

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.

This rapid expansion is also a function of the Federal Government's decision to use fees to offset the cost of expanding SBA lending authority. It is likely that further reductions in SBA's subsidy rate will be used to preserve the SBA's ability to meet demand at the same time that SBA's cost of doing business are reduced. I applaud this and other changes being made at SBA that will allow programs to continue even while SBA does its part in reducing the Federal deficit.

Thus, Mr. President, the SBA is important to Rhode Islanders. I look forward to working with the chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee, Senator BOND, and other small business backers as we work our way through this year's appropriations bills and try to preserve the positive contributions of the SBA.

As further evidence of Rhode Islanders' strong support for this program, I ask that a resolution recently approved by the Rhode Island General Assembly be printed at the conclusion of my remarks.

The resolution follows:

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, the U.S. Small Business Administration was created in 1953 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to foster the growth of small entrepreneurs, and

Whereas, our Nation's economic prosperity is linked directly to the health of the small business community, and

Whereas, the Rhode Island business community is comprised of over 97 percent small businesses, and

Whereas, small businesses have grown 49 percent since 1982, they employ 54 percent of the American work force, account for 50 percent of the gross domestic product, and account for 71 percent in new job growth in 1993, and

Whereas, the Small Business Administration's (SBA) 504 and 7(a) financing programs are a public/private partnership that leverages private dollars and allows for continued access to capital for Rhode Island's small business community, and

Whereas, SBA's technical resources including the Small Business Development Center at Bryant College and the Service Corps of Retired Executives provide much needed counseling to the Rhode Island small business community, and

Whereas, the Rhode Island SBA District Office has approved over 800 loans totaling \$168.5 million in guarantee and 504 financing to the Rhode Island small business community from October 1992 to present, and

Whereas, this financial assistance has played a vital role in reviving the Rhode Island economy; now be it

Resolved, That the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests the United States Congress to financially support the U.S. Small Business Administration and its 7(a) and 504 financing programs, as well as its education/training and advocacy programs, and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and the President of the United States Senate, and to the Rhode Island Delegation in the Congress of the United States.●

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND DEREGULATION ACT

The text of the bill (S. 652) entitled the "Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act," as passed by the Senate on June 15, 1995, is as follows:

S. 652

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Purpose.
- Sec. 4. Goals.
- Sec. 5. Findings.
- Sec. 6. Amendment of Communications Act of 1934.
- Sec. 7. Effect on other law.
- Sec. 8. Definitions.

TITLE I—TRANSITION TO COMPETITION

- Sec. 101. Interconnection requirements.
- Sec. 102. Separate affiliate and safeguard requirements.
- Sec. 103. Universal service.
- Sec. 104. Essential telecommunications carriers.
- Sec. 105. Foreign investment and ownership reform.
- Sec. 106. Infrastructure sharing.
- Sec. 107. Coordination for telecommunications network-level interoperability.

TITLE II—REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS TO COMPETITION

SUBTITLE A—REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS

- Sec. 201. Removal of entry barriers.
- Sec. 202. Elimination of cable and telephone company cross-ownership restriction.
- Sec. 203. Cable Act reform.
- Sec. 204. Pole attachments.
- Sec. 205. Entry by utility companies.
- Sec. 206. Broadcast reform.

SUBTITLE B—TERMINATION OF MODIFICATION OF FINAL JUDGMENT

- Sec. 221. Removal of long distance restrictions.
- Sec. 222. Removal of manufacturing restrictions.
- Sec. 223. Existing activities.
- Sec. 224. Enforcement.
- Sec. 225. Alarm monitoring services.
- Sec. 226. Nonapplicability of Modification of Final Judgment.

TITLE III—AN END TO REGULATION

- Sec. 301. Transition to competitive pricing.
- Sec. 302. Biennial review of regulations; elimination of unnecessary regulations and functions.
- Sec. 303. Regulatory forbearance.
- Sec. 304. Advanced telecommunications incentives.
- Sec. 305. Regulatory parity.
- Sec. 306. Automated ship distress and safety systems.
- Sec. 307. Telecommunications numbering administration.
- Sec. 308. Access by persons with disabilities.
- Sec. 309. Rural markets.
- Sec. 310. Telecommunications services for health care providers for rural areas, educational providers, and libraries.
- Sec. 311. Provision of payphone service and telemessaging service.
- Sec. 312. Direct Broadcast Satellite.

TITLE IV—OBSCENE, HARASSING, AND WRONGFUL UTILIZATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES

- Sec. 401. Short title.
- Sec. 402. Obscene or harassing use of telecommunications facilities under the Communications Act of 1934.
- Sec. 403. Obscene programming on cable television.
- Sec. 404. Broadcasting obscene language on radio.
- Sec. 405. Separability.
- Sec. 406. Additional prohibition on billing for toll-free telephone calls.
- Sec. 407. Scrambling of cable channels for nonsubscribers.
- Sec. 408. Scrambling of sexually explicit adult video service programming.
- Sec. 409. Cable operator refusal to carry certain programs.
- Sec. 410. Restrictions on access by children to obscene and indecent material on electronic information networks open to the public.

TITLE V—PARENTAL CHOICE IN TELEVISION

- Sec. 501. Short title.
- Sec. 502. Findings.
- Sec. 503. Rating code for violence and other objectionable content on television.
- Sec. 504. Requirement for manufacture of televisions that block programs.
- Sec. 505. Shipping or importing of televisions that block programs.

TITLE VI—NATIONAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY FUNDING CORPORATION

- Sec. 601. Short title.
- Sec. 602. Findings; purpose.
- Sec. 603. Definitions.
- Sec. 604. Assistance for educational technology purposes.
- Sec. 605. Audits.
- Sec. 606. Annual report; testimony to the Congress.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 701. Spectrum auctions.
- Sec. 702. Renewed efforts to regulate violent programming.
- Sec. 703. Prevention of unfair billing practices for information or services provided over toll-free telephone calls.
- Sec. 704. Disclosure of certain records for investigations of telemarketing fraud.
- Sec. 705. Telecommuting public information program.
- Sec. 706. Authority to acquire cable systems.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this Act to increase competition in all telecommunications markets and provide for an orderly transition from regulated markets to competitive and deregulated telecommunications markets consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

SEC. 4. GOALS.

This Act is intended to establish a national policy framework designed to accelerate rapidly the private sector deployment of advanced telecommunications and information technologies and services to all Americans by opening all telecommunications markets to competition, and to meet the following goals:

(1) To promote and encourage advanced telecommunications networks, capable of enabling users to originate and receive affordable, high-quality voice, data, image, graphic, and video telecommunications services.