WORKERS RIGHTS
OMNI CELEBRATING PRO-LIFE DAYS

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers and their organizations. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions individual and organized workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. At this time when the gaps between the rich and the poor and between CEO and employee salaries are widening, let us remember and celebrate LABOR DAY, and resolve to win back the rights and strength of working people.

“It is best to think of this as a revolution, not of guns, but of consciousness, which will be won by seizing the key myths, archetypes, eschatologies, and ecstasies, so that life won't seem worth living unless one is on the transforming energy's side.”
Gary Snyder

2008 Newsletter Contents
Labor Day
Unions
AFSCME
Workers Bill of Rights
Taft-Hartley Act
(also account of Lioneld Jordan’s support of unions)

ARTICLES FROM DICK’S BLOG: Krugman, Solis, et al.

UNIONS
“A Labor Day Treasure for You”
peoplepower@aflcio.org

Dear Dick,
Happy Labor Day--the one day of the year set aside to honor America's
More than 70 years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "If I were a worker in a factory, the first thing I would do would be to join a union."

At the AFL-CIO's August Executive Council meeting, President Barack Obama referenced FDR's statement and took it further:
I think that's true for workers generally. I think if I was a coal miner, I'd want a union representing me to make sure that I was safe and you did not have some of the tragedies that we've been seeing in the coal industry. If I was a teacher, I'd want a union to make sure that the teachers' perspective was represented as we think about shaping an education system for our future.
That statement is a Labor Day treasure, and I want you to have the brief video that captures it.

I did work in a coal mine--so I know firsthand how right President Obama is. In 1890, the mineworkers who came together in Columbus, Ohio, to form their union were black and white, they spoke more than a dozen native languages. They had dirty, dangerous jobs. Bosses cheated them on paychecks, charged them for the tools they used and placed less value on their lives than on the lives of the mules hauling the coal.

But when they joined together as workers who shared a common fate, they began to build a better life. And when they built a better life for themselves, they helped build a better life for everyone in America. When they sent their children to college, America got a better education.
That's what a union meant 100 years ago, 70 years ago, 30 years ago. And it's what a union means today.
Working people coming together to build a better life. To build a middle class. To build opportunity for the next generation. To foster social and economic justice at work and in our society. To strengthen democracy and spread prosperity throughout America.
Today's unions--that's who we are.
Enjoy your Labor Day.
Sincerely,
Rich

P.S. I think you'll also like our new television ad airing this Labor Day weekend during Major League Baseball, NASCAR and college football. Take a look.

1. AFL-CIO NOW BLOG | Labor Day 2010: America's Workers
Losing Ground
Sep 4, 2010 ... Labor Day by the Numbers is a chart that lists pertinent facts about the economy in a quick, compact form with links to previous EPI reports ...
blog.aflcio.org/2010/.../saturday-labor-day-2010-americas-workers-losing-ground/
2. **YouTube - Secretary Solis' Labor Day Address (2010)**
   - 9 min - Aug 30, 2010
   
   This Labor Day, Secretary Solis wanted to talk directly with you -- the American worker. Tune in as she shares what she's seen and ...
   
   [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsXxMbFbZWQ - more videos »](www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsXxMbFbZWQ)

   Sep 6, 2010 ... Are American employers meaner than their European counterparts and American forebears?

   [www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn](www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn)

   New editor solicited; someone with a passion and the time to support working people.

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