


LEFT

DEMOCRATIC

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of America*



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GAME CHANGE IN THE SOUTH



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We're Stronger Together

By Maria Svart

Growing up, I knew unions were good. Family members could see that the union had improved their wages and working conditions. I learned that “no one looks out for the little guys, so we need to stick together.” But I didn’t fully grasp the critical role of labor unions until I became a democratic socialist. Now, with experience as a union organizer, a socialist, and a historian, I see even more clearly that the labor movement is the only organized force capable of counterbalancing the power of capital in our economy—and in formal politics. But unions can’t do it alone.



Unions struggle because at their best they challenge capitalism, and capital doesn’t like being challenged. It doesn’t like uppity working-class people who want higher wages or who demand respect in the workplace or who want to make decisions about the work they do. It definitely doesn’t like working people who pressure the state to enact policies that put people before profits.

The steadily declining proportion of workers who are in unions and the increasing attacks on unions—in workplaces, in popular discourse, and in Congress, state capitols, and the Supreme Court—is a crisis for us all. If we are to have a fully democratic society and economy, both the labor movement and the socialist movement must learn from each other and work together.

Labor must think big. With limited resources, its impulse is to fight narrow battles. But without cultivating allies from a broad spectrum of society, particularly from working-class people not in unions, labor’s army will dwindle further. These battles must be fought with the full support and enthusiasm of union members, which only comes when goals and strategy are made explicit.

A broad movement against corporate power will succeed when large majorities of union members can

articulate why working people are struggling and how they can change those conditions, and when they put themselves on the line to fight for the entire working class.

Socialists must also think big. We, too, often neglect to organize the unorganized. The greatest contribution we can make to the labor movement is our active participation, as open socialists, in pro-union activism. That’s why DSA local chapters support union recognition and contract fights as well as broader campaigns to lift up the entire working class. That’s why we’re working on get-out-the vote campaigns so that the Scott Walkers, Rick Snyders, John Kasiches and Rick Scotts of the world will not be able to gut collective bargaining and destroy the gains for which so many died over the last century.

When right wingers claim that unions are a “special interest,” DSAers organize community forums to undermine that lie. We turn out for picket lines. At the same time, we bring a socialist critique that, while recognizing the crucial role of labor, also recognizes its connection to other social movements. In this issue of *Democratic Left*, we explore that interconnectedness, from the impact on the whole country of the struggles of Southern workers to the rejuvenation of coalitions of people of faith, civil rights activists, and feminists to the renewal of international solidarity as unions work across borders. It’s true that the union makes us strong. And for that to happen, we in DSA must help make the unions strong. ❖

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A New Operation Dixie?

By Douglas Williams and Cato Uficensis

There are no fortresses for labor; no metaphorical stone walls behind which we can ride out the onslaught. MaryBe McMillan, secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina AFL-CIO, has said that we must “organize the South or die,” and she is correct. Without a concerted effort to organize in the states of the old Confederacy, there will be no labor movement within the next ten years, and all the gains for working people that brave men and women fought and bled and died for over the past century will be swallowed by rapacious corporate oligarchs bent on societal domination.

The notion that this is a crisis is an understatement. The destruction of PATCO, the air traffic controllers union, in 1981, was a crisis. The passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement by a unified Democratic federal government in 1993 was a crisis. What the union movement faces now is nothing less than a threat to the existence of unions in their present form, and with that comes a threat to the very basic minimums all workers in the United States can rely upon.

If labor is to organize the South, it needs to look back and learn lessons from the largest unionization drive in the South to date: the Congress of Industrial Organization’s Operation Dixie.

Operation Dixie was conceived because companies were shifting their operations from the heavily unionized North and Midwest to the South. The campaign focused on the burgeoning textile industry in the South, which stretched largely from the Carolinas through Alabama, as well as the wood products industries, such as lumber. The CIO committed 250 organizers and around \$1 million in 1946 (about \$12 million in current dollars) to set about organizing the largest firms. The organizers came from across the industrial spectrum, and the citizens’ committees utilized by local organizers were surprisingly diverse for the times, including workers from across the racial barriers, religious leaders, and recent veterans of the Second World War. It was a campaign that held much promise, and a victory in Operation Dixie would have gone a long way toward building a powerful labor movement in

every corner of America. However, while there were some successes in organizing tobacco workers and workers in other smaller industries, the efforts to unionize the textile and lumber industries were largely failures.

Where did Operation Dixie go wrong? The organizers’ biggest mistake was underestimating the power of the alliance between law enforcement and industry. This alliance worked in numerous ways—detaining organizers, harassing pro-union workers, and refusing to prosecute crimes committed against both groups (including murder). The atmosphere of fear kept many workers from signing up for the

union. Organizing workers across racial lines also encountered problems, as the CIO’s national commitment to interracial cooperation tended to fizzle at the ground level. And with the second Red Scare setting in, the unions most committed to cross-cultural organizing, such as the Food, Tobacco, and Agricultural Workers and the Fur and Leather Workers, were systematically booted from the CIO for their links to communism prior to the CIO’s reunion with the American Federation of Labor in 1955.

In some ways, we are still fighting the same battles in Southern labor today. The much-noted failure of the United Auto Workers (UAW) to organize the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga (despite the recent chartering of a minority local at the plant), as well as the building of worker resentment against the UAW at the Mercedes-Benz plant in Alabama, is emblematic of this. The defeat at VW was blamed in large part on the willingness of Republican elected officials at every level of government to lie and threaten the stability of jobs at the plant. As Mike Elk noted in his post-mortem piece on the organizing drive in *In These Times*, however, there was not a concerted effort by the UAW to engage progressive and community organizations.

If Southern politicking is anything, it is relational; folks down here require a fairly intimate rapport with organizers in order to buy into their vision. And with pro-union workers at the Mercedes plant lodging complaints about the UAW’s Alabama organizers’ inexperience and lack of regional connections,



Frank Reynoso

the fear of Chattanooga redux is palpable.

But it does not have to be this way. Delegates to the 2013 AFL-CIO convention passed Resolutions 16 and 26, which committed the labor umbrella to making a stronger push for Southern workers in addition to a more widespread engagement with community activism. If the UAW debacles in Chattanooga or Alabama have taught us anything, it should be that a Southern organizing plan that lacks a focus on community engagement and mobilizing workers is a guaranteed failure.

From Operation Dixie to Operation Mooney

What's needed is a plan that is even more ambitious than the original Operation Dixie. As such, we propose Operation Mooney.

Operation Mooney is named after J.P. Mooney, an Alabama organizer for the Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers. As the story goes, Mooney was handbilling outside of the textile plant in Avondale, Alabama (now part of the city of Birmingham), when a group of company police officers attacked him. Bruised and battered, Mooney returned to the plant the next day, where he was beaten once again, this time nearly to death. During his six weeks in the hospital, the company's police chief commended Mooney for his bravery before informing him that his officers would shoot him if he returned to the plant. The day after he left the hospital, Mooney returned, leaflets in hand, to the entrance of the plant. In the next two weeks, he signed up every worker in the Avondale Mills plant, negotiated a contract, and placed a black worker on the local's executive board.

The kind of commitment to workers and their communities that Mooney showed is what will be required to build a mass movement of workers in the South. To that end, we propose the following:

- The AFL-CIO should, over a six-month ramp-up period, hire one thousand organizers, drawn from existing rank-and-file activists and from young activists who support this kind of worker empowerment but whose experience is in political campaigns or community organizations.
- Experienced organizers already working for AFL-CIO affiliates or with extensive experience in the movement would be shifted over or hired on to this project to provide day-to-day supervision of organizers, with regular local oversight of this project performed by the Central Labor Councils. This would allow international unions to ensure that their specific concerns with regards to this project are addressed regularly, and it would give union workers direct oversight over this work.
- The AFL-CIO would commit to keeping the resources for this effort in place for no less than four years, after which the Executive Council would decide to re-authorize, modify, or end this project.

- Operation Mooney would work to cultivate relationships with faith leaders, local environmental organizations, and other progressive political organizations in the South to address the needs of workers outside of the workplace and in their homes and neighborhoods. It would also work to shepherd the expansion of alt-labor groups like Working America in the places where they operate

This is a monumental undertaking, and it will mean that other worthy efforts will go under-resourced while this project is operating, but there is no other way forward. Even with a Democratic president, a Democratic House, and a Democratic Senate, we could not achieve a basic labor law reform like the Employee Free Choice Act, while anti-union policies continue their march through state legislatures and into the lives of the workers they harm. Unless we rebuild our power in a big way, there is no way forward.

We make this proposal knowing full well the kind of resources it will require. It takes bold moves to counter bold foes, and foes like Art Pope, David and Charles Koch, Eli Broad, the Walton family, and other "malefactors of great wealth" are nothing if not bold. Without an ambitious undertaking like Operation Mooney, nothing can reverse (or even arrest) the labor movement's accelerating decline.

The working class of the South deserves better than that. ❖

Douglas Williams is a doctoral student in political science at the University of Alabama. He blogs at The South Lawn and Hack the Union, and can be found on Twitter at @DougWilliams85. An earlier version of this article appeared at The South Lawn.



Cato Uticensis is the pseudonym of a union organizer working in the South. He likes barbecue, bourbon, cigars, and labor politics. He can be found on Twitter at @Cato_of_Utica.

Happy Labor Day, Y'all!
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Southern Workers: In for the Long Haul

By Eric Fink

After the UAW's bid to represent workers at the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee was narrowly defeated last winter, mainstream pundits wrote off the AFL-CIO's much-vaunted commitment "to develop a Southern organizing strategy." But the obituaries are premature. Just days after the vote, panelists at a crowded forum in Durham, North Carolina, rejected the pessimistic conclusion that organizing unions in the South remains futile and pointed to areas of potential growth. Their common message was that unions *can* win in the South through a variety of tactics, such as reaching out to new constituencies, cultivating and mobilizing community support, running innovative campaigns, recruiting and retaining public sector workers, and political action.

New Constituencies

Chris Kromm, director of the Institute for Southern Studies, pointed out that the South has the lowest rates of union membership and the worst concentration of poverty in the United States. The two facts are intimately related, rooted in a well-established strategy of attracting business through a combination of economic incentives and the lure of a low-wage, "union-free" work force. Southern hostility to organized labor is also fueled by racism, with unions viewed, correctly, as vehicles for African American economic and political empowerment.

For more than a hundred years, the South has been the site of significant labor efforts. Duke University historian Bob Korstad points to major strikes in the textile industry in the early twentieth century, organizing among tobacco workers in the mid-twentieth century, the J.P. Stevens organizing campaign in the 1970s, and recent victories by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) at Smithfield and by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC). Women and African Americans played major roles in this history, a trend that continues today and that can lead to organizing success.

MaryBe McMillan, secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina AFL-CIO, believes that the changing demographics of the South, with people moving from

elsewhere in the United States, along with substantial immigration from other countries, mean growth in segments of the population—particularly African Americans and Latinos—that are more likely to support unions. These trends represent an opportunity for labor and for the broader progressive movement.

Building Community Support

Community support is crucial. Keith Ludlum of UFCW Local 1208 commented that workers vote against their own interests when they hear anti-union rhetoric from their neighbors and local politicians. Unions must counter that rhetoric by getting their own message out through the community. The union's strategy in the long struggle and ultimate victory at Smithfield Foods included building community support among, for example, churches and the NAACP. Justin Flores, vice president of FLOC, noted that farm workers lack any protection under federal labor law, and many are also vulnerable as undocumented immigrants. Despite these challenges, FLOC was able to follow a successful strike against the Mt. Olive Pickle Company with a ground-breaking collective bargaining agreement

between the union and the North Carolina Growers Association. In June, UFCW Local 1208 launched a statewide "Jobs and Freedom Tour" in support of its effort to organize workers at the Montaire Farms chicken processing plant in Lumber Bridge, N.C.

Innovative Organizing

Non-traditional organizing has also taken off. Zaina Alsous, an organizer with NC Raise Up, discussed the ways that retail and fast-food workers have departed from the traditional union organizing script of seeking formal certification through National Labor Relations Board elections. The new approach emphasizes direct action, including walkouts and demonstrations at hundreds of workplaces around the country, many of them in the South. Already these tactics have resulted in pay raises, recovery of unpaid overtime, and an increased focus on the problems of poverty and low wages.

“For more than a hundred years, the South has been the site of significant labor efforts.”

Public Sector Organizing

Across the country, there have been major assaults on public sector workers, because anti-union forces realize that this sector is the last to hold some power. Often, state legislatures have forbidden collective bargaining or strikes by public sector employees. In North Carolina, commented Angaza Laughinghouse, president of the North Carolina Public Service Workers Union, UE Local 150, collective bargaining agreements between unions and public employers are illegal, as are strikes by public service workers. Despite these obstacles, UE 150 has succeeded in organizing and winning improvements in wages and working conditions for its members. It has done so through rank-and-file workplace action, including wildcat strikes in some instances.

Political Action

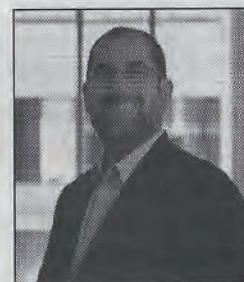
Some of this activity has focused on challenging the Republican-controlled North Carolina state legislature and state house, which have pursued an aggressive reactionary economic and social agenda. The "Moral Monday" movement, in which labor has played an active and visible role, devoted its June 16 state capital demonstration to workers' rights. Public school teachers have established the rank-and-file "Organize 2020" caucus within the North Carolina Association of Educators, mobilizing not just for better teacher pay and working conditions, but also to defend public education against destructive budget

cuts and counterproductive standardized testing.

The North Carolina AFL-CIO and Working North Carolina inaugurated a new Workers' Clinic this summer. The NC AFL-CIO held its annual Labor School in July, empowering workers with knowledge about their legal rights and how to organize for better jobs. NC Raise Up has mobilized fast food workers around the state in a wave of strikes and demonstrations to demand living wages and decent working conditions. FLOC continues to press R.J. Reynolds to take responsibility for low wages and dangerous working conditions in the state's tobacco fields. And this July, at the Chattanooga Volkswagen plant, five months after the defeat, the UAW chartered Local 42, which is modeled after the works councils in German plants.

Throughout the region, where workers have never stopped fighting for their rights, there is renewed energy as the rest of the country realizes that labor's best hope lies in the South. ❖

Eric Fink is an associate professor at Elon University School of Law in Greensboro, North Carolina. He formerly practiced labor and employment law in Pennsylvania and California. An earlier version of this article appeared in the DSA Talking Union blog.



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*We tried to include everyone as of press time. If we missed you, we apologize. Please let us know so that we can recognize you in the Winter issue.

Moral Mondays in the South

An Interview with Miriam Thompson

By Barbara Joye

Following a right-wing Republican takeover of both houses of the North Carolina state legislature and the governor's office in 2012, the state NAACP, led by Rev. Dr. William Barber II, launched the Moral Monday (MM) movement. This coalition has involved more than 150 organizations in weekly marches, rallies, and sit-ins at the state capitol. On February 8, 2014, the largest civil rights demonstration in the South since the 1960s brought 80,000 people to Raleigh.

After the legislature passed new rules against protest inside the capitol, more than a thousand people marched on the first day of the 2014 legislative session with their mouths taped shut. Sit-ins in the speaker of the House's office and the governor's office followed the next week, but the cases against those arrested were dismissed.

This summer, 50 years after the Freedom Summer that helped spur progress on civil rights, organizers spread out over North Carolina for Moral Freedom Summer. As we went to press, Rev. Barber issued a call for country-wide demonstrations in late August.

In the following interview, Miriam Thompson, who has been involved with Moral Mondays and its predecessor organization (Historic Thousands on Jones Street—HKonJ), talks about the movement's vision and challenges. Thompson is the labor chair of the Chapel Hill/Carrboro branch of the state NAACP. She moved to North Carolina in 2007 from New York City, where she was a founder and director of Advocates for Children of New York, directed the United Auto Workers Union Local 259 Community Action Program, and ran an urban leadership program for the Joseph Murphy Worker Education Center.

Barbara Joye: *What are Moral Monday's key issues?*

Miriam Thompson: Moral Monday has a 14-point platform that reflects the concerns of its partners. Currently, the top issues are voter disenfranchisement and suppression; the state's failure to expand Medicaid; worker justice, including restoring extended unemployment benefits; ending wars of occupation and bringing the war dollars home; immigrant rights; racial justice; and education issues, including the defunding of public education in favor of charter schools and vouchers (now being challenged in court), not giving teachers raises for five years,

and cutting teacher assistants. During the legislative session, each day of action focuses on a different issue.

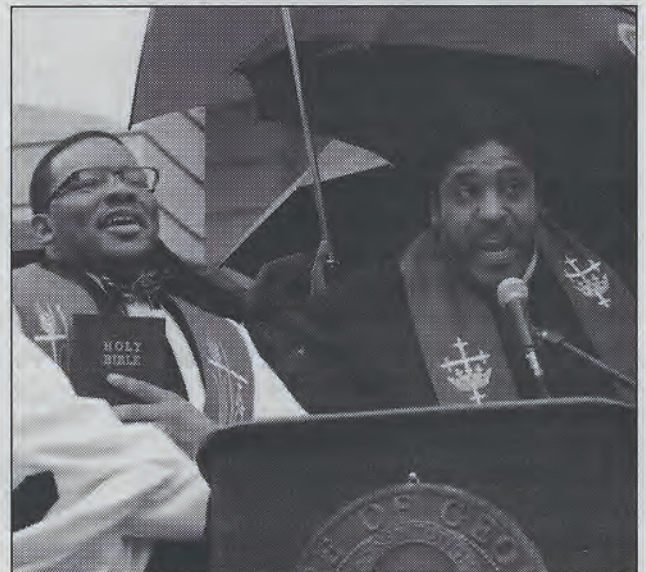
BJ: *What are the strengths and challenges of MM NC?*

MT: Our greatest strength is the director of the state NAACP, Rev. Dr. William Barber II. He's a charismatic leader with the power to bring people into the movement so that we speak in unison. Faith leaders are very important in the coalition. This is a military state with thousands of workers on military bases, and we have a lot of ex-military in our ranks; we have come together around the mistreatment of veterans. Also, I and many of my colleagues in MM were involved in Occupy; we need to give credit to the Occupy movement.

Rev. Barber and his executive council of HKonJ partners lead the struggle, but are moving to strengthen and broaden the movement through local People's Assemblies. In the past few months, MM has moved out of Raleigh to other cities in North Carolina to build the coalition statewide and engage people on the local level.

BJ: *What impact is the movement having, given that the legislature has not passed new laws or policies in response?*

MT: They may do something about teacher sala-



Rev. Francys Johnson and Rev. William Barber II address a Medicaid expansion rally in Atlanta. Photo by Reid Jenkins

ries, but they may do it by taking more money away from public higher education or social services rather than imposing a more progressive income and corporate tax. Most of the charges made in [more than a thousand] arrests at demonstrations have been dropped, which I think reflects the strength of the movement. There have been major stories in North Carolina media and nationally.

BJ: *In DSA we always ask whether a movement brings democracy to the economy. Do you think MM's strategy will ultimately extend democracy to the economy, which would require a fundamental restructuring of social and economic institutions?*

MT: DSA's vision of changing institutional structures is clearly compatible with the vision of MM, but changing capitalism is not part of our language. Instead, we talk about keeping the legislature from being bought and paid for by corporate interests and ALEC sponsors, and we push for a more progressive income and corporate tax.

BJ: *What are the next steps for MM, especially around the elections in the fall?*

MT: We can't endorse candidates, because the NAACP and most member organizations (except the AFL-CIO) have to be nonpartisan. We will focus on voter education and registration this summer and until the election. We will also work on getting out the vote.

BJ: *What do you most want our readers to understand about MM?*

MT: There are two lessons for any social justice organizer or advocate: (1) the work didn't start yesterday. What you see today began in 2006; and (2) you have to build democratic organizations locally and pull together a broad swath of social justice organizations as partners. That has always been the challenge for the left; we find it hard to stay focused for the long haul and to find common ground. Rev. Barber and partners have done both. It's important for the People's Assemblies to amplify that role, by helping organize and also bringing important issues from the bottom. Outcomes for me are less important than doing the work, and putting my footprint for social justice on this earth.

Ripple Effect in other States

The Moral Monday movement has already spread to several other states, such as Alabama, Florida, Missouri, and Indiana, and most notably in neighboring South Carolina and Georgia. In South Carolina, the lead organization is the South Carolina Progressive Network (SCPN), a coalition of 70 groups (including the NAACP) that has been forging alliances among that state's progressive organizations for the past 18 years. Its first "Moral Budget" demonstration, in 2011, turned out 3,500 people, and its

demonstrations, says SCPN director Brett Bursey, have "changed the dialogue and strengthened the backbone of the Democrats in the legislature, and... killed some bad bills." This summer, the coalition took a "Healthy Democracy Road Show" around the state.

In Georgia, organizers from Occupy our Homes Atlanta, DSA, and other groups that had worked together began talking about a Moral Monday Georgia (MMGA) coalition in August of 2013. The new state NAACP president, Rev. Francys Johnson, led the first rally, for Medicaid expansion, which attracted 500 people and significant media coverage. He also brought Rev. Barber to speak in Atlanta that day.

A core group of 100-200 activists from 40 Georgia organizations, including DSA, held weekly rallies on a variety of issues drawn from a 12-point platform. Over a three-day period, groups sat in at the Capitol and legislative offices, resulting in 73 arrests of 61 people, 10 DSA members among them. During the last week of the session in mid-March, MMGA—joined by Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock of Martin Luther King's Ebenezer Baptist Church—drew national and international media attention. This summer, groups of arrestees participated in a 16-city "Jailed for Justice" tour of the state, hoping to spread MMGA outside of Atlanta.

Will this movement have impact and staying power? Its supporters hope so. As Rev. Barber emphasizes, the source of its power is unity among people of all races, religions, and walks of life "rooted in the idea of the deep moral issues about faith, our Constitution, anti-racism, [and] anti-poverty." ❖

Barbara Joye is a co-editor of the DL Blog, serves on the National Political Committee of DSA, and is active in the Atlanta DSA.



Hold a DSA Labor Film Night

For an annotated list of labor films, check out the *DL Blog*.



and more

Global Labor Solidarity Gets Real

By Paul Garver

Labor activists have long called for international solidarity to confront global corporations, but sentimental and rhetorical appeals to the workers of the world to unite failed to produce lasting results throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. However, recent global organizing campaigns in fast food, which employs millions worldwide, and telecommunications show promise.

Fast Food

The international coordinated actions of fast-food workers on May 15, 2014, took place in 158 U.S. cities and 93 other cities across 36 countries. More than 10,000 workers and their supporters participated. This represented an unprecedented level of global labor solidarity.

Organizing fast-food workers on a global scale poses enormous challenges. There are relatively few workers in any outlet, and they are mostly precariously employed by third parties other than the global corporations. Labor law in the United States and most other countries is ill-adapted to facilitate worker representation and collective bargaining for such an atomized work force. Fast-food unions have gained small toeholds in only a few European countries that have collective bargaining by sector. Only in New Zealand has a determined union membership been able to conduct repeated, if brief, strikes to raise wages.

After the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) began putting significant resources into community-based organizations and worker centers, fast-food worker organizing has taken off into a powerful movement for raising the minimum wage for all workers.

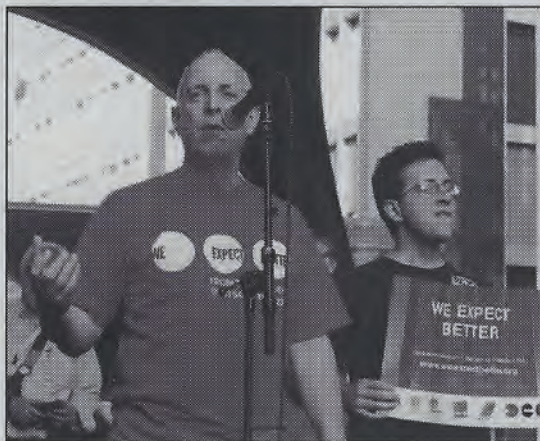
Global coordination to raise the minimum wage by raising public consciousness rather than through sector or workplace organizing is done through the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Association (IUF). The IUF, using funding from its own member unions, including the SEIU, held a global meeting of 80 fast-food workers and union representatives from 26 countries in New York in

the week prior to the May 15 actions. Many of the foreign delegates remained in the United States to help organize the protest actions in U.S. cities. IUF General Secretary Ron Oswald notes that "The Fight for 15" is "just the beginning of an unprecedented international fast-food worker movement."

Telecommunication Organizing

Another major global organizing campaign is talking place within Deutsche Telecom (DT), parent of T-Mobile U.S., which the Communication Workers of America (CWA) has been trying to organize. The large union ver.di, which represents DT workers in Germany, has been supporting the CWA orga-

nizing drive, trying to compel DT to apply higher worker rights' standards to its operations in the United States. In May 2014, ver.di sponsored a thousand-strong rally at DT's Berlin headquarters that included hundreds of international trade unionists in Berlin for an International Trade Union Confederation World Congress, CWA President Larry Cohen, and fired T-Mobile U.S. union activist Josh Coleman. Because of ver.di's tireless media campaign, Coleman has become well known in Germany as a symbol of DT's anti-union conduct



CWA President Larry Cohen and union activist Josh Coleman address a rally in Berlin. Photo by Paul Garver.

in the United States.

This was not a one-off event. Ver.di members on the DT works council have visited several Southern U.S. cities where CWA is trying to organize at T-Mobile, and the two unions have formed a joint organization called T-Mobile Workers United (TU) to encourage contacts between German and U.S. workers, including an online discussion forum.

To be effective, global labor solidarity must be mutual and long-term, built around the common interests of workers in particular sectors and transnational companies. Global campaigns like these are moving in the direction of deeper practical organization and strategic planning. ♦

Paul Garver is a retired organizer for the IUF and for SEIU and has been active in DSA for more than three decades.

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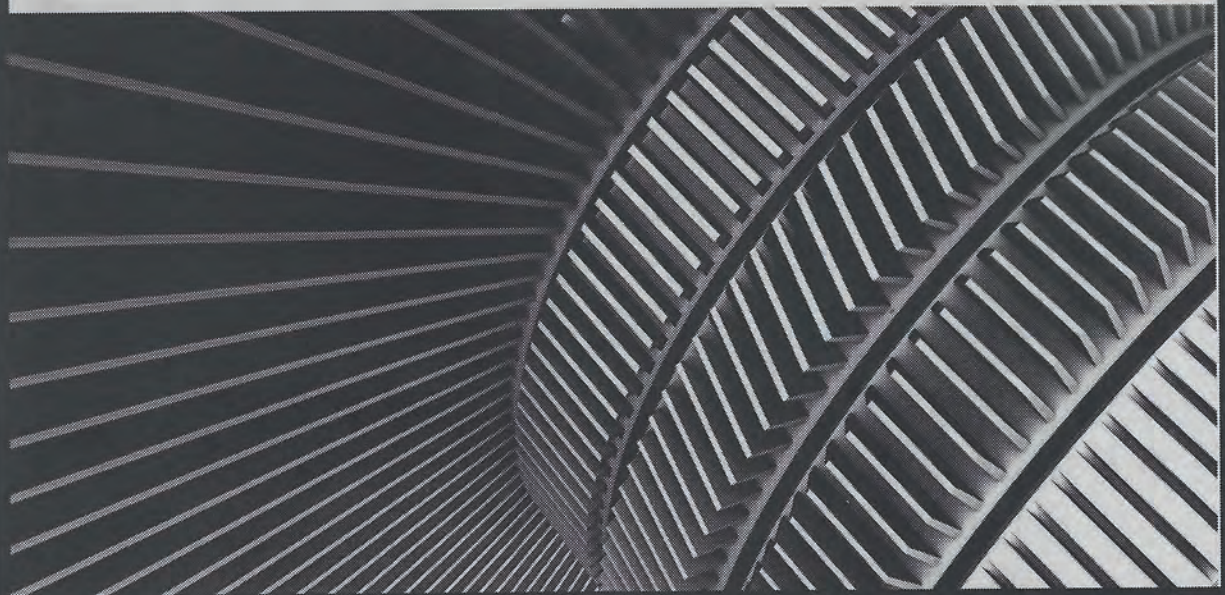
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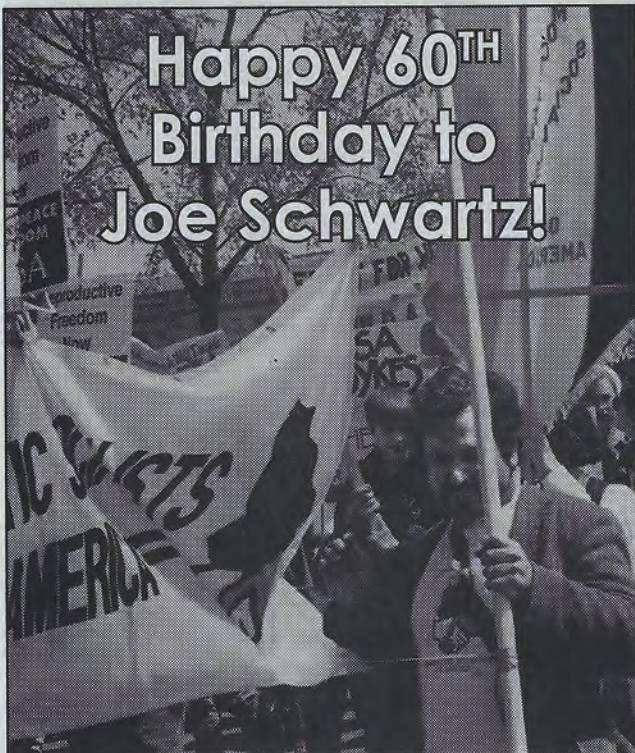
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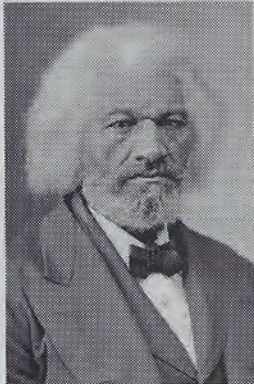
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Happy 60TH Birthday to Joe Schwartz!



Jack Clark • Linda Farthing • Ethan Greene and
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"If there is no struggle there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without plowing up the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."



FREDERICK DOUGLASS

GREETINGS FROM LEO CASEY

Thank You, Brothers & Sisters

In the early twentieth century, unions succeeded in overcoming the murderous power of the robber barons. Within our living memory, Lech Wałęsa's Solidarity union removed the Soviet regime from Poland. Between those two spectacular examples of the power of solidarity many stellar pieces of social legislation have been passed in this country, including Social Security; Medicare and Medicaid; and, above all, the Voting Rights Act, and other measures meant to include the disenfranchised. In all these cases, the union vote was of significant support. The exceptional economic growth after the Second World War was in no small part due to strong union participation.

—Anonymous

The above text comes from a very generous anonymous donor whose gift of \$25,000 in lieu of an end-of-life legacy gift enables us to both provide for the future and build in the present. We are deeply grateful.—DSA

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A Project of the DSA Labor Network

Talking Union is a project of the labor network of Democratic Socialists of America. We report on the activities and views of DSA and Young Democratic Socialists of America labor activists. We seek to be a place for a broad range of labor activists to discuss ideas for the renewal and strengthening of the labor movement.

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The DSA National Political Committee and Staff congratulate Michele Rossi and Joe Schwartz on the birth of our youngest YDSer, **Leah Maeve Rossi-Schwartz**



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Greetings and Congratulations to Democratic Left

From Democratic Socialists of Central Ohio
We fight for labor any way we can.
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Detroit DSA Protests Water Shutoffs July 18, 2014



detroitdsa.com

Democratic Left

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