush had pulled, they were not pleased. “I might have voted a little differently on all those tax cuts had I realized that we were only funding 23 months of these programs,” Republican state senator Chris Harris told the Associated Press.

Now Bush is trying to pull a fast one with the federal budget. Don’t let Congress force his budget through without a debate, the way they did with the ergonomics rule. The longer people study this budget, the more likely they are to discover hidden costs that will pop up to hurt us later.


LEAP delegates miss Al Cafrelli

FOR THE FIRST time in 33 years, Al Cafrelli was not at the Boilermakers’ annual legislative conference.

A member of Local 154, Pittsburgh, Pa., for 54 years, Cafrelli, 74, was chairman of the local’s LEAP committee and was known on Capitol Hill as a lobbyist for working families.

His death on Feb. 21, saddened Boilermakers at every major railroad and retiree organization to plan a strategy to get railroad retirement improvements through.

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CINDY BROWN
Am. Shipbuilding Assoc. Pres.

DAVID MEDINA

KEN GROSSINGER
AFL-CIO Field Coordinator

DENNIS BOSTON
BR’S - VP, Dir. of Legislation

ROGER BLACKLOW
ULNA Polt. Coord.

BRS - VP, Dir. of Legislation

SIXTY

IT IS BASED ON FUZZY MATH. BUSH WANTS TO pay for his tax cut with the budget surpluses projected for the next ten years. But economists warn that there is little chance the money available from budget surpluses will be enough. Citizens for Tax Justice calculates that unless they use the Social Security and Medicare surplus, the government will fail at least $300 billion short. See their report: http://www.ctj.org/html/surp0301.htm

IT COULD LEAD TO A RECESSION. WRITING IN the New York Times, Franco Modigliani and Robert M. Solow, Nobel-Prizes winning economists, warn that the tax cut, combined with our record trade deficits, will put the U.S. at a serious disadvantage to the rest of the world. They say, “If Congress is acting responsibly, the least it can do is to postpone a deep permanent tax cut until this trade balance has turned positive.”

IT BENEFITS THE RICH, NOT WORKERS. Sixty percent would go to the richest ten percent of households, with only 13 percent going to the bottom 60 percent of us.

IT SHORTCUTS VITAL SERVICES. BUSH’S tax cut eats up every penny of the non-Social Security surplus plus part of the Medicare surplus. Rather than put $960 billion in the pockets of the wealthy, we could provide full prescription drug coverage ($400 billion), safe, modern schools for all children ($185 billion), and health care for 12 million uninsured children and adults ($315 billion).

Ken Grossinger
Field Coordinator
AFL-CIO

“OVER THE 30 years we’ve seen a huge decline in union density. The first impact is weekly earnings. There’s a direct correlation. Real wages declined from 1973 to 1993, as union membership declined.

“IT also impacts politics. Unions give workers a voice in government. Without that voice, they lose faith in the process. From 1964 to 1996, the number of people who said they generally trusted government dropped 41 percent.”

Dennis Boston
Vice Pres.-Dir. of Legislation
Bro. of Railroad Signalmen

“The Congressional Budget Office says we need to spend $12.5 billion to build ships. That’s twice what is in the current federal budget.

“Where Title XI comes in. It provides loan guarantees so customers can get the loans they need to build ships. The demand for ships is $4 billion. President Bush has retroactively budgeted Title XI. He doesn’t want to give this program a chance. It funds for surplus.

“Title XI is needed to win an election: money and votes. We don’t have much money, but we have a lot of votes.

“Talk to your members who voted Republican. Ask them to write the president and say, ‘I voted for you and you’ve taken away the ergonomics rule so now there will be more pain-related injuries.’ See what he says to them.”

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LEAP CONFERENCE
Boilermakers can go a long way toward ensuring that our economy stays at number one

Retirement reform, building trades, rail worker protections, ergonomics, and support of such bread-and-butter jobs would be created by the exploration and development of ANWR. The jobs created would produce employment opportunities for American workers in every state in the U.S. The new oil and gas industry would offer some of the highest wages and benefits available to working men and women.

The Wharton study found that jobs would be created in the manufacturing, mining, trade, services, construction, finance, real estate, and insurance sectors. If ANWR were to be opened, a new pipeline would need to be constructed, tankers would be needed to transport the oil, and more refineries would need to be built. In fact, shipyards in San Diego and New Orleans are constructing state-of-the-art tankers specifically to carry Alaska oil. Those purchasing orders, with options for more, are worth more than one billion dollars.

ANWR is potentially the largest untapped domestic oil source in the world. It would stimulate billions of dollars of U.S. investment — salaries and wages, engineering and construction services, materials, and design services. Such investments would stimulate economic development throughout the U.S.

Due to our past experiences we know that $50 billion was spent on wages, materials, design, engineering, and construction services for development of Alaska’s North Slope. Recently, a new coalition of business and labor leaders launched an aggressive campaign to urge Congress to open ANWR. The new organization is called JobPOWER.

The Boilermakers need to be on this important coalition because it’s in your best interests. The coalition has begun a drive to educate members of Congress who may not fully understand the implications of drilling in ANWR on American workers and our economy.

ANWR is vital for our national defense and economic security, as well as the working men and women of this country.

The Alaska Federation of Natives supports ANWR leasing because it will provide needed revenues to help impoverished rural villages escape their living conditions.

Numerous other state and national organizations support our proposal because they know that ANWR leasing can be done in a manner that protects the environment and the economic health of our nation.

It has been more than 20 years since the time that Prudhoe Bay on Alaska’s North Slope was opened to oil and gas drilling. In that time value has been extracted from the barren land of the North Slope’s caribou herds that were once the subject of much concern have flourished near Alaska’s pipeline.

When drilling began, the caribou herd numbered 3,000. They now number 27,000. Scientific studies show that the populations, physical health, and calving success of caribou have not been harmed by responsible oil development.

It’s time to start relying on our own energy resources again. After decades of turning a blind eye to the necessity of building an energy infrastructure to handle a vast population and productivity boom, California is now wondering who turned the lights out.

Other western states are balking at coming to the state’s rescue. The reason is that they’re hoarding their own precious energy supplies in anticipation of the same thing happening to them. It’s time to stop this nonsense.

Exploration for new sources of energy is critical to our nation’s economic expansion. There’s no better or smarter place to start than in the Arctic coastal plain of Alaska.

Congress can help facilitate that progress, but I need your help. The Boilermakers can go a long way toward ensuring that our economy stays at number one, where it belongs.

DON YOUNG

Congressman for all Alaska

Add a CAF check-off to your contract

The Boilermakers Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF) is made up entirely from money voluntarily donated by members, staff, and the families of members. We use this fund to make donations to the campaigns of candidates who support the Boilermakers union on issues important to our members.

Federal law prohibits unions from using dues money to help finance the campaigns of candidates for office. Unions must create a special fund called a PAC. CAF is the Boilermakers PAC.

Candidates who support workers rarely have as much money for their campaigns as candidates who support large corporations. Businesses routinely outspend labor unions.

Joining the fight to raise money, our union can make contributions to candidates if our members donate money to raise money for CAF.

If we want our union to support candidates for office, we need to raise money for CAF. Most lodges that donate to CAF rely on occasional contributions from members or special fundraising activities, such as raffles, T-shirt and cap sales, or other events.

We need your help to ensure that we can support candidates. By adding a CAF check-off to your collective bargaining agreement, you will guarantee that money is raised quickly.

http://www.Boilermakers.org
Local 744 earns awards for fund-raising efforts

Northeast wins area award for CAF donations

MEMBERS IN THE Great Lakes and Northeast areas went home with three awards given to local lodges and a vice-presidential area for their success in raising funds for the Campaign Assistance Fund (CAF) at this year’s LEAP conference.

Each year, awards are presented to the local lodge contributing the largest amount of money to CAF and to the one having the highest CAF contribution per member. Local 744, Cleveland, Ohio, earned both of these local lodge awards. In 2000, Local 744 members contributed $33,222.65 (an average of $84.54 per member) to CAF.

It was the fourth year in a row that Local 744 members have earned an award for their fund-raising efforts. They now have a total of seven CAF awards. In 1993, 1996, and 2000, they earned both CAF awards (highest total and highest per member); in 1999 they earned the highest total award.

An award also goes to the vice-presidential area contributing the most money to CAF. The Northeast Area earned this award by raising $10,054.89 in CAF contributions.

Who contributes to CAF?

TOTAL BOILERMAKER contributions to CAF in 2000 were $385,563.09. That total is 13 percent more than the 1999’s total of $337,591.86.

But our union’s potential for raising money to support candidates who will work for us is much greater than these numbers show. Only 53 local lodges participate in the CAF program, out of nearly 300 lodges in the United States. Local lodges which are not raising money for CAF, should consider setting up a program to help them to participate in this important endeavor.

If we want our union to support candidates for office, we need to raise money for CAF. It is illegal to use union dues to support candidates for federal office. Contributions to federal candidates must come from a political action committee (PAC) fund. CAF is our PAC. All CAF contributions are voluntary. Most lodges that do donate to CAF rely on occasional contributions from members or special fund-raising activities, such as raffles, T-shirt and cap sales, or other events.

The best way to raise money, though, is to negotiate a CAF checkoff into your collective bargaining agreement. In this way, members who wish to give to CAF can have their contributions deducted directly from their paycheques. This money adds up quickly. Local 744 uses a CAF checkoff, as does Local 193, the local with the second highest dollar amount contributed in 2000 — $29,657.39, and Local 85, with the third highest dollar amount contributed in 2000 — $29,145.63.

Most International officers and staff members use the payroll deduction method to give to CAF. Staff members donated $31,097.30 to the fund in 2000. Retirees are also using payroll deduction to contribute to CAF. Many of them have a small amount deducted from their pension checks each month. In 2000, retirees donated $94,658.56 in this way. They know that we use CAF monies to help elect candidates who will help us keep our jobs and our pensions, and who will protect Social Security and Medicare.

CAF monies are also raised through sales of raffle tickets and other activities at the Construction, Railroad, CLGAW, and SFEA division conferences. Legislative Director Ande Abbott uses the slogan, “Have your voice heard, put in your two cents worth,” to stress the impact Boilermaker members can have with the legislative field if each one of us simply donates two cents per hour worked to CAF.

To learn how your local lodge can raise money for CAF, consult the Boilermaker LEAP Manual or call Legislative Secretary Ande Abbott at 705-560-1495.

Ingalls honors President Jones


Local 693 joins Ingalls in presentation of photo, documents of USS Cole

AT THE BOILERMAKERS’ 33rd annual legislative conference in Washington, D.C., March 19-23, representatives of Local 693 and Ingalls Shipbuilding, both located in Pascagoula, Miss., presented photos and documents about the return of the Udall to the Ingalls shipyard for repair.

The Udall, built by Ingalls, was attacked by terrorists on October 12, killing 17 and injuring 39 crew members. In January, the ship was rolled back on the Ingalls’ dry dock, less than 1,000 feet from where it was built. Ingalls has been contracted to make over $105.5 million in modifications. The repair should take 12 to 15 months to complete. Repairs will include decks, lifeboats, winches, bulkheads, shell assemblies, and equipment foundations — all Boilermaker work; most of both engine rooms and the galley also need repair.

For more information on the Udall, visit Ingalls’ Website at www.ingalls.com.

One member’s message to President Bush

Don’t make us dependent on foreign power, too

IT IS NO SECRET that the United States is dependent on foreign oil. Why does President Bush feel that we need to become dependent on foreign electricity as well?

We know what happens when OPEC decides to pull the puppet strings. If we become dependent on foreign power, we are at the mercy of foreign power generation companies. They can increase prices or turn off the switch and cripple our economy.

There are three reasons for the power crisis in the United States: our society has become electronic junkies requiring more power each year, our portate greed, and the “not in my backyard” syndrome.

Inexpensive, reliable power production will make an economy grow. Expensive power, or a limited supply, will undermine an economy.

George W. Bush wants to shift the generation of power to Mexico, where they have no environmental standards, no health and safety laws, and a cheap workforce, so he can exploit their people onto prosperity.

In the United States, we know and understand the ramifications of industrialization. We act responsibly.

We must also get rid of the “not in my backyard” mentality. As Americans, we must accept the responsibility that if we use the electricity generated by these power plants, we must accept everything that goes along with it. We can’t have it both ways.

President Bush should come up with an energy policy for generation in this country that addresses not only the short-term problems, but the long-term problems as well. His proposed solution will have a tremendous negative effect on the millions of American working families who are directly and indirectly affected by this decision.

The jobs related to the power industry generate billions of dollars to the United States government. How does President Bush plan to replace these lost revenues?

Martin D. Spencer, Jr.
Local 7 Recording Secretary
Buffalo, N.Y.
Congressmen, public officials attend LEAP reception

THE MAIN PURPOSE of the LEAP conference is to put local lodge leaders in contact with the people in the federal government who may be able to do their members some good. The Tuesday night congressional reception is an important part of that.

The first-day-and-a-half of the conference is devoted to education. After opening remarks by Intl. Pres. Charles W. Jones, legislative director Ande Abbott, and deputy director of government affairs Bridget Martin, talk about upcoming legislation that we may want to support or oppose. They give advice on ways to make your meeting with your congressmen go smoothly. They distribute bulletins describing our positions on potential legislation.

Included in this year’s educational sessions were presentations by a number of labor activists in Washington from the AFL-CIO and affiliated unions.

Talks by members of Congress are a high point of the educational meetings. These invited speakers give insight into what is really happening in Congress and what members of Congress feel about the direction the country is headed. Sometimes, as in the case of Rep. Neil Abercrombie (Dem.-HI), these talks can be very motivating.

Delegates spend the rest of the week meeting with individual congressmen in their offices. These meetings are the heart of the LEAP conference — a chance to talk directly with a congressman or aide about issues that concern Boilermaker families.

The reception provides a chance to talk to public officials in a more relaxed setting. These photos are a record of which congressmen took the time to come to our reception and meet our delegates.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD (NLRB) with, l to r., Org. Dir. Bill Creedon, NLRB member Peter Hutginf, IVP Larry McManamon, Atty. Mike Stapp, Intl. Pres. C.W. Jones, NLRB Chair, John Tientsdale, NLRB Counsel Leonard Page, NLRB Exec. Sec. John Toner, NLRB member Dennis Walsh, and IVP Mike Murphy.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION Chairman Stephen Kaplan, center, with Bridget Martin, Boilermakers deputy director of government affairs, left, and Intl. President Charles W. Jones, right.


SEN. DANIEL AKAKA (D-HI), second from left, with, l to r., Intl. Pres. Charles W. Jones, Peerless Jefferson of the NTL, and Legislative Director Ande Abbott.


REP. LLOYD DOGGETT (D-10th TX), center, with Intl. Pres. Charles Jones at left, and Intl. President Charles W. Jones, right.


REP. MIKE DOYLE (D-18th PA), center front, with L-154 delegates, l to r., IP Charles Jones, Dan Quinn, Bob Heine, Ray Ventrine, Tony Smara, Tom O’Connor, Doyle, Onorato Bucci, Michael Ventrine, Stanley Wolfe, and IVP Mike Murphy.

REP. JOHN BALDACCI (D-2nd ME), third from right, with L-29 delegates, l to r., Joseph Biscioli, Stephen Goodhart, Sharon Perry, Intl. Pres. Charles W. Jones, Jeff Perry, Baldacci, Jack Meade, and Paul Meade.

REP. BOB ETHERIDGE (D-2nd NC), second from right, with, l to r., International President Charles Jones, Zach Givens, L-903, Alberf Meadowcroft, L-903, Etheridge, and Gary Stone, L-30.

REP. TAMMIE BALDWIN (D-2nd WI), second from left, with, l to r., Steve Gronnola, L-996, Baldwin; Dale Calston, L-996; Intl. Pres. Charles Jones, and Al Bamarof of Manitowoc Marine.

REP. WILLIAM COYNE (D-14th PA), fourth from right, with L-154 delegates, l to r., Ray Ventrine, IVP Mike Murphy, Dan Quinter, Bob Heine, Tony Smara, P. C. W. Jones, Tom O’Connor, Coynne, Onorato Bucci, Mike Ventrine, and Stan Wolfe.

REP. FELIX GRUCCI JR. (R-1st NY), second from left, with, l to r., Thomas Klein, L-5, Gucci, Intl. Pres. Charles W. Jones, and Jerry Connolly, L-5.
REP. JANE HAIRMAN (D-36th CA), at left, with International President Charles Jones.

REP. CAROLYN MCCARTHY (D-4th NY), second from right, with Local 5 delegates, L to R., Intl. Pres. Charles Jones, Thomas Klein, McCarthy, and Jerry Connolly.

REP. DAVID PHELPS (D-19th IL), fourth from left, with, L to R., John Perkins, L-58; IR Howard Lyon; IP Charles Jones; Phelps; IVP Larry McManamon; IVP Othal Smith Jr.; Ed Hebert, L-60, and Wayne Moore, L-58.

REP. JESSE JACKSON JR. (D-2nd IL), represented by George Seymore, eighth from right, and REP. BOBBY RUSH (D-1st IL), represented by Nikisi Bradley, fourth from right, with Illinois delegates.

REP. MICHAEL MCHULHY (D-21st NY), third from left, with L to R., Thomas Klein, L-5; Martin Spencer, L-7; McNulty; Jerry Connolly, L-5; Intl. Pres. Charles Jones; and Joseph Brown, L-7.

REP. JACK QUINN (D-30th NY), second from right, with Local 7 delegates, L to R., Joseph Brown, Intl. Pres. Charles Jones; Quinn; and Martin Spencer.

REP. LEAN HARMAN (D-36th CA), at left, with International President Charles Jones.

REP. JESSE JACKSON JR. (D-2nd IL), represented by George Seymore, eighth from right, and REP. BOBBY RUSH (D-1st IL), represented by Nikisi Bradley, fourth from right, with Illinois delegates.

REP. JAMES LANGSEVIN (D-2nd RI), center, with L to R., Lee Morse, Electric Boat; John Welch; Michael Toner; General Dynamics; IP Charles Jones; Langsevin; Ken DelaCruz, L-614; John Casey, Electric Boat; Jeff Perry, Stephen Goodhart, L-29; and James Papa, L-614.

REP. DAVID PHELPS (D-19th IL), fourth from left, with Local 5 delegates, L to R., Intl. Pres. Charles Jones; Phelps; IVP Larry McManamon; Key Phillips, L-40; Intl. Sec-Treas. Jerry Willburn; Gary Scott, NTL; and IVP Othal Smith Jr.

REP. JAMES LANGSEVIN (D-2nd RI), center, with L to R., Lee Morse, Electric Boat; John Welch; Michael Toner; General Dynamics; IP Charles Jones; Langsevin; Ken DelaCruz, L-614; John Casey, Electric Boat; Jeff Perry, Stephen Goodhart, L-29; and James Papa, L-614.

REP. ALAN MOLLOHAN (D-1st WV), third from right, with L to R., Michael Baker, Local D208; IR Raleigh Evereole; Ronny Vonescy, NTL; Ray Smith, L-667; McManamon; IP Charles Jones; and George Pinkerman, L-667.

REP. SANDER LEVIN (D-12th MI), fourth from right, with, L to R., Ken Vergawovan, Joseph Seyman, L-340; Ed Wlodnika, James McDonnell, L-169; IP C.W. Jones; Rep. Levin; Tony Jacobs, Jaime Schulte, L-169; and Steve Geramato, L-696.

REP. JAMES LANGSEVIN (D-2nd RI), center, with L to R., Lee Morse, Electric Boat; John Welch; Michael Toner; General Dynamics; IP Charles Jones; Langsevin; Ken DelaCruz, L-614; John Casey, Electric Boat; Jeff Perry, Stephen Goodhart, L-29; and James Papa, L-614.

REP. JAMES LANGSEVIN (D-2nd RI), center, with L to R., Lee Morse, Electric Boat; John Welch; Michael Toner; General Dynamics; IP Charles Jones; Langsevin; Ken DelaCruz, L-614; John Casey, Electric Boat; Jeff Perry, Stephen Goodhart, L-29; and James Papa, L-614.

REP. JIM MORAN (D-8th VA), center, with L to R., George Hanks Sr., L-45; Intl. Pres. Charles Jones; Johnnie Thomas, L-684; Moran; Michael Patterson, L-684; Wilber Brown Jr., L-45; and Michael Russ, L-45.

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Boilermakers play major role in one of man’s greatest achievements — The Panama Canal

By John Heurtz

IT TOOK TEN YEARS for over 40,000 workers from 97 countries to build the Panama Canal without the help of steam shovels, locomotives, and stationary engines built and maintained by boilermakers. “The Eighth Wonder of the World” would have taken much longer to build, and might not have been possible at all.

Europeans had dreamed of a waterway across the Panamanian isthmus since the 16th century. Americans had managed to build a very profitable railroad in 1855, mostly to serve people in a hurry to get to California’s gold fields. Finally in 1881, the French made a heroic, concentrated effort to build a canal across Panama.

They were led by Ferdinand de Lesseps, a gifted civil engineer who had built the Suez Canal in Egypt. But the French made two critical mistakes. The first mistake was to try building a sea-level canal without any locks, straight through the Continental Divide. The second was to ignore the mosquitoes.

In 1881, almost nobody suspected that yellow fever and malaria were spread by mosquito bites. Panama’s hot, humid climate and plentiful standing water meant that mosquitoes bred everywhere, and the results were disastrous. After seven years of great struggle, only about 20 percent of the French canal was dug, the company was bankrupt, and over 19,000 Jamaicans, West Indians, and Europeans had died of disease. De Lesseps finally had to give up, and almost all work on the canal stopped for nearly 15 years.

The United States government had been interested in building a canal across the isthmus since the 1870s. In 1869, the U.S. had joined from coast to coast by rail, opening up the American interior and spelling the end of the Panamanian railroad’s glory days. But the new locomotives, iron ships grew steadily larger, faster, cheaper to build, and more powerful. And like the big new locomotives now chugging across the heartland at speeds up to 15 mph, iron ship development was stimulated by the growing skill and sophistication of the men who built the new ships in the U.S. and Canada.

By 1906, there was a clear need for a better sea-route to the west coast than going all the way around two continents. It was 7,800 nautical miles around South America from Panama. In the U.S., the desire to be a world power with overseas dependencies was also reaching its first full expression. So in 1903, the U.S. government negotiated a treaty with the government of the new Republic of Panama — the country had been a part of Colombia until just two weeks before the treaty was signed — to dig a canal the Americans would own and operate.

The American government set up a commission in Washington to oversee the canal’s construction, bought out the French for $40 million in 1904, and appointed a well-known civil engineer named John Francis “Jack” Stevens to design the canal.

But Wallace hated Panama. Yellow fever broke out shortly after his arrival and killed the project’s chief architect, among others. Project morale was dismal. Supposedly Wallace and his wife had even brought their own caskets to Panama, just in case.

Wallace resigned in 1905, and was replaced by railroad construction engineer John Stevens, who postponed digging until he could build new towns literally from the ground up for canal workers, developing their sewers and utilities from scratch. The mold, cobwebs, spiders, snakes, and scorpions were banished back into the jungle.

In 1906, he persuaded the Senate to build a canal with locks modeled on the Suez Canal between Lake Superior and Lake Huron. Skilled workers, including boilermakers, began piling into the isthmus for the new project.

Meanwhile, Col. William C. Gorgas had been appointed the canal’s chief sanitary officer. Gorgas made war on Panama’s mosquitoes for a year and a half. At one point he spent the enormous sum of $90,000 on window screens alone. By comparison, U.S. boilermakers were comparatively well paid at around $2.50 per day in 1906. (Income tax didn’t exist.)

By September 1906, yellow fever was gone from Panama, thanks to Gorgas’ relentless efforts, and for a few years the Canal Zone was actually a healthier place for boilermakers to work than any American city.

By 1907, there were three boilermaker lodges in the Canal Zone — Local 463 at Empire, Local 470 at Gorgona, and Local 471 at Cristobal.

William H. Witmer, Local 470’s first corresponding secretary, wrote to the Brotherhood Journal: “We expect to have a first-class lodge here soon. Nearly all have been old members in the states... Any brother coming to the canal zone to work should have his card and stamp book up to date and in good shape.” Witmer also reported that Brother Robert S. Brady “placed a large American flag on top of a stack 100 feet high at Las Cascadas... that can be seen almost across the isthmus. This is the highest that ‘Old Glory’ has been floated to the breeze.”

Much of the boilermakers’ work on the Panama Canal was in railroad shops. Stevens saw the canal as a railroad project. He moved everything he could by train. To this railroad man, getting rid of the earth dug up from the Continental Divide at Culebra Cut amounted to constantly moving gigantic amounts of railroad freight. Stevens ordered locomotives and flat cars from the States built specially for the task. Their five-foot gauge, three-and-one-half inches wider than the U.S. standard, easily handled the nonstop loads of dirt, rock, and mud. Boilermakers kept all this equipment in service 24 hours a day and kept the steam shovels running that constantly fed the trains. The Panama Canal could not have been built without the special skills boilermakers brought to the project.

Stevens did an outstanding job, but resigned abruptly in 1907, to return to the U.S., seeking cooler weather, shorter work hours, and better pay. A very angry Teddy Roosevelt didn’t want Stevens’ successor to be able to quit like Stevens had, so the commander-in-chief appointed a soldier as the project’s new chief engineer. If anything, Lt. Col. George Georheals proved to be an even better project manager than Stevens. He stayed on in Panama until 1916, after Roosevelt had been out of office for eight years and the Canal had been opening smoothly for two.

Over 43,000 men and women had worked to build the Panama Canal by August 15, 1914. When Georheals and Gorgas watched the S.S. Ancon, a tiny cargo ship belonging to the Panama Railroad, become the first ship ever to travel the Canal’s 47-mile length, both were made generals for their work on a project called “the greatest liberty man has ever taken with nature,” by English historian James Boyce. And the Boilermakers in Panama, though a small part in numbers of the total workforce, were an indispensable part of it.

About 150 members of Boilermakers Lodge 463 still perform maintenance on the canal’s locks and equipment. The Canal may no longer be a topic of everyday conversation, as it was 100 years ago, but the Boilermakers who work there are as hard-working and proud of their contribution as ever. —

John Heurtz has been hired to write the history of the Boilermakers union. The expense of researching, writing, printing, and distributing this book will be paid through donations. Contributions to the History Book Project are tax deductible, and can be sent to: Boilermakers Archives History Book Project; 733 State Avenue, Suite 570; Kansas City KS 66101

Members of Lodge 470, Gorgona, Panama, working on the canal in 1907.

The cantilever house is near completion, and the lock gates are ready in this 1913 photo.

Tugs, dredges, and barges make the first lockage into Lake Gatun in 1913.

In 1913, these ships sail ahead the first lockage from sea level up into Lake Gatun, a surface elevation of 85 feet above sea level.
Economic Trends In Brief

New contracts average 5.1 percent gain so far in 2001

DATA COMPILED BY Bureau of National Affairs (BNA) in the first 18 weeks of 2001 showed a wage gain of 5.1 percent on newly-negotiated union contracts. That figure is above the average gain of 3.5 percent for the first half of 1999. It even exceeds year-2000 gains made in the industry with the highest weighted average contract wage increase — construction, with 4.2 percent. It is too early to tell how long this trend will last or if new contracts will be affected by the current downturn in the economy.

Canadian wage increases have not been as substantial, averaging less than three percent throughout 2000.

U.S. trade deficit hits record

THE CURRENT ACCOUNT deficit, the broadest gauge of the nation’s global trade, reached a record $15 billion for the fourth quarter of 2000, reports the U.S. Department of Commerce.

For the year, the gap widened to $405 billion, more than a 30 percent increase over 1999’s record deficit of $331 billion. According to Dean Baker, an economist with the Center for Economic and Policy Research, current account deficits drain future living standards in a way comparable to a budgetary deficit. In the future, the United States will either have to pay back the money borrowed to finance its current account deficit, or pay interest on this money indefinitely.

The news media have devoted extensive coverage to budget deficits of this size, but ignore or minimize the negative effects of our growing trade deficits because they believe their jobs can’t be shipped overseas.

Stock market’s wild run is over

THE DOW JONES Industrial Average, one of the most commonly used ways of measuring performance of the stock market, ended the year at $10,780.85, more than six percent below where it had started the year.

In the first quarter of 2001, it continued to decline, and by April was below $9,500, nearly 20 percent below where it had started the year 2000.

The NASDAQ Composite Index, made up largely of high tech stocks, did even worse, finishing the year 39.29 percent below where it started. It has continued to lose ground, and in early April was closing near $1,900, less than one-third of the highs it reached in March 2000.

These are good indications that the stock market’s wild run of the last few years is over. Some investment analysts believe the market will begin another long run soon, but economic projections from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) indicate a more subdued future for stock prices.

The CBO projects that real corporate profits will decline by ten percent over the next decade. Lower profits generally mean lower stock prices.

The new technology has not increased entrepreneurship

NEW TECHNOLOGIES were supposed to usher in a golden age for entrepreneurs, but it never arrived. The slew of new dot-com companies that have appeared over the past few years, many with highly publicized initial public offerings, have distorted our perceptions. An article by David Leonhard in the New York Times (Dec. 1, 2000, page A1) reports that over the past decade the percentage of workers who are self-employed has actually declined.

How much would you save?

Bush tax cut is generous to wealthy, doesn’t give much to low-income families

SINGLE MOTHERS STRUGGLING to pay the bills by working 9 and $10 an hour jobs can just keep struggling, as far as George W. Bush is concerned. His proposed tax cut will not lift any of your burden.

According to analysis by H&R Block, the largest tax-preparation company in the U.S., a single parent with two children making a middle class income of $19,950 a year will see no benefit at all from Bush’s $1.6 trillion tax cut.

Neither will a married couple with two children earning the same amount. Nor a retired widow earning a similar amount, mostly from Social Security income, according to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). The AARP also calculates that the Bush tax cut will not provide any benefit to a retired couple; 67 and 67, making $20,000 with no children in the home who get all or nearly all their income from Social Security and a pension.

While Bush’s tax cut does little or nothing for taxpayers at the low end of the earning spectrum, it does a great deal for those at the top of that range. The top one percent of earners can expect to save an average of $28,000 once the tax cuts are fully phased in five years from now, according to analysis by the Citizens for Tax Justice (CITJ).

Benefits to middle class are overstated

BUSH ALSO CLAIMS his tax cut benefits all Americans, especially middle income families, and would also stimulate the economy, reduce consumer debt, and increase savings and investment. It fails in all of these areas.

Taxpayers making the median income ($39,000) or higher will benefit from Bush’s tax cut, but Americans in lower income brackets receive no benefit. For example, a single parent working on a job that pays $9 an hour gains nothing from his plan. That’s good enough to pay this middle class. In fact, it’s more than nearly 25 percent of what U.S. taxpayers earn.

One-third of workers will pay the same amount after the tax cut as before.

Who pays the “death tax”? 

MANY WORKERS MISTAKENLY believe that they will benefit from a repeal of the so-called “death tax,” the estate and gift taxes. This is a repeal accounted for about 20 percent of the total cost of Bush’s tax cuts, but fewer than two percent of American taxpayers pay estate taxes. People who want it repealed claim it causes families to lose their farms and businesses, but the Citizens for Tax Justice says Internal Revenue Service records show that isn’t true.

If you die and leave an estate worth more than $650,000, your heirs will have to pay taxes on their inheritance — the estate tax. A married couple can leave up to $1.3 million before the taxes kick in, and family farms worth up to $2 million are exempt. Life insurance doesn’t count, and in 2006, the personal limit will go up to $1 million. More than 98 percent of estates left by Americans in 1998 were under $675,000, so the heirs did not pay this tax. Of the estates that paid the tax, fewer than six in 10,000 had more than half their value in farm assets or small-business assets. Even when heirs pay this tax, they get a better deal than you do on the money you earn working. Since the first $450,000 is exempt, an estate worth $20 million dollars would pay only $25,000 in estate taxes — about 12.5 percent. In 1998, nearly half the estates that paid estate tax were under $1 million. They paid an average rate of six percent.

By comparison, if your lottery ticket wins you a million dollars this week, you’ll pay more than $700,00 in taxes. 

Projected Savings for 2001

THE HYPOTHETICAL TAXPAYERS in this analysis all take the standard deduction, donate one percent of their income to charity, and, if married, each spouse earns half of the total income. Your actual savings may vary considerably. In addition, these graphs overstate the taxes paid by higher-income families. Those taxpayers rarely take the standard deduction because they reduce their taxes by itemizing.

ANNUAL INCOME

Single individual, no children

$19,500 $66

$39,000 $127

$78,000 $542

$156,000 $1,390

$350,000 $3,797

Unmarried head of household with two children

$19,500 $0

$39,000 $312

$78,000 $757

$156,000 $1,236

$350,000 $3,708

Married couple with two children filing jointly

$19,500 $0

$39,000 $422

$78,000 $860

$156,000 $1,310

$350,000 $3,852

Mar • Apr 2001

The Boilermaker Reporter

http://www.ibw-workingfamilies.com

http://www.boilermakers.org

INCOME

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INCOME
Economic Trends In Brief

The president gives a raise

CONGRESS GAVE PRESIDENT Bush a nice raise. They voted a pay raise for the president that took effect as soon as Clinton left office.

Clinton earned $200,000 a year as president, same as every president since Richard Nixon. Congress saw that $200,000 doesn’t go as far these days, so they gave him a raise, but stipulated it take effect only after Clinton was gone.

President Bush will earn $400,000 a year — a $200,000 pay raise for expenses. Congress is adjusting for inflation, that’s a lot more than the $25,000 that was offered to George Washington — and which he refused. Presidential pay stayed at that level until late in the 19th century. In 1817 — $25,000 in 1800 is about $244,000 today, so Bush’s salary is generous by one measure.

Incidentally, Congress gave the first raise in presidential salary to Rutherford B. Hayes, who, like Bush, took office after a disputed election in which he got fewer votes than his opponent.

The stock market is down, will the budget surplus be next?

FUTURE BUDGET surpluses will pay for Bush’s tax cut for the rich. That’s the plan, anyway. But what happens if those surpluses dry up?

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projections that show large surpluses next year rely on significant amounts of revenue from capital gains taxes. They keep revising their projection that the stock market had an incredible run from 1995 through 1999. Stock sales profits skyrocketed as dividend-generating income from capital gains to record heights.

CBO projections are based on the government projections that capital gains taxes at those high levels. But now that stock prices are declining, income from capital gains taxes will decline as well. If the market continues to decline or stays flat for several years, the projected surpluses will evaporate.

And if Congress has already given that surplus away in tax cuts, the federal budget may again see huge budget deficits, as we had with the first Bush.

Tax cut? We don’t want it

SOME 120 WEALTHY Americans, including investment guru Warren Buffet, George Soros, and Bill Gates’s father, urged Congress to vote against Bush’s proposed repeal of the estate and gift tax, even though it would give them or their heirs existences for decades. A petition drive organized by William H. Gates Sr., father of Microsoft founder Bill Gates — perhaps the richest man in the world — argues that “repealing the estate tax would enrich the heirs of America’s billionaires and millionaires while hurting families who struggle to make ends meet.”

High-income households have been labeling the “death tax” applies to estates worth over $675,000 (scheduled to go up to $1 million in 2002). Although less than two percent of the richest estates pay this tax, repealing it will account for about 20 percent of the lost tax revenue.

In addition, as Warren Buffet, the fourth richest American according to Forbes magazine points out, the estate tax plays a “critical role” in promoting economic growth by helping create a savings culture, and is based on merit rather than an inheritance.

Because President Bush owes everything to his inheritance, not merit, it seems unlikely this argument will change his mind.

Record numbers of corporations and wealthy pay no income tax

Two new studies show that the corporations and wealthy taxpayers don’t live by the rules we do

IF YOU’RE AN average taxpayer, you’ve just received in your income tax forms. And you probably qualified for a small refund. Maybe you’ll even get lucky enough to buy that bass boat you’ve been dreaming about or take a short vacation. That can make a person feel good.

But just imagine how good you’d feel if your refund were really big — say from 20 to 50 percent. That’s what you’ve been dreaming about or take a short vacation. That can make a person feel good.

And you’d feel even better if you didn’t have to pay any income tax on that extra money. That’s what a true millionaire does.

Tax reform act had little effect

IT MAY SEEM outrageous that corporations making billions of dollars in profits would not only avoid paying taxes on those profits, but would also get refunds. But when the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) studied income tax payments of the 250 largest corporations in the country for the period 1996 through 1998, they discovered a lot of outrageous things.

Twelve years after the passage of the 1986 Tax Reform Act, which was supposed to close loopholes in all income taxes, these corporations were paying lower taxes than ever. Their average tax rate in 1998 was only 20.1 percent, far below the 26.5 percent they paid in 1998, and only slightly more than half of the 37.5 percent rate set by the act.

If you paid any income tax at all in 1998, you paid more than MCI Worldcom paid on its profits of $6 billion, or Pfizer paid on their profits of $1.2 billion, or J.P. Morgan paid on their profits of $4 billion in 1996.

“When significant help from Congress, corporations appear to be finding ways around the tax reforms adopted in 1986,” said Robert S. McIntyre, a principal author of both the new study and previous corporate tax rate studies in the 1980s. “We hope our findings will encourage Congress to reconsider this important area of taxation.”

The impact of this tax avoidance is enormous. Had all 250 companies paid the full 35 percent corporate tax rate on their $753 billion in pretax U.S. surplus away in tax cuts, the federal government would have received $98 billion in additional tax revenue. Who gets to pay for that lost revenue? You do — and every taxpayer who puts money into the treasury instead of taking it out.

Not all corporations avoid taxes

ANOTHER FINDING of the study was that tax rates vary widely by industry and by company. Almost half of those tax-break dollars went to 10 companies, each getting more than a billion dollars in tax breaks.

Tax rates also varied widely by industry. Companies in the oil industry paid the low est tax rates, averaging 12.3 percent. Other low-tax industries included electric and electrical equipment manufacturers (13.9 percent), paper companies (13.9 percent), transportation companies (14.1 percent) and auto companies (17.1 percent). Publishers paid the highest tax rate, at 33.6 percent.

But within industries, rates also varied widely. For example, Maytag and General Electric both make kitchen appliances. But Maytag paid 35 percent of its profits in taxes from 1996 to 1998, while GE paid only 8.1 percent. Likewise, Abbott Laboratories and Ortho-McNeil are both in the drug business, but the former paid nearly 20 percent of their profits in taxes from 1996 to 1998, while the latter paid only 3.1 percent.

The Alternative Minimum Tax was adopted in 1986 to reduce these discrepancies and make sure that every company with substantial profits pays some significant tax. But legislation passed in 1993 and 1997 has left the alternative corporate tax only a shell of its former self.

The methods corporations used to lower their federal income taxes include accelerated depreciation write-offs, tax credits for research and oil drilling, and tax breaks for doing business in Puerto Rico. CIE can take a tax deduction for the difference between what employees pay for the stock and what it’s worth — even though in reporting profits to shareholders, companies don’t treat stock-option transactions as business expenses. ITEP found that 23 of the 250 companies lowered their taxes using stock options — by a total of $25.8 billion over the three years.

The goal of the lower tax rates was to attract $2.7 billion in stock-option tax benefits.

None of these techniques is new; they are merely being pursued more aggressively than in the past. Sometimes so aggressively they cross the line into tax fraud. An article published in the New York Times after this report was released reported that accounting firms are often paid with a share of the tax savings, giving them a strong incentive to suggest practices of dubious legality. Since IRS scrutiny has been significantly reduced in recent years, accounting firms can now pursue questionable tax shelters with little fear of punishment.

“The general public has a right to be concerned about how these tax provisions and services are affected by this resurgence in corporate tax avoidance,” said McIntyre. “Companies and their competitors paying much less in taxes than they do have a legitimate beef, too. And anyone who values our economy’s long-term growth has to wonder whether the tax code is being used to favor some industries and some kinds of investments over others, rather than letting market forces decide.”

IRS says more rich Americans than ever pay no income tax

WHILE CONGRESS SEEMS ready to pass President Bush’s tax cut which mainly benefits the rich, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) says the number of rich Americans who pay no income taxes at all is higher than ever. The IRS report released March 30 shows that nearly 1,500 Americans with incomes over $200,000 paid no income tax in 1998, the highest numbers since they’ve been keeping track. The previous high of 1,247 was reached in 1994.

The report does not reach any conclusions about whether other rich improper tax shelters are at work, but government officials are increasingly worried about tax-dodging among well-to-do individuals through off-shore trust arrangements and other personal reductions within the IRS have forced the agency to drastically reduce the number of audits they conduct each year.

A separate report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) shows that the richest one percent of Americans, on average, increased their income by 41 percent between 1989 and 1998 after adjusting for inflation. The bottom 90 percent of taxpayers increased after-tax income only five percent over the same period.

See the full report from the CBPP at http://www.cbpp.org/2-28-01tax.htm

The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization. This study was funded by grants from the Ford Foundation, Theurger Food, Stanley Rock and Brooke Foundation and Working Assets Funding Service. The full 64-page report, Corporate Income Taxes in the 1990s, is available in PDF format at www.itep.org. Printed copies can be ordered by calling ITEP at 202-737-4711.
The more they understand, the easier your job will be.

Educate your members regarding their contract.

The Stewards Sourcebook

I WAKE UP at 6 a.m. to get ready for work at 7:30 (p. 2). Safety rules go on (p. 50). Some workers have had persistent equipment problems, so I troubleshoot them (p. 50). I rely on my training (p. 33) to solve the problems, then sit down at the break table (p. 22).

Someone tells some old jokes, reminding me of Dad, who always told really old, stupid jokes. He could have used that to teach me how to get along with people.

I'm glad I ran into him. He reminded me of the people who really wanted to advance. I am thankful for back surgery. By taking one vacation day (p. 59), I can work on my personal preferences.

It took some patience and endurance, but you can't expect your members to know every detail of the grievance process — that's your job — but if they understand the basic parts, then they can improve their chances of winning a grievance and make your job easier.

What has the union done for me today?

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It took some patience and endurance, but you can't expect your members to know every detail of the grievance process — that's your job — but if they understand the basic parts, then they can improve their chances of winning a grievance and make your job easier.

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Great Lakes Area council continues education

Local 112 members attend steward training

IN DECEMBER, MEMBERS of local lodges represented by the Great Lakes Area Industrial Council #1 attended a training seminar in Kenosha, Wis. Pictured above, an unidentified member participates in safety discussions led by Boilermaker Safety and Health Specialist Milan Racic.

L-132 members attend foreman training

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 132, Galveston, Texas, attended a Leadership/Foreman Training seminar in December, at the Ramada Inn, sponsored by Balcock and Wilcox (B&W), Reliant Energy, Houston Lighting and Power, the Boilermakers National Apprentice Program, and the Southeast Area Apprenticeship Program.

All 20 participants are employed by B&W on job sites owned by Reliant Energy and were paid their hourly wages by B&W, billed to Reliant Energy. This is only the second time that foreman training participants have received compensation for their attendance.

The National and Southeast apprenticeship programs provided all other costs — materials, instructor wages, meeting rooms, and hotel accommodations, food, and travel expenses for all participants and instructors.

Conducting the seminar were instructors Dwain Smith and Douglas Vandiver, SE apprentice coordinator.

Smith extends his appreciation to Local 132 BM-ST Larry Turner for his help. In a letter to the editor (see page 24), he also credits B&W, Reliant Energy, Houston Lighting and Power, the National and Southeast apprenticeship programs, and every boilermaker who contributes to the apprenticeship program for making these educational seminars such a success and benefit for our members.

Local Lodge 146 presents six apprentice awards

Four recipients of the 1999-2000 Rod Springer Apprentice Award include, L to R, Local 146 apprentices Tony Prosser, Nick Balanko, Ron Damery, and Robert Bazzarelli.

Training held for new members of Local 1814

IN DECEMBER, MEMBERS of local lodges represented by the Great Lakes Area Industrial Council #1 attended a training seminar in Kenosha, Wis. Pictured above, an unidentified member participates in safety discussions led by Boilermaker Safety and Health Specialist Milan Racic.

EDMONTON lodge names award for Rod Springer, a strong advocate of apprentice training

SIX LOCAL 146 members, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, have earned the Rod Springer Apprentice Award for their outstanding performance in the local lodge’s apprenticeship program.

Local 146 BM-ST Dean Milten presented the $500 awards for the 1999-2000 apprenticeship term to Darren Hoffman, Nick Balanko, Chris Sparko, Robert Bazzarelli, Tony Prosser, and Ron Damery.

Hoffman earned two awards for his marks in the entry level and first period Boilermaker classes. Balanko consistently leaves the rest of his classmates behind in the second period Boilermaker classes, and Sparkos is number one in his third-period class.

In welding, Bazzarelli was awarded for his efforts in the first period class, Prosser for the second period, and Damery for the final period.

The entry level through third period Boilermaker classes each consists of six weeks of technical training and 1,300 hours of work experience. The three period welding classes each consist of eight weeks of technical training and 1,560 hours of work experience.

The award is named in honor of former Local 146 dispatcher Rod Springer, a strong advocate of apprenticeship training, who passed away in February 2000. While in office, Springer used his own money to award the top apprentices. In 1999, he paid $500 each to the top apprentice in seven classifications. Following his example, Local 146 instituted the annual Rod Springer Apprentice Award so his dream never dies.

THIRTY STEWARDS OF Local 1814, Bridge City, La., attended a two-day steward’s training program conducted by Len Beauchamp, director of research and collective bargaining services, Safety and Health Specialist Milan Racic, and Int’l Rep. Warren Fairley.

In addition to the traditional program topics, the stewards discussed their first union contract with Avondale Shipyards, where they are forming a safety committee to address workers’ concerns for a safe job site. A workshop on duties of an officer was also held.

Local Lodge 146 BM-ST Dean Milton presents the Rod Springer Apprentice Award to six apprentices.

Seminar includes tips on grievance handling, craft jurisdiction overview

TWENTY MEMBERS OF Local 112, Mobile, Ala., two Local 108 members, and business managers from Local 79 (Lake Charles, La.), Local 108 (Birmingham, Ala.), and Local 110 (Hattiesburg, Miss.), attended a two-day training seminar, August 21-22, at the Airport Ramada Inn in Mobile.

Len Beauchamp, director of research and collective bargaining services, devoted one day of training to duties of the union steward. Program topics included structure and service of the International Brotherhood; duties of a union steward; effective grievance handling, from investigation through analysis to presentation; steward rights under the National Labor Relations Act and the Duty of Fair Representation; and in-plant organizing.

Dale “Skip” Branscum, International representative — Construction Division, conducted a one-day program on craft jurisdiction. Program topics included a historical overview of craft jurisdiction; dispute resolution procedures; and a review of Boilermaker jurisdiction in the water and steam cycle of a boiler and a heat recovery steam generator (HRSG); HRSG components; and Boilermaker jurisdiction in selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems.


An overview of Local 112 members at a steward’s training program. Guests included business managers from Locals 79, 108, and 110.

DRCBS Len Beauchamp reviews steps of the grievance procedure with union stewards at an August 21, 2000 seminar in Mobile, Ala.

CD Rep. Dale “Skip” Branscum discusses craft jurisdiction at a seminar in Mobile, Ala.


Job brings Canadian Boilermakers to KC


Numerous groups tour the International while working in Kansas City, including these members who discuss health and welfare and pension issues with Jones.

MEMBERS OF CANADIAN Local Lodge 73 (Halifax, Nova Scotia); Lodge 128 (Toronto, Ontario); Lodge 146 (Edmonton, Alberta); and Lodge 359 (Vancouver, British Columbia) will be working six to eight weeks as welders and riggers at the Kansas City Power & Light’s Hawthorn plant.

John Tindle of the Boilermakers’ MOST program worked with Babcock & Wilcox Construction Company to get the Canadian members across the border (and through all the red tape) to help with this rebuild.

Local 83 BM-ST Roger Erickson said Randy Cruse’s efforts as the Local 83 dispatcher have also been indispensable to this job. “Randy spoke to the local business managers to work out manpower needs. He even contacted border guards to make sure the Canadians’ entry into the U.S. would go as smoothly as possible,” said Erickson.

The Canadians came in response to a call for increased manpower at the power plant where they are helping to rebuild Unit #5, which was damaged in a February 1999 explosion. Over 300 Boilermakers from all across the U.S. are also working at the job site, under the jurisdiction of Local 83, Kansas City, Mo.

Local 359 members meet Intl. Pres. C. W. Jones, center, before starting work at the Kansas City Power & Light’s Hawthorn plant. Jason Shaw, at left, will be working as a rigger, and Giovanni Pagliari, will be working as a welder.

Local 146 members, Jose Riffo (l.) and Enrique Salazar (r.), join Intl. Pres. Jones at International headquarters. Riffo is working as a welder and Salazar is working as a welder and fitter at the Hawthorn plant in Kansas City.

GOOD JOB!

Letters from Satisfied Contractors & Owners

Local 11 members set furnace record for Power Maintenance

I WANTED TO drop you a line and let you know how your Boilermakers did on the unit #3 scaffold.

Both furnaces were completed to the dance floors in a little over six shifts. This is the best time ever in this size unit.

They did a great job and there were no recordable accidents.

We have a lot of work left and we hope to continue this safety and production rate with your Boilermakers.

F. E. McGuire

Site Manager
Power Maintenance Resources, Inc.

Graycor Industrial praises Local 60 members on safe, fast work

I AM WRITING regarding the success of the AES Edward’s Station reheat project. This project encompassed the replacement of 122 reheat elements and 1,240 welds in a five-week schedule. Similar projects at this station were completed in six weeks.

Graycor accepted this job and completed this project on schedule and to the satisfaction of the combined efforts of Local 60 members in maintain ing and supporting this outage, the genuine efforts of the general foreman Gary Lusk and Jeff Innam, and Graycor superintendents Tom Stodola and Bruce Flowman.

This project worked two shifts of seven days per week and ten hours per day. Safety is Graycor’s first and foremost priority. Due to the efforts of these members and the skilled local craftsmen, there were no recordable accidents.

Out of 1,240 welds, there were less than five repairs on this project, which accounts for one-half of the one percent rejection rate. This is a major accomplishment for all involved — union members, owner, and contractor.

On behalf of Graycor and the AES plant, congratulations on a job well done.

We look forward to future projects in your area and appreciate all of your efforts in completing a safe and on-time project for this owner, which is in everyone’s best interest in today’s industry.

Special thanks to the owner and their team — Tom Watson, Jeff Ferree, Mike Chandra, Mark Wilson, and Chad Weise — who helped to make this a safe and successful outage.

Mike Murphy and Joe George
Graycor Industrial Constructors, Inc.

Veteran crew brings World War II ship home

This LST-325, built by Boilermakers in 1942, is docked in Mobile, Ala., where it will be renovated to become a museum.

Built by Boilermakers in 1942, this warship will soon be a museum

THEIR AVERAGE AGE was 72, the ship was a rusting relic, and the Coast Guard warned them not to cross the Atlantic during the winter. But they were determined to bring home the ship that delivered troops to Normandy in the D-Day invasion.

The ship was an LST-325, built by Boilermaker union members in 1942. It was decommissioned in 1946, and lent to the Greek government. Last summer it came out of service, and a 29-member crew of veterans from World War II and the Korean War paid their own way to Greece and donated $2,000 to rehabilitate it and bring it home to become a museum.

The trip took two months. They hit storms, had problems with the steering, the engine failed, and divers had to fix a hole in the bow. And they lost a crew member to heart problems — he died after returning to the U.S.

But as hard as it was, they were glad to have done it. “This was the greatest thing I’ve ever done in my life,” said crewman Jim Edwards of Canton, Tex.

Now that the 328-foot vessel is home, it will be turned into a museum.

Donations for the LST 325 Memorial Ship are tax deductible and can be sent to the USO LST Ship Memorial, 64 Ponderosa Drive, Oregon, OH 43616-2221.
L-363’s Douin is chairman of national boiler board

DAVID DOUIN, a 27-year member of Local 363, East St. Louis, Ill., has been elected the 34th chairman of the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors in a special meeting held Feb. 6, 2001.

Douin was first elected to the national board in 1990, as one of its youngest members. With 27 years of experience in the boiler and pressure vessel industry, Douin oversees one of the largest professional staffs among national board jurisdictions.

Douin began his career as an apprentice boiler-maker in 1974. He became a boiler inspector in 1982, the same year he earned his national board commission; assistant superintendent in 1986; supervisor in 1990; and the board’s second vice chairman in 1997.

Local 531’s Toler is retired, but still running

LIFE IS A RACE. It always seems you have to hurry no matter where you are going. But when you reach retirement, it’s time to slow down.

Wrong. When Beacham Toler retired, he didn’t slow down at all. In fact he’s running more than ever.

At 73 years of age, Toler, a retired member of Local 531, Amarillo, Texas, is an ultra runner. He participates in races that are 26.2 miles or more.

Since he retired in 1988, he has finished 36 marathons, including the Boston marathons in 1999 and 2000, and has been in 42 ultra races. In July of 1995 and 1997, he participated in the Badwater races — 135 grueling miles from the bottom of Death Valley to Whitney Portal, the gateway to Mount Whitney. Four times he has finished the toughest race in North America — the Western States 100 — running 22 miles of the 1998 race in the snow.

The best of his three 24-hour runs covered 112.2 miles. Toler says he ran a lot of shorter races; however, he doesn’t even keep track of those.

Toler joined Local 531 in 1948, and spent most of his career building boilers. Because he knew many Boilermakers with breathing difficulties, Toler started to jog for his health, at the age of 40 years. When his wife, Zelma, suffered a stroke, he stopped running to care for her and their two children. It was several years later when he took up his hobby again, this time adding an old ten-speed bicycle to his training program. To get in shape for the ultra runs, he participated in bicycle events, like the seven-day, 500-mile FreeWheel from Marietta, Okla. to Noel, Mo.; the Almost Across Arizona, a 550-mile event from the Grand Canyon to Nogales; and a seven-day event from Paris, Texas, to Hornby, Okla.

Toler is not the only family member who runs. His daughter, Valen Harless, won the half-marathon for her age group in Amarillo last spring, and his 14-year-old granddaughter, Frankie Harless, runs track at her high school and has already ran several 5K (1.6 mile) events in Amarillo.

Taking flight with Schapansky

Retiree keeps active by building airplanes

WHEN JOHN (JACK) Schapansky retired, he didn’t “hang up his tools,” he just started using them for a different purpose.

Instead of working as a boilermaker, Schapansky now uses his skills to build radio-controlled airplanes. That’s one way to take your work to a higher level!

Bush’s tax cut and retirees

No provisions are tailored just for older or retired Americans

THE BUSH TAX CUTS should affect retired Americans in pretty much the same way it affects working taxpayers. Because no provisions have been included specifically to benefit older Americans, those who benefit most will be the ones with higher incomes.

Julie makes dolls while her Boilermaker is away

MANY PEOPLE DON’T realize that Boilermakers provide a variety of products and services that we use every day.

My boyfriend, Raymond Krutz, is a proud 31-year member of Local 146 (Edmonton, Alberta, Canada). He, like many other Boilermakers, has to work away from home a lot. This means those left behind have to be understanding, patient, and appreciative for all the things they do.

While my Boilermaker is away, I make Boilermaker time-out dolls like the one pictured here.

JULIE ZUHERSKY
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Lodges present membership pins

Local 1 — Chicago, Ill.

JOHN SKERMONT, business manager and secretary-treasurer of Local 1, Chicago, Ill., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following Local 1 members: Richard Dobrowolski, 25 years; Robert Siram, 20 years; Robert Haavi, 15 years; John Wisniewski, 10 years; and John Bankier, 5 years.

Local 74 — Houston, Texas, apprentice program.

L-74 Bus. Mgr. Ron Keck says, “Dennis should be proud of his sons. They both are outstanding apprentices and will be great assets to the local and this organization.”

Local 374 — Hammond, Ind.

CHARLES VANOVER, business manager and secretary-treasurer of Local 374, Hammond, Ind., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following Local 374 members: 55 years — Clifford E. Duggan and John A. Satalic; 50 years — Charles W. Bostick and Thomas R. Byers; 40 years — Donald A. Petersen; 35 years — David T. Flannigan, Larry D. Futrell, and Gene M. Starckovich; 30 years — Dale A. Hubert, Richard Reeves, and Charles H. Webb; 25 years — Michael Fedornock, William E. Gaines, Michael L. Linne, and John P. Sore; 15 years — Kevin J. Burnett, David W. Swift, and William A. Yazel.

Local 374 pins were presented to the following members: James P. Hansen, 40 years; Marjorie C. Sandstrom, 30 years; Jeffery S. Wilcox, 25 years; John D. Roth, 15 years; and John D. Roth, 10 years.

Lodge 531’s Beacham Toler spends his retirement on the run.

LOCAL RETIREE NEWS

http://www.ibtfamily.org

THE BUSH TAX CUTS should affect retired Americans in pretty much the same way it affects working taxpayers. Because no provisions have been included specifically to benefit older Americans, those who benefit most will be the ones with higher incomes.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) hired an independent accountant to calculate how the tax cut would affect a variety of retired Americans. That analysis shows that low-income retirees get no benefit, while retirees with incomes over $100,000 a year do very well.

Below are some scenarios as calculated by the AARP’s accountant.

Married couple, 69 and 67, both employed, two children 17 and 23

Sources of income: Earnings, capital gains, interest

Estimated savings: $2,092

Married couple, 55 and 54, both employed, two children 17 and 23

Sources of income: Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $739

Married couple, 70 and 67, no children at home

Sources of income: Pension and Social Security

Estimated savings: $0

Married couple, 69 and 67, no children

Sources of income: Social Security

Estimated savings: $0

Widow, 72, living alone

Main source of income: Social Security

Estimated savings: $0

Widow, 72, living alone

Main source of income: Social Security

Estimated savings: $28,500

Married couple, 69 and 67, no children

Sources of income: Pension and Social Security

Estimated savings: $21,000

Married couple, 70 and 67, no children at home

Sources of income: Pension and Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $115,000

Married couple, 70 and 67, no children

Sources of income: Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $7,400

Married couple, 70 and 67, no children at home

Sources of income: Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $0

Married couple, 69 and 67, both employed, two children 17 and 23

Sources of income: Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $0

Married couple, 69 and 67, no children

Sources of income: Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $0

Married couple, 69 and 67, no children

Sources of income: Pension and Social Security

Estimated savings: $0

Married couple, 70 and 67, no children at home

Sources of income: Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $0

Married couple, 70 and 67, no children

Sources of income: Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $21,000

Married couple, 70 and 67, no children

Sources of income: Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $21,000

Married couple, 69 and 67, both employed, two children 17 and 23

Sources of income: Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $21,000

Married couple, 70 and 67, no children at home

Sources of income: Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $21,000

Married couple, 70 and 67, no children

Sources of income: Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $21,000

Married couple, 70 and 67, no children

Sources of income: Social Security, some earnings

Estimated savings: $21,000
New contract summaries

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 three-year contract with the greatest wage increase Local L-126 members have enjoyed in over six years are, l. to r., Int’l. Rep. David Lawrence, Debbie Geanger, Howard Wolfe, and Tao Reily.

Negotiating a four-year contract for Local D375 members at Lafarge Corp. are, front row, l. to r., Pres. Fred Workman and Int’l. Rep. Carey Allen back row, l. to r., Vice Pres. Terry Pastor and Sec. Dee Houter.

A summary analysis of these contract settlements

**Vacation**

TWENTY-FIVE agreements provide a one-week paid vacation; 27 provide two weeks; 25 provide three weeks; 14 provide four weeks; three provide six weeks; eight provide vacation pay based on a percentage of the annual wage, or a per hour contribution to a vacation fund.

**Paid Holidays**

THIRTY-TWO agreements provide paid holidays, ranging from eight to 13 days. The average is 9.64 days.

**Other Provisions**

TWENTY-SEVEN agreements provide funeral leave and bereavement leave, ranging from 10 to 22 days. Two have a set dollar amount of $100 to $500, and 12 have a set dollar amount of $100 to $200.

**Accident Indemnity**

SEVENTY-FIVE agreements provide accident indemnity, ranging from $0.45 per hour to $5.00 per hour. The average is $0.69 per hour.

**Unemployment Insurance**

THIRTY-TWO agreements provide unemployment insurance; 25 provide state unemployment insurance, averaging $0.69 per hour. Twenty-four provide federal unemployment insurance; 21 have a set dollar amount of $1,000 to $10,000, and five provide an variable amount of $0.69 to $0.89 per hour. The average is $0.63 per hour.

**Unemployment Indemnities**

TWENTY-FOUR agreements provide a set dollar amount for unemployment indemnities, ranging from $0.60 to $300. Twelve provide a set dollar amount of $0.60 to $300, and five provide a set dollar amount of $100 to $500. The average is $0.91 per hour.

**Sick Leave**

TWENTY-FIVE agreements provide sick leave, ranging from one week to three months. Twenty provide paid sick leave, averaging $20 per day. One has a set dollar amount of $150 per day.

**Other**

THIRTY-ONE agreements provide a profit sharing program; one sponsored plans; one facility offers a profit sharing program; one offers an employee stock ownership plan.

**Dias Traffic**

TWENTY-SIX agreements provide for a third-shift premium, ranging from $0.25 to $2.50 per hour. Twenty provide a third-shift premium, ranging from $0.25 to $2.00 per hour. Twenty-two provide a third-shift premium, ranging from $0.25 to $0.75 per hour. The average is $0.50 per hour.

**Accident Indemnities**

TWENTY-FOUR agreements provide accident indemnities, ranging from $0.45 per hour to $5.00 per hour. The average is $0.69 per hour.

**Unemployment Indemnities**

TWENTY-FOUR agreements provide unemployment indemnities, ranging from $0.60 to $300. Twelve provide a set dollar amount of $0.60 to $300, and five provide a set dollar amount of $100 to $500. The average is $0.91 per hour.

**Sick Leave**

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**Other**

THIRTY-ONE agreements provide a profit sharing program; one sponsored plans; one facility offers a profit sharing program; one offers an employee stock ownership plan.
Congress kills ergonomics rule

Bush tells 1.6 million injured workers 'I can't feel your pain'

REPEITIVE STRESS INJURIES and illnesses affect 1.6 million workers and cost companies $43-50 billion each year. For ten years, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) worked on developing an ergonomics rule to safeguard workers and guide companies in preventing these illnesses and injuries. In their effort to create a rule that would be effective in solving the problem without overburdening businesses, OSHA held regional meetings, where representatives from business, workers, and the health community met to develop the rule. The standard was finally completed late in the Clinton administration. As their first order of business in 2001, Congress passed a congressional resolution of disapproval, killing the ergonomics rule before it could be implemented. When Bush signed the order, he said the rule was "unduly burdensome and overly broad."

Bush introduced a new bill to Congress in the spring of 2001, but it was never voted on. With Bush having signed the order, it appeared the rule was dead. However, OSHA announced in February that it had been secretly working on a rule since late 2000, and that there was a chance it would eventually be finalized. OSHA announced that it would be working to finalize a new rule in the fall of 2001. The new rule would be based on ergonomic research and would be more focused on workplace design and task design. The new rule would also be more focused on prevention rather than just remediation.

Coworkers honor victims of fatal construction accident

OSHA fines company for removing bracing, leaving generator vulnerable to collapse

MORE THAN 390 PEOPLE gathered Friday, February 2, 2001, to remember two co-workers who died exactly one year earlier in a construction accident that also injured three others.

Throughout the state of Connecticut, Boilermakers wore black armbands in memory of their Local 237 brothers, Kevin Winslow and Wayne Most, who lost their lives when a heat recovery steam generator collapsed while testing at a power plant.

During an on-site ceremony that was closed to the media and public, Local 237 Business Manager Anthony DeFrancesco Jr. unveiled a plaque that was presented to the Milford Power Company.

This plaque will be displayed in the visitor's area of the administration building to remember both Kevin and Wayne. In addition to the presentation of the Memorial Fund, the company donated $100 to the Boilermaker Reporter's Benefit Golf Tournament.

Background

THE DEATHS of workers in confined spaces constitute a recurring occupational tragedy; approximately 60 percent of these fatalities have involved would-be rescuers. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) describes a confined space as one that has limited openings for entry and exit, unfavorable natural ventilation which could contain or produce dangerous air contaminants, and which is not intended for continuous employee occupancy. Confined spaces include storage tanks, compartments of ships, process vessels, and tunnels. If you work in a septic tank, sewage digester, pumping/lift station, sewage distribution, holding tank, silo, vat, dust, utility vault, reaction vessel, boiler, pipeline, pit, or similar type of structure or enclosure, you are working in a confined space.

Recommendations

NIOSH RECOMMENDS that managers, supervisors, and workers be made familiar with the following three steps:

1. Recognition
   - Worker training is essential to the recognition of what constitutes a confined space and the hazards that may be encountered in them. This training should stress that death to the worker is the likely outcome if proper precautions are not taken before entry is made.

2. Testing, evaluation, and monitoring
   - All confined spaces should be tested by a qualified person before entry to determine whether the confined space atmosphere is safe for entry. Tests should be made for oxygen level, flammability, and known or suspected toxic substances. Evaluation of the confined space should consider the following: methods for isolating the space by mechanical or electrical means (i.e., double block and bleed, lockout, etc.), the institution of lockout/tagout procedures, ventilation of the space, cleaning and/or purging, work procedures, including use of safety lines attached to the person working in the confined space and its use by a standby person if trouble develops, personal protective equipment required (clothing, respirator, boots, etc.), special tools required, and communications system to be used. The confined space should be continuously monitored to determine whether the atmosphere has changed due to the work being performed.

3. Rescue
   - Rescue procedures should be established before entry and should be specific for each type of confined space. A standby person should be assigned for each entry where warranted. The standby person should be equipped with rescue equipment including a safety line attached to the worker in the confined space, self-contained breathing apparatus, protective clothing, boots, etc. The standby person should use this attached safety line to help rescue the worker. The rescue procedures should be practiced frequently enough to provide a level of proficiency that eliminates life-threatening rescue attempts and ensures an efficient and calm response to any emergency.

NIOSH has published the following documents which contain further information:

- Criteria for a Recommended Standard... Working in Confined Spaces, DHEW Publ. No. 80-106.
- For more information, contact the NIOSH Director of Safety Research at 1095 Willowdale Road, Morgantown, WV 26505; or call 1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674).

DONT TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS. Always stay out of the space... And when you are at work, MAKE IT SAFE!
Facing some unusually BIG expenses?

Union Privilege offers a variety of loans, all with special union-only benefits

WHETHER YOU NEED money for college, to remodel your home, or to consolidate your credit card bills, Union Privilege has a loan program that can help you. And all Union Privilege loans have special union-only features.

Education loans

UNION PRIVILEGE and Sallie Mae have partnered to provide educational assistance to union members and their families. The Union Plus Education Loans program is uniquely designed to save union members time and money, providing financing for a range of education and training needs. The program features an easy application process with a quick turnaround time for approvals.

Traditional college loans are available to students attending accredited colleges and universities at least half time. The Job Skills Training Loan is designed for adults or part-time students attending technical, trade, or professional schools.

Choosing the repayment plan that works for you is only one of the features of the program. The Union Plus Education Loans program provides options customized to meet the needs of union members today.

The program provides financial aid counseling via a dedicated toll-free phone line for those considering more education. One toll-free call to 1-877-881-1022 connects you to Union Plus Education Loans financial aid counselors to answer your questions and guide you through the application process.

Low-rate, long-term loans

A LOAN PROGRAM developed exclusively for union members, with special union-only benefits, this benefit lets union members apply for a low-interest, unsecured personal loan, a line of credit, or a home-equity loan. The Union Plus Loan Program is ideal for members who want to avoid paying high rates on finance-company loans.

Unsecured personal loans from $2,500 to $15,000 are available, depending on your credit rating, with repayment terms of up to seven years. Lower annual percentage rates and longer terms reduce your monthly payments.

You can choose between traditional fixed-rate loans or revolving variable lines of credit. And you can apply by phone or online at www.uploan.com.

Unsecured loans and lines of credit come with a convenient skip-payment option. Home equity loans provide up to six months of strike coverage.

On all loans, you can reduce your annual percentage rate by one-fourth of a percent by paying with automatic account withdrawals — a convenient payment method that ensures you never miss the payment deadline.

To apply or learn more about Union Plus Loans, visit www.uploan.com. Or call toll-free 1-888-235-2759, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time.

Save money with Union Privilege

Members-only programs can save you money in many ways

USING THE BUYING power of the AFL-CIO’s 13-million members, Union Privilege and the Boilermakers union can offer members significant savings on a wide variety of useful and necessary products and services.

Computer savings

SURF THE NET with internet service made possible by Union Privilege and the Boilermakers. For the union-negotiated low price of $14.95 a month, you get high-speed service that is available anytime — day or night.

The service includes free email with your personalized union ID: your-name@yourunion.workfam.com. In fact, you get five free email addresses and personal web space site of 5 MB, so you can build that home page you’ve been dreaming about.

Visit www.workingfamilies.com or call 1-800-806-2150 for more information and to sign up for service.

Vacation savings

WITH SUMMER RAPIDLY approaching, most people are planning a vacation. You can make driving safer and more enjoyable by joining the Union Plus Motor Club. In partnership with the National Motor Club of America, one of America’s premier motor clubs, Union Privilege has created a convenient and affordable way to assure you and your family safety and security on our nation’s busy highways.

For as little as $39.95 per year (one driver), you are protected by emergency towing and locksmith service, $500 travel assistance reimbursement, a $5,000 stolen auto reward, legal assistance, and a $25,000 bond. You can also get personal trip planning service.

Phone 1-888-235-2759 to get rolling.

While you’re traveling, take advantage of special members-only discounts. The Hotel Royal Plaza, located near Orlando, Fla., offers a special rate to Boilermakers through Union Privilege.

Phone 1-800-248-7890 to get it.

Avis and Budget rental car companies also offer discounts through Union Privilege.

For the Avis discount, phone 1-800-698-5685 and mention discount identification number AWDM827370.

For the Budget discount, phone 1-800-455-2848 and mention discount number BCDV816100.

Health savings

UNION PRIVILEGE offers several programs to keep you healthy.

Union Plus Health Savings makes health and vision-care more affordable for union members and their families.

For just $29.95 a year, union members and their families (including parents) can save up to 40 percent or more on generic or name-brand prescription drugs at over 26,000 participating pharmacies nationwide — including Thrifty/Payless, Rite Aid, Safeway, and many others. You may save even more when they use the program’s convenient mail-order service.

The program’s vision-care benefits include substantial savings (usually about 30 percent) on frames, glasses, and contact lenses at over 9,000 independent optometrist shops.

Another benefit is direct access to a special Nurse Helpline — experienced registered nurses who can offer personal health care advice and support as well as general health information 24 hours a day.

Try this program free for 30 days by phoning 1-800-228-3523.

Members Only

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

UNION PLUS CREDIT CARD
Call: 1-800-522-4000

MORTGAGE & REAL ESTATE
Also open to your children and parents.
Call: 1-800-848-6466

EDUCATION LOANS
For college and job skills training.
Call: 1-877-881-1022

PERSONAL LOANS
Available for credit-qualified members.
Call: 1-888-235-2759

MOTOR CLUB
Towing and roadside assistance.
Call: 1-888-330-8801

LEGAL SERVICE
Discounted legal help — first 30 minutes are free.
Call: 1-800-452-9425

LIFE INSURANCE
For members, their spouses, and children.
Call: 1-800-899-2782

DENTAL & VISION
Discount fees
Call: 1-800-257-8352

ACCIDENT INSURANCE
Call: 1-800-899-2782

HEALTH SAVINGS
Save on prescription medicines and vision care.
Call: 1-800-228-3523

DISNEY WORLD DISCOUNT
Call: 1-800-248-7890

CAR RENTAL DISCOUNTS
Call and give the TD number:
Avis: 1-800-888-5865
AWD #B723700
Budget: 1-800-455-2848
BCD#V816100

HEARING CARE
Call: 1-800-766-3363

UNION-MADE CHECKS
Call: 1-800-864-6625

FLOWER SERVICE
Call: 1-800-667-7779

NORTH AMERICAN VAN LINES
Call: 1-800-524-5533

For information on programs, phone 1-800-452-9425

BOILERMAKERS UNION PRIVILEGE BENEFITS
*Includes retired members. Program restrictions apply to members outside the continental United States. Phone 1-800-452-9425 for clarification of eligibility.

http://www.ibf-workingfamilies.com

http://www.boilermakers.org
## lodge & name

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## The Death Benefit Plan

The death benefit plan under the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust has paid the death benefits of the following deceased members who were covered by the plan since the last issue of our publication:

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## Lodge, Name & Benefit

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## Moving? Tell us where...

Postal service is directed to:

The Boilermaker Reporter
753 State Avenue, Suite 556
Kansas City, KS 66101

Send your change of address to:
The Boilermaker Reporter
753 State Avenue, Suite 556
Kansas City, KS 66101

Mail to:
753 State Ave, Suite 556
Kansas City, KS 66101

(Allow five weeks for change of address.)
We must stop Bush's rampage

His radical agenda and tax-cut budget weaken worker protections, rob Medicare to give the rich a big tax cut

I N THE FIRST HUNDRED days of his presidency, George W. Bush has been on an anti-worker rampage, full of proposals for his standard of living...His agenda now is clear: and unity of Boilermakers on the jobs, all of these efforts would be in vain. Hats off to our brothers and sisters for a job well done!

L-108's Brasher speaks out

THE ASSAULT On the American worker has begun. Comp time instead of overtime? Give me a break! What can construction Boilermakers look forward to? Forty-hour paychecks and the promise of time off in the summer? We get the time off now.

L-112's Phillips sends thanks to Southeast area's negotiators

ON BEHALF Of the members and families of Local 112, I would like to express the deepest gratitude to President Jones, the International staff, and Southeast Area IVF Newton Jones for their diligence and perseverance during our recent negotiations, which resulted in what is a historic and remarkable agreement.

Denny G. Phillips
Local 112 Bus. Mgr.
Mobile, Ala.

L-108's Brasher speaks out

THE ASSAULT On the American worker has begun. Comp time instead of overtime? Give me a break! What can construction Boilermakers look forward to? Forty-hour paychecks and the promise of time off in the summer? We get the time off now.

Denny G. Phillips
Local 112 Bus. Mgr.
Mobile, Ala.

Letters to the Editors

Give credit where credit is due

I WOULD LIKE to provide some additional support to the article, "L-74 members at forensic training," which appeared in the Nov-Dec 2000 issue of the Boilermaker Reporter. While the participants, all employees of Babcock and Wilcox with Reliant Energy and Houston Lighting and Power jobs, were paid their hourly wages by Babcock and Wilcox, billed to the client, all other costs — materials, instructor wages, meeting rooms, and hotel accommodations, food and transportation costs for all participants and instructors (totaling around $20,000) — were provided by the Boilermaker National Apprenticeship Program and the Southeast Area Apprenticeship Program.

Credit should be given to these programs and instructors: Carl Oliver and John Standish from the National Training Center, and Terry Barnes and Dwain Smith from the Southeast Area Apprenticeship Program and the Southeast Area Apprenticeship Program.

Send a letter to the editor

Keep it short and sweet. Avoid profanity and personal attacks.

Got something to say?

The Boilermaker Reporter

573 State Ave. Suite 570

Kansas City KS 66101

FAX: (913) 221-1804

E-mail: dcaswell@boilermakers.org or cdillon@boilermakers.org

http://www.boilermakers.org

http://www.ddf1-workingfamilies.com

The Boilermaker Reporter

Mar-Apr 2001

We must stop Bush's rampage

His radical agenda and tax-cut budget weaken worker protections, rob Medicare to give the rich a big tax cut

As governor of Texas, Bush forced through a property tax cut, even though fewer than eight percent of Texans said it was a high priority. Now they are dealing with their worst budget crisis in a decade.

The governments of Texas and Florida are suffering their worst budget crises in decades — will the U.S. government be the Bush family's next victim?

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We must stop Bush's rampage

His radical agenda and tax-cut budget weaken worker protections, rob Medicare to give the rich a big tax cut

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