

Federation of Teachers, National Endowment for Democracy, Institute for Democracy in Eastern Europe, Merhson Center at Ohio State University, and the Social Studies Development Center at Indiana University. All these groups worked in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Information Agency.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this declaration and in giving greater recognition to the need to improve civic education for students in the United States and in other nations throughout the world.

The text of the CIVITAS declaration follows:

CIVIC EDUCATION—AN INTERNATIONAL
PRIORITY

On June 2-6, 1995, representatives from fifty-two countries met in Prague at one of the largest international meetings on civic education ever held. The following is a declaration adopted by the participants. A list of the individual signers is available on CIVNET.

The wave of change toward democracy and the open economy that swept the world at the beginning of this decade has slowed, and, in some respects, even turned around. Religious and ethnic intolerance; abuses of human rights; cynicism toward politics and government; corruption, crime and violence; ignorance, apathy and irresponsibility—all represent growing challenges to freedom, the marketplace, democratic government, and the rule of law.

All this makes clear how central knowledge, skills, and democratic values are to building and sustaining democratic societies that are respectful of human rights and cultural diversity. Once again, we see the importance of education which empowers citizens to participate competently and responsibly in their society.

Despite great differences in the more than fifty countries represented among us, we find many similarities in the challenges we face in our civic life. These challenges exist not only in the countries represented here; they also exist in other parts of the world, and in all aspects of social, economic, and political life. People involved in civic education have much to learn from one another.

It is time again to recognize the crucial role that civic education plays in many areas of concern to the international community: Shared democratic values, and institutions that reflect these values, are the necessary foundation for national and international security and stability; The breakup of Cold War blocs, while bringing much good, has also created openings for aggressive and undemocratic movements, even in the established democracies themselves; Civic development is an essential element in—not just a side effect of—economic development. Investments and guarantees made by private enterprise, governments, and international financial institutions will fail where political and legal systems fail, and where corruption and violence flourish.

The challenge of civic education is too great for educators alone. They need far greater cooperation from their own peoples, governments, and the international community.

We seek increased support for civic education—formal and informal—from the widest range of institutions and governments. In particular, we urge greater involvement in civic education by international organizations such as the Council of Europe, the European Union, the North Atlantic Assembly, the Organization for Secu-

rity and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations, UNESCO, and the World Bank.

We seek an active personal and electronic on-line-exchange (through CIVNET) of curricular concepts, teaching methods, study units, and evaluation programs for all elements of continuing education in civics, economics, and history.

We pledge ourselves to create and maintain a worldwide network that will make civic education a higher priority on the international agenda.●

THE 31ST CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION OF THE UNITED AUTO
WORKERS

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the United Auto Workers are concluding their 31st Constitutional Convention today in Anaheim, CA. This is a momentous occasion, marking the end of one era and the beginning of another for one of the world's most important labor organizations. Owen Bieber, who has held the presidency for the past 12 years, has retired and has handed over his duties to Stephen Yokich, the incoming president. Each of these leaders, with over 75 years of service to the UAW between them, has made it his life's work to fight for workers' rights both in the United States and around the world. They carry on an outstanding tradition of progressive union leadership that was established by the late Walter Reuther and continued by Leonard Woodcock and Douglas Fraser.

Owen Bieber has dedicated more than 45 years of his life to promoting fair labor standards. Bieber went to work right after high school bending wire for car seats at the McInerney Spring and Wire Company in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1948, he became a member of UAW Local 687, thus beginning a journey that would see him rise to the highest level of the organization. Bieber was quickly voted in to several leadership positions and in 1956, he was elected president of Local 687. Bieber served as president of the local until 1961, when he was appointed to be a staff representative for UAW Region 1D. He remained with UAW Region 1D for the next 20 years. He was elected regional director in 1974, and reelected in 1977. In 1980, delegates to the Union's 26th Constitutional Convention elected him to be an international vice-president and he then took charge of the UAW's largest department—General Motors. His final step to the presidency of the UAW came at the 27th Constitutional Convention in Dallas in 1983. Since then, he has been reelected every 3 years, with his fourth and final term beginning in 1992.

Owen Bieber has always been committed to the belief that in order for U.S. industry to be successful, there must be a strong partnership between management and labor. As UAW president, Bieber's strategy of building new cooperation with the auto companies laid the foundation for future success. It is this strategy that has allowed the U.S. auto industry to bounce back and once again lead the world. Bieber has

worked to increase security for union members while at the same time helping improve the quality of both work and work life in the plants. Bieber has focused the union on efforts to raise wages, protect jobs, strengthen work place safety and ensure fully paid health care. Under Bieber's leadership, the UAW established and fostered successful bargaining relationships with Japanese manufacturers. Bieber also expanded membership in the UAW to include workers in the media, academia, and government.

Owen Bieber has also expressed a strong commitment to civil and human rights, both at home and abroad. During his tenure as president, the world saw workers win their basic rights in countries such as Poland and South Africa. These struggles were strongly supported by the UAW. In 1986, Bieber negotiated on behalf of South African workers who were jailed without being charged with a crime. A high point of his career came in 1990, when Bieber had the opportunity to escort recently freed Nelson Mandela through Ford Motor Company's Rouge plant.

Throughout the years, Bieber has always remained committed to his local community. He has also been a strong booster of the city of Detroit, where the union is headquartered. His broad civic involvement has included such organizations as the NAACP and the United Way.

Owen Bieber has always shown the highest regard and respect for the American worker. This giant of a man has also been a booming voice for a tough and fair American trade policy. It is only fitting that now, as he retires, we have an administration that is willing to stand up for American manufacturers and American workers and to insist that foreign markets are as open to our products as our markets are to imports.

The new president, Stephen Yokich, has spent the past three decades working on behalf of labor. The UAW has always meant a great deal to Yokich and his family. Both of Yokich's parents and grandfathers were members of the UAW. Yokich has been one the UAW's strongest negotiators. Yokich has been in charge of UAW's General Motors Department since 1989. He was on hand to oversee the downsizing of GM's work force. Yokich's handling of the situation enabled more workers to keep their jobs and has ultimately led to a more cooperative relationship between the UAW and GM. One of his main responsibilities in the near future will be to increase UAW membership, a task that will benefit from his great personal energy.

It is heartening to see that the leadership of one of the world's most important labor organizations will remain in able hands. I know my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating these two outstanding leaders for the extraordinary work they have done on behalf of our Nation's workers and for their efforts to make our automobile

industry the foremost example of American manufacturing. I ask that the text of the remarks of Owen Bieber at the UAW's 31st Constitutional Convention be placed in the RECORD following my statement.

The text of the remarks follows:

REMARKS OF OWEN BIEBER

Brothers and sisters, I cannot tell you how much that video tribute, and how much your warm applause means to me.

What I can tell you is that when all is said and done—it is you and those you represent who have—time and again, inspired me.

It is your passion for justice, your love of your country and your love for the UAW that drives this union.

It is you who have created the opportunities for me to take the UAW's message from California to South Africa.

It is the clout of one-point-three million active and retired UAW members, that has carried me to the offices of Presidents and Senators and CEO's.

Without this union, a young worker in an auto parts plant in Grand Rapids, Michigan could hardly dream of meeting Lech Walesa or Nelson Mandela or Bill and Hillary Clinton—let alone actually do so.

It is also the collective UAW that has generated the great team of colleagues I have had the privilege to work with over the years.

Leonard Woodcock and Doug Fraser, especially, have been there for advice and counsel whenever I needed them.

Ken Bannon, Don Ephlin, Martin Gerber, Pat Greathouse, Irving Bluestone, Marc Stepp, Odessa Komer, Olga Madar and retired board members have also remained loyal supporters and advisors.

I cannot think of anyone I would rather have had on my side and at my side for the battles we've been through than Steve Yokich, Stan Marshall, Ernie Lofton, Carolyn Forrest, and Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Casstevens.

In case you don't already know this, let me tell you that the thing about the president's staff is that they are supposed to be kind of invisible.

But believe you me, without Dick Shoemaker and the rest of my fine staff and department heads, this union would be nowhere near as effective as we have been.

There are many unsung warriors in the UAW army, but I think there are none who contribute more than our clerical staff, and I thank them for the great work they do.

I want to say a special word about my personal secretary, Mary Shoemaker, who has been of great help to me and I thank her for that.

You know when you elect a president of the UAW—whether they like it or not—you are electing their family to serve, as well.

The family, too, must adjust to the travel and the long hours and the phone calls that can come at any time.

They, too, carry the weight of the office.

In my own case, my wife, Shirley, has, in essence, worked for this union for many years.

Thanks to all of those I have mentioned and many, many more that I have not—it is a remarkable life I have had.

It is, I hope, a life that has taught me a thing or two along the way.

Brothers and sisters, as I look back across the twelve years you have given me the honor of serving you as president . . . and as I look forward to the future—one thing in particular stands out as strong and clear as the sun on a bright, shiny morning.

It is this:

When you put the opportunities that are before us, together with the rock solid

strengths of this union—I have no doubt that the UAW's future will be even greater than our past.

Let me speak, for a moment, of the nature of our times and the opportunities they create.

As many of you have heard me say before, a new economic order has upset boundaries and assumptions that guided our society for many decades.

Corporate globalization . . . new technology . . . the end of the cold war . . . and the relentless commercialization of our values are pulling and tugging with great force at our social fabric.

As a result, fear and frustration are being expressed from many points on the compass.

We hear it in the bitterness of the debate over affirmative action and immigration.

We felt it in the explosion in Oklahoma City.

It is part and parcel of the coast-to-coast angry talk show voices that denounce the legitimacy of our government . . . day . . . after . . . day . . . after . . . day.

By the way, as First Lady Hillary Clinton suggested back in Michigan recently—aren't any of those people ever in a good mood?

Not that I can tell.

As I have said, it's obvious that many people react to political, social and economic change with fear and uncertainty.

I, however, see something very different.

I see a time of hope and opportunity.

Why is that?

What do I see that others don't?

I see the drive that inspires men and women to band together for justice, as we in the trade union movement have done.

My friends, I have spent all of my adult life in this union.

And believe you me, I know first-hand that life for our members now is better than it was when I joined the UAW . . . forty-seven years ago.

Much better.

Brothers and sisters, a lifetime spent in the UAW does not make one fearful of change.

To the contrary, a lifetime in the UAW makes one aware of the desire and the ability of working people to control their own destiny.

A lifetime in the UAW makes one aware of the value of collective action.

Call it solidarity . . . call it brotherhood and sisterhood . . . call it what you will—it is what happens when the power of community hooks up with the power of justice.

As I said in the video we saw earlier—that is a tradition that I have been proud to uphold.

I am proud of what this union did for our members, during very difficult times.

When you look back at the 80's and 90's, if there was any kind of insurance . . . any kind of protection . . . any kind of good fortune that a working man or woman could have that delivered more than being a member of the UAW—I cannot think what it might be.

The record speaks for itself.

No union did better at defending the standard of living of its members. None.

In insecure times . . . did we break new ground on job security?

Yes, we did.

Did we make our workplaces healthier and safer?

We sure did.

Did we set out to defend the core idea of employer-paid health care that previous UAW generations fought so hard to win?

And did that idea come under attack in every single negotiation we entered?

You know it did.

But you know, too, that UAW members held on to employer-paid health care during

a time when millions of workers were losing that benefit.

And what about our retirees?

Did we take care of those who built this great union?

We sure did.

And did we uphold the UAW's pioneering tradition, when it came to gaining worker involvement in decisions on sourcing and quality and manufacturing design?

Did we break new ground when it comes to education and training, child care services and assistance for workers' personal problems?

You know the answer.

Add it all up and this whole union has a lot to be proud of.

Brothers and sisters, as well as we have done at the collective bargaining table, that is by no means the extent of our accomplishments.

Let's look at our impact on politics and legislative issues.

A very good place to begin is with the fight that's going on right now to bring fairness to the economics of global trade.

I don't know if you noticed or not, but the Wall Street Journal recently paid this union quite a compliment.

In a lead editorial, they said, in so many words, that the reason that something is done about trade is because the UAW has made so much noise and created so much pressure on this issue.

Well, brothers and sisters, on behalf of the thousands of UAW members who have fought long and hard for fairness from the Japanese, I propose we accept the compliment from the Wall Street Journal with a big round of applause.

And while we're at it, let's also give a cheer to President Bill Clinton for standing up to the Wall Street Journal and the rest of the free-trade hypocrites—not to mention the Japanese themselves.

It's about time we had a President with the guts to act on this issue.

Brothers and sisters, the President is exactly right when he says that one-way trade is not free trade at all.

He is taking a lot of heat in this struggle and he deserves our support.

It is time for us to, show, again, where we stand.

Let us write and call our Senators and House members in support of the President's courageous position on auto trade with the Japanese.

Let me go further.

It is also important to mobilize now because the President needs our help in fighting the budget-cut atrocities that the Republicans will try to impose on our country's working families in the next one-hundred days.

As we approach these battles—let us not surrender to defeatism.

I tell you, brothers and sisters: the Republicans are weaker now than they were when Congress convened last January.

They do not have a popular mandate to wreck the country and it is our job to make sure they know that.

Let me tell you one more thing.

It is critical that we line up with President Clinton now for one more reason.

The 1996 elections will be here sooner than you can blink an eye.

And make no mistake about it—it is Bill Clinton who is standing between us and Phil Gramm . . . or Bob Dole . . . or, God forbid, Pat Buchanan, coming to live in the White House in January of 1997.

Need I say more?

I don't think so.

Turning now to another subject—as we all know, there is a huge gap between the accomplishments of the UAW . . . and how we are perceived.

Generally speaking, unions do not get the credit we deserve for what we contribute to the lives of our members or the well-being of our society.

Well, you know what, brothers and sisters—I say the time has come to quit believing what our critics say about us.

I say it's time to rely not on what somebody else says, but on what we know.

It is time to say—enough—to those who say that the trade union movement is too weak and too small and too old-fashioned to make a difference in today's world.

It is time to quit believing the propaganda put out by corporations, politicians and the media who want us to feel powerless and be powerless so that they may be even more powerful.

Brothers and sisters, ask yourself this question . . . if we're so damn weak, why have powerful corporations spent hundreds of millions of dollars to create a union-busting industry in this country?

And just why do they work so hard to make union organizing so difficult?

And have you ever wondered about this: Why does the media write our obituary . . . over and over and over again?

Let's really think about this.

You don't read story after story about how the Prohibition Party is dead do you?

Of course not.

That's because the Prohibition party really is dead!

They don't have to write their obituary over and over like they do ours.

Sometimes I wonder who is it they are trying to convince—themselves, or us?

Either way, my friends—it's time to quit believing this baloney about how weak we are.

It is time to put our media-induced inferiority complex behind us.

It's time for us to stand up to convicted felons and right-wing wackos like G. Gordon Liddy, Rush Limbaugh, and Bo Gritz.

There is nothing to be gained by keeping our mouths shut, and our pens in our pockets.

Let's start talking back to talk radio and writing more letters to the editor than ever.

Let's be clear here about something else.

It is not trade unions that are dinosaurs left over from some other age.

It's the G. Gordon Liddy's who find themselves in the wrong century and I'm sick and tired of those who try to tell us differently.

The truth is the truth.

It is trade unions who have proven time and again that we can and do adapt to new circumstances.

The UAW was born from the challenges created by the new industrial economy of the 1930's.

Since then we've shifted from peace to war and back again.

We've been leaders in integrating minorities into our economic, political and social life.

We've brought trade unions into new sectors of the economy and new places on the globe.

From the Chrysler bailout forward, we helped American industry turn around from its deepest peacetime crisis ever.

We've helped Ford and GM and John Deere and lot's of other companies change with the times.

And just so there is no confusion in anyone's mind—this entire union remains one-hundred percent solid in supporting the struggle of our members at Caterpillar.

They are trying to keep that company from backsliding completely into the nineteenth century.

And they have our full support.

You know, when you look at it closely, the basic situation now is very much the same as

it was sixty years ago when this great union was founded.

Now, as then, the questions before us have to do with how to distribute the wealth that dynamic new economic developments have the potential to create.

We are a richer country today than we have ever been.

Yet more people are poor.

We were once a rich country that led the world in the just distribution of wealth.

Now, we lead the industrialized world in how unfairly wealth is distributed.

That is not just sad. It's dangerous.

For if there is one lesson that emerges from the twentieth century, it is this: How fairly wealth is distributed has a great deal to do with how much wealth gets created.

We have also demonstrated in the past, that we will commit the financial means to sustain us in long and difficult collective bargaining and organizing campaigns.

Speaking of organizing, all across this union, in workplaces large and small, we have demonstrated that we can help workers organize under the most difficult conditions.

Not only is that true in our traditional industrial base—it's true in the growing service sector as well.

In fact, the UAW is now represented in just about every section of the economy.

By way of example, Local 6000, which represents the state employees of Michigan, is now the largest local in the entire UAW.

There is another kind of diversity that is also a basic UAW strength.

Our union unites whites, blacks, Latinos . . . and men and women, as does no other organization in American life.

In a time of media manipulation and hate-mongering—that unity is a mighty weapon in the fight for justice and democracy.

In that same spirit, I would also point out that the UAW has a solid and growing core of experienced, dynamic and talented trade union women.

The UAW also possesses widely respected technical expertise in its legal; research; health and safety; retired workers, communications; social security; community service; political action and other departments.

And speaking of political action—we have a political army of active and retired members that is second to none.

Another great strength is the leadership that is nominated to take the reins of this union.

They are battle tested. They are smart. They are dedicated and hard-working. They have a clear vision of the future.

They are the right leaders, in the right time, at the right place to do what needs to be done.

What's more, come next fall, they will have the added advantage of dynamic new leadership in the AFL-CIO.

Finally, the most important reason for my confidence in our future is represented right here in this room.

It is the membership of this union—the men and women that elected you to be here—that make up our ultimate weapon.

It is you, and those like you, in workplaces all over this country who build this union and keep it strong.

And it is you for whom I have been proud to work as your president.

I welcome, therefore, this opportunity to say thank you for all that you have done for me * * * and all that you have meant to me over the years.

No matter how trying the times, I knew that I could always count on you.

I knew that with teamwork in the leadership and solidarity in the ranks—I could call on this membership at any time.

And I have done so, many times.

You have never let me down.

You have never let your union down.

For that, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And on Thursday I will hand over the gavel knowing that this union's future will be even greater than its past.

Thank you again for everything. ●

RECOGNITION OF WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SMALL BUSINESS

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, as I'm sure my colleagues are aware, this week Washington has been host to the White House Conference on Small Business. This officially sanctioned conference brings small businesspeople from all over the country together to make recommendations to the President and the Congress regarding policy changes that are needed to improve the Nation's business climate.

In the past, many of the proposals made by the Conference have later been adopted by both the executive and legislative branches. The process of bringing together those that our actions affect directly for their input is a fine example of the kind of communication and democratic governance that sets our Nation apart.

I take the recommendations of the Conference most seriously. Rhode Island is a State of small business. Of the nearly 25,000 firms doing business in my State, over 21,000 of those have fewer than 20 employees. Enterprises with less than 20 employees account for more than 50 percent of the payroll expenditures in our State each year.

Clearly, then, what helps small business helps Rhode Island. One of the most important themes Rhode Island's delegation has sounded throughout the Conference and the preliminary activities associated with its is the extraordinary role the Small Business Administration [SBA] has played in our State.

As my colleagues will recall, Rhode Island suffered a double-whammy in the early 1990's. We had the same recession experienced by the rest of the Nation—but it was quite a bit worse in our manufacturing State. On top of that recession, we also had a private deposit insurance collapse that led to the closing of many of our credit unions, the lender of choice for many of our small businesses. The net result was an economic downturn compounded by a credit crunch of considerable proportions.

It was at this point that our Providence SBA office began to work with our surviving private lenders to establish designated small business lending funds that the SBA would consider guaranteeing on a case-by-case basis. This activist, entrepreneurial approach is one important ingredient in the small business recovery that has occurred. Lending is up; in 1994 the SBA backed nearly 300 loans in Rhode Island, and in 1995 expectations are that the agency will guarantee over 500 small business loans.