

LABOR NEWSLETTER

Candidate For UMW President To Campaign On Progress

CINCINNATI, Sept. 29 (NSIPS) — Lee Roy Patterson, International Executive Board member of the United Mineworkers (UMW) and announced candidate for the unions presidency, gave the following statement today to a spokesman for the U.S. Labor Party. Mr. Patterson made his remarks as he prepared to attend today's session of the UMW convention here.

We are fighting an important battle here. I am committed to building a quality leadership based on this union's commitment to the future and continuing advancing technologies. (When asked to specify, Mr. Patterson referred to the Jordan Steel process-ed.). We must upgrade the skill levels and education of every miner. He must have the right to share the fruits of an expanding and developing society.

My campaign is a campaign for progress. Patterson contrasted such policies to those espoused by his opponent and UMW President Arnold Miller. Miller, he indicated stands for policies on zero-growth, of deindustrialization. Mr. Patterson then turned his attention to Joseph Rauh, Jr., the Wall Street-controlled Washington lawyer who is the guiding force behind Arnold Miller.) Joe Rauh and his ilk are not only a menace to this union. He is a menace to the entire country....

Mineworkers are not second class citizens, although that is what Arnold Miller and his staff have made them. I intend to reaffirm this union's commitment to all the working people in this country. My leadership will make the union a spokesman for all workers, like it was in the 1930s under John L. Lewis. Mineworkers are respected for what they have accomplished for working people, for the important victories that they have won. We have the potential to take that kind of leadership now. We must take that leadership again.

Trade Union President Testifies for USLP

In Redwood City, California, the U.S. Labor Party won an important legal victory in a court case this week where USLP school board candidate Doug Mallouk was charged with disorderly conduct. A surprise defense testifying in USLP's behalf turned out to be the President of the San Mateo County Plumbers and Pipefitting union who confronted the jury with the absurdity of the charges.

At the same time, three other Labor Party candidates in San Francisco addressed the International Longshore and Warehousemen's Union's Executive and Legislative Board, presenting the full scope of the recent developments which converged on the historic statement of Guyana Foreign Minister Frederick Wills for Third World debt moratorium at the United Nations this week.

These developments in San Francisco and Redwood City reflect a national pattern of trade union leaders stepping forward to provide support and open forums for Labor Party candidates and their program. This pattern is most clearly evident in the Chicago region where the USLP has successfully demolished a major Institute for Policy Studies-inspired union wrecking operation: the campaign of United Steelworkers of America District 31 Head Ed Sadlowski for union president. Teamsters, Oil,

Chemical and Atomic Workers Union and steel union leaders in the Chicago area are now extending invitations to Labor Party candidates to address their meetings. In Denver, union leaders from the International Brotherhood of Electrical workers, UMW and former USWA officials have agreed to speak at the Oct. 21 Fusion Energy Foundation Conference. Reflecting the same broad assimilation of the USLP program and support for the idea of progress, the President of the United Association of Construction Trades, Martin Ward, called for America to recommit itself to continued technological progress and development of nuclear energy before a recent national convention.

UAW Strikes John Deere

The UAW Agricultural Division today struck the John Deere Co., one of the two major farm equipment manufacturers in the U.S., following the expiration of its contract. The strike by 27,000 workers could create a critical shortage of tractors and other equipment needed to implement massive agricultural development programs under the International Development Bank. A spokesman for John Deere indicated that a large backlog of orders already exists for large tractors and combines used in capital intensive agriculture.

John Deere workers interviewed in East Moline, Iowa and Waterloo, Illinois are unanimously opposed to the strike. The UAW has presented no clear demands either to the union membership or to the public. The UAW refused yesterday to even acknowledge that they were on strike, while the Deere Co. reported they had agreed to impose a total blackout on the issues and negotiations involved in the strike. Press sources have speculated that the dispute revolves around subcontracting of work to non-union companies.

The UAW's strike against the Ford Motor Co., which has been surrounded by a similar atmosphere of secrecy, was rumored to be near settlement today. Two days ago, UAW Ford Wixom local President Robby Roberts accused New Solidarity (NSIPS) news coverage of the Ford strike of "interfering with and screwing up the negotiations." Roberts spoke as he banned Ron Bowman, a well-known USLP organizer employed at the Wixom plant, from entering his union meeting. Roberts admitted that the illegal expulsion was carried out "on orders from the top," apparently referring to UAW President Leonard Woodcock. The USLP has consistently exposed the Ford strike as a "share the work" sham jointly organized by Carter supporters, Woodcock and Ford Chairman Henry Ford II, to demoralize workers into accepting a contract which would break the pattern of last springs Teamster victory. Since that point, industrial workers have routinely won wage settlements in excess of 30 per cent.

The striking Ford workers, however, are showing more interest in discussing the Labor Party's IDB and tractor conversion programs than in Woodcock's set-up strike. New Solidarity sales are booming at Ford local union halls, with sales of over 100 each at Flatrock and Rouge local 600 halls two days ago alone. The auto workers are particularly interested in the rapid collapse of the Eurodollar bubble and the New York banks. The UAW pension funds are controlled and managed by a consortium of Rockefeller banks headed up by the bankrupt Chase Manhattan.