

## Labor by Marianna Wertz

### Assessing labor on Labor Day

*AFL-CIO head Lane Kirkland hailed a "resurgence of labor," but there won't be any unless U.S. labor fights his policies.*

**L**abor Day in the United States this year, on Sept. 2, was celebrated as usual with parades and picnics by organized labor in major cities around the nation. As on every Labor Day in recent memory, Lane Kirkland, the president of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), delivered a "traditional" message, in which he claimed that labor is in "resurgence" in America, even asserting that "morale is as high as it has ever been in my lifetime."

One wonders under what rock Kirkland has spent his lifetime. This liar to the contrary, morale in the U.S. labor movement is nearly dead—as dead as the organized labor movement itself, which in August officially decided that Kirkland should run unopposed for reelection at the biennial AFL-CIO convention in late October.

But a moribund labor movement is by no means in the national interest. Indeed, it was only through the mobilization of organized labor, carried out by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression, that America was able to arm for war in sufficient time to spell victory for the Allies.

This is the message brought by the Schiller Institute to what was probably the largest parade in America on Labor Day, in Detroit, Michigan. Marching behind a banner that read "Think Like Reuther, Open the Auto Plants to Defend America and Feed the World," 20 members and supporters of the Schiller Institute drew spontaneous rounds of applause and cheers from the estimated quarter-million

participants in the parade.

The banner refers to the proposal for a "Reuther Plan" to build 1,000 MX missiles per year in Detroit's now-closed auto factories, modeled on Walter Reuther's "500 Planes a Day" mobilization during World War II.

Typifying the attitude that is killing today's labor movement, was the remark by former United Auto Workers (UAW) president Doug Fraser, when confronted by one of the marchers for the Schiller Institute. "Mr. Fraser, what are you going to do to open the auto plants to build missiles?" he was asked. Fraser replied, "I'd rather open your head."

Kirkland, Fraser, and the other Trilateral Commission members and cronies who inhabit the upper echelons of the labor movement, serve as a conduit for economic and military policies which benefit only the Soviet Union. Kirkland openly embraces the communist left, most recently in a widely publicized bear hug with Revolutionary Communist Party leader Bob Anderson of Pittsburgh, at whose Rainbow Kitchen, Kirkland and Steel Workers president Lynn Williams supped late last month. Kirkland and Anderson are featured in friendly discussion on the front page of the *AFL-CIO News* Aug. 17, just days after Anderson was spotted hawking the latest issue of *The Worker* in a nearby neighborhood.

On Aug 21, Kirkland and the AFL-CIO Executive Council released a "Call to Action" for American labor, a 12-page document outlining the labor federation's economic, trade, and tax policies. The document is a call to

extend the very policies, created by fellow Trilateral Commission member and Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, which launched the current depression under Jimmy Carter's presidency.

Kirkland's principal scapegoat, throughout the document, is what he calls a "tidal wave of imports." Extending his racist metaphor, he blames a "flood of immigrants" to the United States for the collapse of domestic employment.

The reality of the matter was made clear by *EIR* contributing editor Lyndon LaRouche, in discussion with leaders of the Schiller Institute Trade Union Commission recently. The U.S. State Department, under former Trilateral Commissioner Henry Kissinger's influence, together with the International Monetary Fund, tells developing nations that they must pay their debts to the New York banking houses by selling to the U.S. cheap. As a result, LaRouche explained, America imports food from nations that are starving, and steel from nations with no houses.

Kirkland's "program" for solving what he calls the current "growth recession"—but which is a very real depression afflicting millions of Americans—would give "standby credit control authority" to the treasonous Federal Reserve. To implement what the AFL-CIO calls an "interest-rate policy aimed at achieving full employment," Kirkland would hand over total control of the economy to the same Paul Volcker whose interest-rate policy was consciously designed to smash industrial production in the U.S.

The "resurgence" of American labor, about which Kirkland can only fulminate, will occur when working men and women decide that the defense of their country is worth fighting Kirkland and his cronies for.