

Resistance grows to NAFTA trade pact

Trade representatives from the United States, Mexico, and Canada are scheduled to meet at the end of July to try to initial a formal draft of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which can be put to the respective national legislatures this fall. Even without the niceties of a treaty, various companies and banks are launching sweeping "free trade" practices, as if national borders and interests did not exist. This, in turn, is sparking new public opposition to a NAFTA treaty.

In the United States, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) in June launched a petition campaign against federal attempts to lift licensing requirements for low-paid Mexican truck drivers. The petition, titled "Save Good Jobs: Stop Deregulation and 'Free Trade,'" points out that since 1980, deregulation has destroyed at least 160,000 good jobs in the trucking industry, and now "free trade" legislation is making matters even worse.

The following are excerpts from a letter to Congress from

the IBT president and a resolution passed June 16 by the Los Angeles City Council.

Teamster president's letter to Congress

June 23, 1992

Dear Representative:

I am writing to urge you as a matter of the highest priority to support House Concurrent Resolution 246 co-sponsored by Representatives Gephardt and Waxman and to call for an immediate floor vote on it, free-standing and subject to a closed rule.

HCR 246 states that Congress will not implement any international trade agreement that jeopardizes U.S. labor, environmental, health or safety laws.

As you know, the Bush administration is now involved in negotiations both on GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] and on the North American Free Trade Agreement. In both cases, there are serious questions about the administration's commitment to defend the right of our federal, state, and local governments to set standards to protect workers' rights, environmental quality, consumer safety, and other public interests.

An apparent signal of the administration's intentions is an order issued in April to the state of California to stop requiring commercial drivers from Mexico to obtain non-

N.D. Board of Elections, AP hand victory to Perot

On June 24, at the North Dakota Board of Canvassers meeting, which included the secretary of state, the Board of Elections reversed its previous returns finding Lyndon LaRouche the winner of the state's June 9 Democratic presidential primary, and certified the following results instead: Ross Perot, 9,516 (write-in); Lyndon LaRouche, 7,003; Nevada businessman and populist Charles Wood, 6,641; Miami comedian and Clinton stand-in Tom Sheikman, 4,866; and Bill Clinton a dismal fifth as a write-in with 4,760.

LaRouche in '92 campaign representatives found the results highly suspicious, in part because the secretary of state had reported LaRouche as the winner during the entire week of June 9-12, before "finding" thousands of additional Perot write-in votes on June 15, most of them (over 3,600) in the Democratic primary, despite the fact that the Perot vote was most probably a protest against George Bush. (Perot was credited with only 3,852 votes in the Republican primary.)

The major ground for suspicion, however, was the

fact that Associated Press had first declared, "Perot Wins in Write-in Contest," in a story released in the early morning hours following election night. At that time, their own figures showed LaRouche leading Perot by over 2,000 votes.

This was the same hour that the AP office in Bismarck, N.D. began advising reporters from elsewhere in the country, "I don't think you want to print this: Our big vote-getter out here is Lyndon LaRouche."

At the same time, the television networks, and national press like the *Washington Post* and *USA Today*, were deciding to impose a blackout of the LaRouche victory—or even of the fact that a North Dakota Democratic presidential primary had occurred. (See *EIR*, June 26, "Establishment Media Throw Tantrum Over LaRouche North Dakota Victory.")

However, any further investigation of these suspicious features is stymied by a state law which prohibits inspection of the ballots, even under a court order, when the margin between first and second place in the official tally is over 2%.

Nonetheless, word of LaRouche's victory has reverberated throughout the world, through coverage by foreign press services, word of mouth, and through a 2 million-run LaRouche in '92 campaign leaflet.—*Steve Komm*

resident licenses. The administration claims that a Memorandum of Understanding signed with Mexico last November preempts state laws and requires California and other states to recognize Mexican commercial licenses.

This creates a serious threat to economic well-being and public safety in the states. . . .

Sincerely,

Ron Carey, General President, IBT

Los Angeles: fair trade with Mexico

This resolution was unanimously passed by the Los Angeles City Council on June 16:

WHEREAS state and local governments play an important role in protecting public safety and health and the rights of workers, and

WHEREAS international trade agreements must respect that role, and

WHEREAS Mexico is an important trading partner with whom we have close economic and cultural ties, and

WHEREAS expanded U.S.-Mexico trade could be used to increase jobs and improve living standards in both countries, and

WHEREAS international agreements between our two countries must take into account the major differences in wage and benefit levels and environmental, consumer protection, and public safety practices, and

WHEREAS lower wage levels in Mexico mean that a substantial percentage of Mexican citizens cannot purchase significant amounts of goods and services from the U.S., and

WHEREAS the Bush administration is negotiating a "free trade" agreement with Mexico, and

WHEREAS the Bush administration has already made an agreement with Mexico to preempt the right of California and other states to require their own licenses for commercial drivers from Mexico, and

WHEREAS that agreement contains no requirement for increasing toward U.S. levels the wages that truck drivers from Mexico receive, nor guarantees that highway safety will be maintained,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that international agreements should not preempt state drivers' licensing authority or other state and local laws, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should not make international agreements or take administrative actions that would undermine jobs, health, and safety in the U.S., and should rescind the action ordering recognition of Mexican commercial driver's licenses, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that international agreements with Mexico should include specific measures for raising Mexican living standards, working conditions, and environmental and consumer safety practices toward U.S. levels and should insure that U.S. standards will not be brought down, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no international agreements should be negotiated without the active participation of the citizen groups that will be affected.

ADL leads lynch mob against Demjanjuk

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The gangsters at the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) are desperately scrambling to keep their hooks into the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), despite the fact that they have been caught in the middle of the biggest scandal to hit the federal government since Watergate.

On July 15, officials of the DOJ's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), the purported "Nazi-hunting" unit, are scheduled to submit to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Ohio all the documents in their files that showed that John Demjanjuk, the retired Cleveland auto worker now sitting on death row in an Israeli jail, was innocent of the charges of Nazi war crimes for which he was denaturalized and deported in the late 1980s. On Aug. 11, the same court is scheduled to hear oral arguments on a motion to have Demjanjuk returned to the United States on the grounds that the OSI unlawfully prosecuted him and sent him to certain death in Israel while wittingly concealing evidence that they had targeted the wrong man.

Despite widespread publicity in the United States and Israel of the evidence of Demjanjuk's innocence, Elliot Welles, the ADL's liaison to the OSI, penned a disgusting letter to the editor of the July 6 *Washington Post*, demanding that Demjanjuk be persecuted anyway. Welles headed the ADL's office in Israel at the time that KGB-forged evidence was being passed between the U.S. DOJ and Israeli prosecutors. He told the *Post*:

"Regardless of the final outcome of the Demjanjuk case, there is little doubt that John Demjanjuk engaged in the persecution of Jews while serving as a concentration camp guard during World War II. There is also little doubt that he lied about his wartime activities when he entered the United States and that evidence of his deception warranted his denaturalization and deportation. . . . Under no circumstances should he be allowed to return to Cleveland."

Demjanjuk's Israeli defense attorney has presented evidence that his client was never involved, as Welles charges, in any concentration camps. Even more to the point, under the U.S.-Israel extradition treaty, Demjanjuk could only be tried for the specific charges relating to his alleged actions at Treblinka. Twenty-seven separate affidavits were presented in May and June of this year in Demjanjuk's appeal before the Israeli Supreme Court proving that he was not the Treblinka guard known as "Ivan the Terrible." Under the rule of law,