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A letter from the New Director

Dear Fellow DSAers,

I'm excited to start off my

tenure as DSA

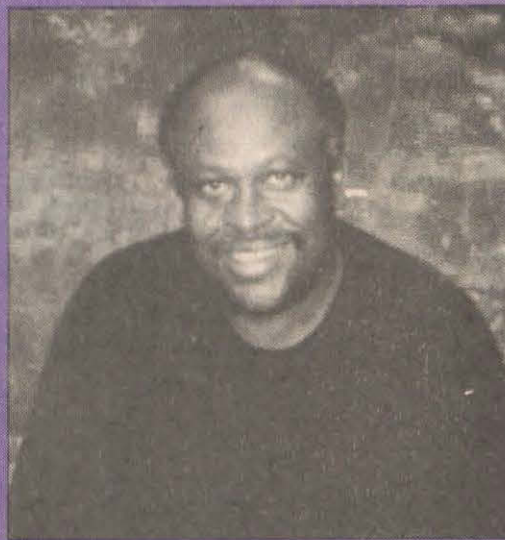
National Director.

It's quite a chal-

lenge. I don't have

to tell you that

we—the collective left, and left-liberals—have been on the defensive for decades now. The right has been self-confident and backed up their political agenda with real bucks.



astroturf direct-mail cam-

paigns and assistance from

Christian con-

servatives—

many of whom

have little eco-

economic interests in common with global corporations. On our side we have a buffet of sometimes good underfunded single-issue organizations, and the glimmers of a re-energized

continued on page 3

Y2K Rx

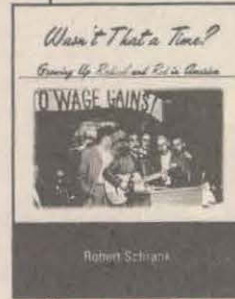
Universal health activists have alighted upon a multi year political campaign for comprehensive coverage, now that over 45 million U.S. citizens have no medical insurance at all. The principles, agreed to at a recent meeting in Washington with the Universal Health Care Action Network, Gray Panthers and the National Council of Churches, include: Universality, comprehensiveness, affordable quality that's publicly accountable, and government oversight to make sure all the foregoing happens.

CNN, NBC and Cspan covered the kick-off rally on Capital Hill last month, at which members of the House of Representatives spoke, amidst signs saying "Everybody In, Nobody Out." Seeing those signs in the distance amused openly gay representatives Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, who "wondered which demo we were at," to guffaws from the crowd.

DSA members are working in many states now on the short-term goals of these campaigns, which will be refined at our biennial national convention in San Diego and reported on in future issues of *DL*. One short-term goal is the incremental state-level campaigns in various states, some of which have received quite a lot of attention. Out of these campaigns we hope to strengthen the local coalitions in support of universal coverage. The national goal will be to build a power block within Congress, starting with the Progressive Caucus, which will not only support universal coverage, but will actually motivate and move a bill.

As the medical-industrial complex continues to suck

resources away from patients and targeted provider groups, universal coverage advocates hope that we can focus attention on the outrageous and growing number of uninsured citizens now struggling to cope.



Wasn't That a Time?

Growing Up Radical and Red in America

Robert Schrank

"I was born two weeks before the Bolshevik Revolution into an immigrant family that was part of New York's large German socialist community." So begins Robert Schrank's compelling autobiography. In a down-to-earth, anecdotal style, he recounts a life rare in the breadth of its experience and the depth of its transformations. From Young Communist League member and union activist to management consultant for global corporations, Schrank has lived a life based on empathy and principles, and has been an activist in some of the major political and social upheavals of this century.

"Schrank's recollections of life among the down and dirty vanguards is well documented and animated by steadfast personal commitment."

— Publishers Weekly

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"The good news is, your HMO says you're well enough to go home!"

U.S. labor movement fighting uphill battles against globalization, union-busting law firms and the structural impediments of federal labor law under reactionary post-Reagan judiciary.

Overall though, it doesn't take the proverbial rocket scientist to note the weakness of the Left. It has been timid, short on good ideas, and not terribly successful at deploying new activists. To fix this *DSA intends to LEAD*. Our organization has been less than the sum of its very capable members. We will make sure, starting at our biennial convention coming up in San Diego, that our leaders are trained and ready to go out and organize for justice and a fair economy. We are going to play a critical role in rebuilding the broad democratic Left in this country.

Last week I was waiting to catch my train home, standing with the usual late evening crowd of bedraggled commuters. I watched as, a mother,

not clearly in tatters, but no socialite from superficial examination, asked her daughter if she was hungry. When the kid said yes, the parent rooted around in the garbage and pulled out some remaining food debris and handed it to the hungry girl. In late 1999. In the U.S.A. That state of affairs can't be tolerated. That's why I'm a socialist.

Let's get down to work!

—Horace Small

Horace Small, native Philadelphian, came on board as DSA National Director during the summer. Horace is an energetic and well-known presence on the broad left, where he developed his skills in the civil rights and anti-Vietnam war movements. He has been very involved in electoral and movement politics in Pennsylvania and elsewhere, and has brought a new energy to DSA.

—The Editors

TAKE YOUR VITAMINS! LIFT WEIGHTS! SAVE YOUR EYESIGHT!

The great big millenium edition of **DEMOCRATIC LEFT** is coming next. Some of the most interesting and well-known figures associated with DSA are contributing articles and art. There will be reports on the San Diego biennial convention about the future direction and political programs of the organization.

PHOTO CREDITS:

pp. 5 and 6, Steve Oliver
p. 8, Roger Robinson

'99

DEMOCRATIC

LEFT

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(1928-1989)

Democratic Socialists of America share a vision of a humane international social order based on equitable distribution of resources, meaningful work, a healthy environment, sustainable growth, gender and racial equality, and non-oppressive relationships. Equality, solidarity, and democracy can only be achieved through international political and social cooperation aimed at ensuring that economic institutions benefit all people. We are dedicated to building truly international social movements—of unionists, environmentalists, feminists, and people of color—which together can elevate global justice over brutalizing global competition.

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Al, It's Not About You

Labor Endorses Gore for Sweeney's Sake

BY HAROLD MEYERSON

It took John Sweeney calling in all his favors, but Al Gore has finally had himself a good day.

The AFL-CIO's decision at its national convention here this week to endorse Gore's presidential bid comes as a huge boost to the vice president's floundering campaign. In a nation that suffers from near-universal organizational atrophy, the AFL-CIO is just about the only institution that can actually deliver real votes. In many of the most critical early primary and caucus states — Iowa, New York, Florida (where union retirees are a potent force) and California — labor has a proven record of bringing its members to the polls. The mega-primaries of March 7 are set in two states — California and New York — where voters from union households constitute fully two-fifths of the Democratic primary electorate. For Gore, the AFL-CIO endorsement comes as a lifeline to a drowning man. His challenger, former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley, has long been running about 20 points behind Gore in nationwide polling of Democrats. This Monday, however, CNN showed Bradley shooting up to 39 percent among Democrats, while Gore hovered at 51. Public opinion isn't Gore's only problem. Despite the huge political resources available to a sitting vice president, Gore has been slow to set up a campaign structure in many key states, California included. Now labor will provide Gore with a seasoned operation that comes complete with thousands of precinct walkers and phone bankers, and millions of dollars in campaign literature and ads. It wasn't ever thus. Until John Sweeney won the AFL-CIO presidency four years ago, labor's political clout had dwindled appreciably. Over the past four years, though, the federation has raised ma-

ajor bucks from its affiliates, trained and deployed hundreds of campaign coordinators in congressional districts around the country, and learned to fine-tune its campaigns to address the most pressing concerns of its members. Nowhere has labor's ability to win been more manifest than here in California, where it waged a brilliant campaign in 1998 to defeat Proposition 226, an initiative, intended to curtail union political programs, that was widely expected to prevail.

In short, Al Gore just got himself the best field operation in the nation — over the misgivings of a number of union presidents, who nonetheless voted to give it to him. A mere week ago, the Gore endorsement was anything but a sure thing. The leaders of many of the federation's largest and most important unions harbored major misgivings about his candidacy. The most serious reservations were those of the unions most heavily impacted by trade agreements — the United Auto Workers and the Teamsters in particular. The administration's support for trade treaties that failed to create enforceable labor standards and worker rights has been a constant source of contention between Gore and labor — and for unions like the UAW, which sees poverty-wage auto plants springing up just across the Mexican border, or the Teamsters, who face the prospect of poverty-wage Mexican trucks rolling across that border, this argument is anything but academic. The vice president was fortunate in his choice of opponents. To the considerable frustration of the industrial unions, Bill Bradley is even more of a believer than Gore in the gospel of free trade. Indeed, when House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt addressed the AFL-CIO convention on Monday and thun-

dered his indignation at NAFTA and the entire free-trade order, there was an almost palpable regret in the hall that Gephardt had taken himself out of the presidential race earlier this year. This was the speech the unions had wanted to hear from Gore or Bradley. Other unions entertained other doubts about the vice president — not least, grave apprehensions about his ability to win. The United Food and Commercial Workers have a close strategic bond to the Teamsters. And for Andy Stern, president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) — California's largest union, and key to Gore's prospects in the March 7 primary — the choice was complicated indeed. Nearly half of the SEIU's 1.3 million members work in health care, and a couple of weeks ago Bradley had unveiled a proposal for near-universal health coverage that plainly eclipsed the incremental augmentations that Gore had proposed. By allotting an estimated \$65 billion from projected budget surpluses, Bradley had devised a plan that would cover the vast majority of the 44 million uninsured Americans.

"Bradley's plan goes well beyond anything we thought a candidate would say just six months ago," says SEIU spokesperson Matt Witt. "We've been pleasantly surprised by the campaign debate so far on health care, and workers rights."

The SEIU is also more painstaking than most national unions in polling its members on presidential preference; the process won't be completed until roughly the end of the year. So Stern, like the leaders of the Auto Workers and the Teamsters and the Food and Commercial Workers, had reason to wait — to defer an AFL-CIO endorsement at least until later in the year. All of which left Federation president Sweeney facing the

possibility that the AFL-CIO might not deliver for Gore. In other times, with other polling numbers, with more money in the bank, with more good press, the Gore campaign could have endured such a setback. For the actual existing Gore campaign, however, with a candidate surrounded by staffers you wouldn't wish on Donald Trump, a simple deferral of a federation endorsement might have proved fatal. So on Friday, Sweeney told his fellow presidents that Gore needed this now, that he had been there for labor on countless items over the past seven years (which he had, except on trade and welfare reform), that the clock was ticking and that this was the time that labor needed to act.

It was this institutional imperative that was the most important — the need for labor to emerge united and able to exercise its clout, the ability of Sweeney to deliver his federation. There are union presidents who remain lukewarm toward Gore who believe that Sweeney has done yeoman work to revive what had been a dying movement. In the final analysis, the endorsement wasn't delivered out of deference to Gore, much less Bill Clinton. The AFL-CIO is endorsing Al Gore because John Sweeney said that they needed to do it. Not all the unions came aboard. The Teamsters and the Auto Workers didn't go along with the Federation endorsement, but neither did they raise a notable stink. As for the others, the United Food and Commercial Workers endorsed Gore over the weekend. The SEIU said they'd make no endorsement of their own at this time, but Stern assured Sweeney that the votes would be there this week, if needed, for an AFL-CIO nod. On Monday morning, I asked another president the reason his own union would vote for the Gore endorsement. "I support John Sweeney," he said — and scurried away. For the past quarter-century, the history of Democratic presidential-primary politics has been a history of class conflict. From the Walter Mondale-Gary Hart race of

1984 (Mondale had the AFL-CIO's support that year) to the Clinton-Paul Tsongas contest of '92, the primary season has often seen one candidate (Hart or Tsongas, for instance) talking clean politics and environmentalism to an upscale electorate, while his rival runs a bread-and-butter campaign aimed at working-class and non-white voters. At first glance, the contest between Bradley and Gore may seem likely to unfold along similar lines — all the more since Gore now comes complete with union label. Polls show that Gore's support grows stronger the further down the income scale you go, while Bradley polls best among upper-income Democrats. But Bradley is unlikely to wage the kind of labor-bashing campaign that Hart ran against Mondale in '84. For one thing, Bradley, unlike Hart, sought the AFL-CIO's support. Secondly, Bradley's emerging platform, his health-care proposal most particularly, is specifically pitched to working-class voters. And finally, this isn't the old George Meany-Lane Kirkland AFL-CIO anymore: Labor isn't seen as (and in fact, isn't) just a bunch of guys with big cigars, an inviting target for any opportunistic candidate. (Indeed, the goodwill that Sweeney has won for endeavoring to reinvent the culture of organizing has spared him

much of the criticism that Kirkland received for pushing the Mondale endorsement in '84 — though, in truth, the process this time around wasn't notably more democratic than it was then.)

Conversely, neither can the unions easily go after Bradley for his deviations from proper working-class policy. (Should they even want to: Bradley, after all, could always win.) His mega-deviation — his free-trade mania — is shared by Gore. As to his occasional bad votes in the Senate from 10 years back, says one California labor leader, "That stuff won't play with our members at all." Finally, it is the very closeness of Gore and Bradley on matters of importance to union voters that will make labor's upcoming campaign for the veep the most challenging it has waged. They don't have Newt Gingrich to kick around anymore, or the anti-union zealotry of Proposition 226 to oppose. If Sweeney & Co. can save Al Gore and his stumblebum campaign, they are a better political operation than they themselves think they are — and the best one America has seen in a long, long time.

Harold Meyerson is a Vice-chair of DSA and editor of the LA Weekly. This article is reprinted from the LA Weekly.

SIMONE PLASTRIK

In Memoriam

Simone Plastrik, a founding member of DSA, died in New York after a long fight with illness. Simone was a lifelong socialist, born in Vilna, and after emigration to France in the 30s, active in the French Socialist Youth as an anti-fascist. She was a teacher, activist, parent, and godmother to *Dissent* magazine.



Remembering James Farmer

BY JOEL BORENSTEIN

Illuminated by the warm glow of its lights, and ringed by the richly colorful banners representing a diversity of the world's religions, hundreds gathered in Manhattan's Community Church to memorialize civil rights icon and DSA Vice Chair James Farmer on October 17.

The event, sponsored by DSA, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and over 25 other local and national social change organizations, brought together generations of activists for an evening of singing, reflection, and



rededication to the struggle for racial equality.

Farmer, who innovated many of the strategies behind the non-violent direct actions of the civil rights movement of the 1960's, founder of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Honor in 1998, was remembered as a man whose commitment to challenging racial discrimination changed America.

After Theological school, Farmer joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Chicago, and in 1942 founded CORE. He and his companions applied Gandhian principals of non-violent direct action to the struggle for civil rights, participating in the first sit-ins to integrate whites-only restau-

rants.

Farmer was always organizing. He was a unionist and helped to organize hospital workers in New York City. He argued against police brutality before the NYC Civilian Complaint Bureau. He was the first to propose affirmative action to President Johnson. He worked to establish a national adult literacy project, and helped rescue Head Start from oblivion. As Assistant Secretary of Administration and Management with HEW under Nixon, Farmer established the Office of New Careers—opening up job opportunities for minorities. Farmer was a vocal supporter of newly independent African nations. Yet it was in the Civil Rights Movement where Farmer's effects were most forcefully felt.

When the civil rights struggle heated up in the 60's

Farmer's CORE was at its center, organizing the first freedom rides in 1961. CORE was involved in scores of direct actions all over the South, and its efforts are credited as the major force that ended discrimination in interstate travel. No stay-behind-the-lines leader, Farmer sat at the lunch counters, rode the busses from state to



state, and marched with the demonstrators. He was arrested so often during those struggles, an often repeated joke about him asked the question, "Where's James Farmer?" to which the reply was "He's in jail!"

Praise From Varied Quarters

The event brought together wide array of civil rights and social change activists, elected officials, and James Farmer's daughter.

Congressperson Major Owens of Brooklyn credited Farmer as the person who motivated him to dedicate his life to working in government for social justice causes. Farmer continually encouraged those around him to be active. Owens reported that Farmer had the ability to imbue people with the spirit of the struggle.

Remembered as a leader who inspired ordinary people to take on ex-



traordinary challenges, Farmer was uniquely effective because he embodied a remarkable array of talents. Famed activist George Houser of the American Committee on Africa credited Farmer as being an extraordinary planner and thinker.

New York City Council Member Stephen DiBrienza, a well known advocate of social justice, presented a proclamation from the City Council honoring Mr. Farmer. Similar honors were presented by

various NYC Borough Presidents, who proclaimed James Farmer Day in both Manhattan and The Bronx.

A joyous mood was set by the New York City Labor Chorus who movingly sang spirituals and civil rights songs.

The Struggle Continues

The program's dual focus was on honoring Mr. Farmer's extraordinary

life, as well as focusing on the contemporary social change struggle. Horace Small, DSA's National Director, told the crowd the struggle is not over. He described the continuing civil rights battle as an issue by issue campaign fought on many fronts. He was followed on the stage by a young generation of activists who spoke of their varied work.

Cassie Schwerner, niece of the famed freedom rider, spoke of her involvement in a lawsuit to challenge property-tax based funding in New York State Public Schools. Kevin Pranis former DSA Youth Organizer and now of the Prison Moratorium Project fired the crowd up with his passionate arguments against the unjust and growing prison system in the United States. Pranis spoke of the immorality of the disenfranchisement of prisoners, and called attention to the direct diversion of funds from higher education directly into prison construction. Tasha Williams a sixteen year old dynamo from the South Bronx represented Youth Force reciting a powerful poem speaking truth to power.

Small closed the service with a call to action, and invited all present to attend a meeting later that week to organize a counter demonstration against the KKK's planned NYC rally.

REMEMBERING JAMES FARMER COMMUNITY CHURCH OF NEW YORK SUNDAY OCTOBER 17, 1999

Opening Hymn

New York City Labor Chorus: *Oh, Freedom!*

Welcome

Horace Small, National Director Democratic Socialists of America

Pastoral Greeting and Prayer

Reverend Bruce Southworth, Pastor New York Community Church

City Council Resolution Presentation

Hon. Stephen DiBrienza, New York City City Council

Manhattan Borough Citation

Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President

Which Side are You On?

Matthew and Marshall Jones, SNCC Freedom Singers

Reflections on James Farmer

Hon. Major Owens
George Houser, American Committee on Africa
Cassie Schwerner, Ph.D
Kevin Pranis, Prison Moratorium Project

New York City Labor Chorus

Geoffrey Fairweather, Musical Director
Eustace Johnson, Accompanist

Reflections on James Farmer:

Elaine Jones, NAACP Legal Defense Fund
Frances Fox-Piven, DSA
Donald Wendell, Original CORE

Audience Reflections

Reflections on James Farmer

Rev. James Lawson, Fellowship of Reconciliation

Listen to the Children

Tascha Williams, YOUTHFORCE

Closing

Horace Small

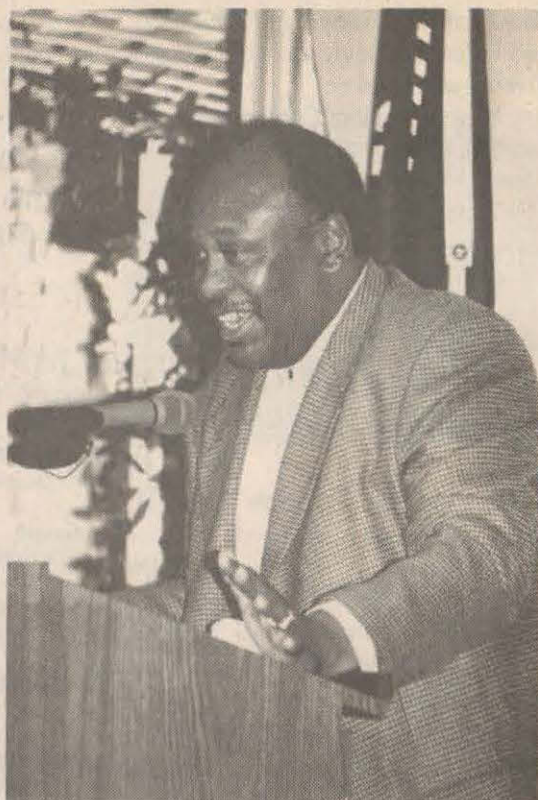
Final Songs:

Lift Every Voice and Sing
We Shall Overcome

Motor City Gala Celebrates Activism

Detroit DSA's Second Annual Frederick Douglas/Eugene Debs Awards dinner was a smashing success. Over four hundred fifty trade unionists and community activists attended the tribute to Nate Gooden who was recently elected a Vice-President of the UAW and Saul Wellman a life long radical activist. Bill Fletcher, Assistant to AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, and DSA National Director Horace Small, were among the speakers. A segment of a docu-

plant where he worked in the chassis department. In 1967 he was elected as chief steward and in 1975 he was elected president of local 140. In 1977 he was appointed to the Region 1 staff a position he held until his election as Region 1 Director. Shortly after the dinner Gooden was elected a vice-president of the UAW. A life long member of the



NAACP and political activist, Gooden believes strongly in progressive community/labor alliances and was pleased to accept a two-year membership in DSA.



mentary on Saul's life, currently in production, was shown as part of the program.

Upon receiving the award and a testimonial from the Detroit City Council delivered by Maryann Mahaffey, Saul Wellman, 87 years young, said, "I have always had a feeling I was never alone no matter where I was, because I was part of a great movement that would move us closer to a world where the exploitation of man by man would be eliminated—the movement for socialism."

Gooden a life long trade unionist joined the UAW in 1964 at Chrysler's Warren Truck Assembly



**2ND ANNUAL
FREDERICK DOUGLASS
EUGENE V. DEBS
DINNER**

**HONORING
NATE GOODEN AND
SAUL WELLMAN**

co-chairs

Gerald Bantom

Elizabeth Bunn

Maryann Mahaffey

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1999

UAW LOCAL 1264 ■ 7450 15 MILE ROAD ■ STERLING HEIGHTS, MI



"Presidential" Politics

BY JEFF GOLD

Unenthusiastic about the choice of Al Gore or Bill Bradley for President, many DSAers have been trying to evaluate the recent endorsement of Al Gore by the AFL-CIO, at its recent national meeting in Los Angeles.

Some members see the nod to Gore as a top-down favor to the Vice-president at a low point in his campaign. The trade-dependent unions were particularly interested in the Gore endorsement, in exchange for some action on job-reducing global agreements pending and in force. Other DSA members believe that the reluctance of the UAW and the Teamsters to go along signals a strategic desire to, as one L.A. delegate put it, 'to shoot at the feet of both Bradley and Gore to at least get *something* in return.

Gore has been seen in the past as part of the right-wing pole of the already fairly conservative Clinton administration, along with former Treasury secretary Rubin. DSAers with long memories recall Bill Bradley's senate endorsement of the mining of Nicaragua's harbors, and his spade work for some less than wonderful tax "reforms" during the Reagan period.

Political analyst Jim Chapin views this race "as the end of a long realignment since 1968. Right now the two centrist candidates are appealing to the left. Bradley started by attacking Gore from both directions. Now Gore owes AFL-CIO head John Sweeney a lot for being there when no one else was" Chapin will be surprised if Bradley clinches the nomination: "He's like all those second-rate intellectuals that went nowhere, Tsongas, Macarthy, Hart." The former N.J. senator might win New Hampshire and New York, and perhaps other northeastern states, but "won't carry any southern or heartland industrial states." Chapin speculates that that the election may



be decided for Gore in the March 7th super primary in California.

Jim Chapin found it interesting that both Bradley and Republican John McCain were going after virtually the same voters on campaign finance reform. He also wondered about whether or not a Pat Buchanan candidacy would matter more in the end, with the cultural warrior and Adolffist garnering six to eight percent of the vote.

Right now the popular vote, contrary to the punditocracy, may favor the Democrats in the Electoral College. If the GOP only runs up big margins in Dixie, and the Dems win narrowly across the rest of the coun-

Thank You DSA

Your stamp saves us Money!
Those five little words on DSA's business reply envelopes really work. Over the past two years nearly 2500 DSA'ers have taken the trouble to put a stamp on a reply envelope with their dues payment or a contribution. The postal rebates we received amounted to nearly \$1000 more than the cost of printing an issue of *Socialist Forum!*

DSA depends on contributions and dues payments to keep fighting for our vision. The extra effort whether its a stamp or an extra contribution on top of a dues payment can make a real difference.

try, they may prevail.

As for DSAers, to say Gore and Bradley hardly stir their political loins is an understatement. Two thirds of DSA members live in states where the Democrat is likely to win. The presidential contest seems then an unlikely place for much exertion on our part. The real challenge is to expand the number of Progressive Caucus members in the House, in carefully targeted contests where our members can help to change a result.

Jeff Gold is a member of DSA's National Political Committee.

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Pacifica

Statement adopted by the Steering Committee of DSA's National Political Committee in response to the crisis at Pacifica Foundation Radio Station.

Whereas, Pacifica Radio is the only national radio network which has been politically independent of both business and government and has been a vital link in many progressive struggles;

Whereas, the Pacifica Foundation Board of Directors has stripped member stations of political content, local control, and minority participation and misled its staff and audience about its intentions;

Whereas, the Pacifica Board has converted itself into a self-perpetuating body, closed its meetings, its decision-making process, and its budgets,

improperly cited the guidelines of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to justify these anti-democratic procedures;

Whereas, the Pacifica Board and its management staff has engaged union-busting consultants, hired armed guards, locked out its union employees, and censored on-air staff and programs in violation of its founding free speech principles;

And whereas Pacifica has squandered its financial resources, raised from member donations;

Therefore, Be it resolved,
1) That the Board of Directors of Pacifica Foundation resign, and that a new Board be democratically elected;

2) That Foundation constitutional changes are adopted to assure that board members represent each of the local area's membership; paid and unpaid staff; affiliate stations; and different ethnic groups, sexual orientations and genders. Mechanisms should be considered to assure board membership, or at least involvement, by significant political constituencies;

3) That the Board reverse all actions from the Feb. 1999 board meeting on, including the shift to a self-perpetuating board, the imposition of a gag-rule, the hiring of guards, and the various firings and dismissals.

4) That the Board adopt a policy of no sale of stations or licenses.

Socialist Forum Number 30 is in the mail. The next issue will contain the record of the DSA National Convention. Bulk orders are available from the office. Subscriptions are \$10/year.

A new issue of *The Activist*, the youth publication, is also available.

"Must reading for anyone who cares about what is happening to the average American."

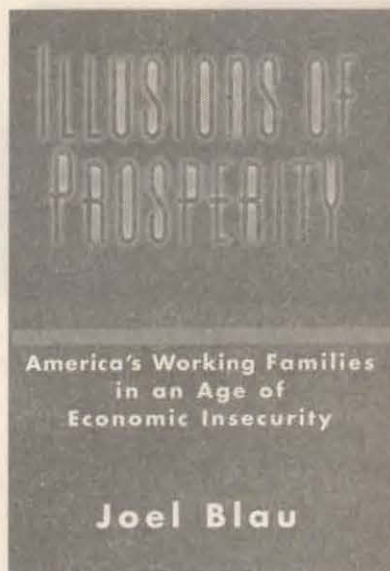
—Charles Noble, author of *Welfare As We Knew It*

"A thoughtful and cogent analysis of the state of American society today, the impact of the market system on working families, and the consequences likely to flow from weakening the safety net further."

—John Sweeney,
President, AFL-CIO

"A powerful brief against the neo-laissez faire doctrines that have dominated American economic and social welfare policy for three decades."

—Richard A. Cloward and
Frances Fox Piven



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DSA Kicks off Real Discussions of Poverty

A funny thing happened this Summer. The President of the United States finally discovered poverty in America! In a one week road show featuring corporate executives and local politicians, the president called on corporations to target development in regional pockets of poverty and promised to push for more tax credits for those that made such investments. Mind you this is eight

years into a recovery in which the reason that most people are better off is that they are working much longer work weeks.

Better late than never, of course. Socialists know that full employment and strong unions mean a lot more than corporate welfare when it comes to ending poverty. We immediately began to distribute post-cards to the President protesting the substance of his program and be-

gan encouraging locals to organize community forums that get at root causes and solutions.

The first of these programs begin later this month in Philadelphia. Boston is planning an event in January. The Progressive Challenge also organized a tour of the South which focused on more progressive solutions to the problem of poverty.

Dear President Clinton:

While I am glad that you finally talked about poverty in America, I was very disappointed in the substance of your anti-poverty program. It will take more than corporate good will and tax subsidies to eliminate poverty in America!

America needs higher wages, union jobs and government programs that educate and train all Americans for the twenty-first century economy. **Corporations should pay for these programs by paying taxes, instead of collecting tax credits and subsidies.**

Sincerely,

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Democratic Socialists of America

- Yes, I want to join the Democratic Socialists. Enclosed are my dues (includes a subscription to the Democratic Left) of
 \$50 (sustainer) \$35 (regular)
 \$15 (low income/student)

- Yes, I want to renew my membership in DSA. Enclosed are my renewal dues of
 \$50 (sustainer) \$40 (regular)
 \$20 (low income/student)

- Enclosed is an extra contribution of
 \$50 \$100 \$25 to help DSA in its work

- Please send me more information about DSA and Democratic socialism.

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

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