



AFL-CIO Executive Secretary Richard Trumka Links NLG and AFL-CIO Struggles for Economic Justice and Workers' Rights

Richard Trumka, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, addressed close to 500 attorneys and friends at the SF Bay Area NLG Chapter dinner in May, 2002. He lauded the Guild's defense of the labor movement, noting he was proud to share common enemies – “the union-busting bosses, politicians and others who have trampled the rights of workers.”

Trumka continued themes he has emphasized for some time now – the centrality of the struggle for global fairness and the need for coalition building, e.g. coalitions of students and labor seeking to end sweatshops as well as coalitions for a living wage. Portions of his speech are excerpted below.

“For seven decades now, our union movement and the National Lawyers Guild have grown and grown together. Wherever working men and working women have marched for economic fairness and social justice, you've marched step by step and side by side with us. When we've been attacked, you've been there to defend us. When we've been jailed, you've been there to bail us out. When we've been denied our rights, you've been there to ably and eloquently represent us. From fighting for a living wage, for fair treatment in the courts for juveniles, for ending racial and gender discrimination, for city budgets that provide for the people and help lift up the poor, your work has been invaluable. We appreciate what you've done, and working families and our unions are enormously thankful for your generosity and goodwill – you are terrific.

“How often, as children, did we hear from our parents: be careful who you hang around with because people will judge you by the friends you keep. **However, in our case – our unions and the Guild – we're more proud of all of the enemies we've made together:** – bigots, fascists and haters, – the union-busting bosses, – the anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, anti-worker, anti-women reactionaries. What terrific enemies we've made together! We're proud to have made enemies of all of the politicians and so-called leaders who have despised the rights we stand up for — from Richard Nixon and J. Edgar Hoover, right on down to the Dick Armys and Tom DeLays and Trent Lotts of this world. And we can't forget Bob Barr, Dan Burton, Jesse Helms and John Ashcroft, and all those who would give anything to turn back the clock a century and undo all of the progress we've achieved and all the strides we've taken toward equality and justice – and the opportunity for people to lift themselves up and share the bounty of this country.

“With enemies like that, we know we're doing something right!

“What angers and frightens our enemies, of course, is that on our side we have good people who won't give up and won't give in – who won't be intimidated or demoralized – who won't sacrifice principle for what's easy or expedient. What frightens them is that we have people on our side with a passionate conviction and unwavering commitment to guaranteeing that every individual across this land, no matter who they are, will enjoy the rights that are theirs and have a fair chance to live out the life of their dreams.

“Workers should never have to choose between earning a living in a hazardous, unsafe workplace where their health and their lives are at risk – or not having a job at all. We believe bosses have not just an ethical and moral obligation to make sure that job sites and workplaces are safe – they have a legal responsibility to guarantee that they're safe. And when they don't live up to that responsibility, **we believe they should be afforded some quality time behind bars to consider why they valued profits more than the health of workers.**

“But as you know, having friends in high places can make all the difference, and the bosses have a kindred spirit in the highest of places these days. ... And with a wad of money jammed into Republican campaign coffers, the bosses have persuaded President Bush to trash our ergonomics rules and replace them with a pathetic, laughable set of meaningless, voluntary guidelines that have no teeth – target no industry – and would not be enforced by any federal agency. That's 10 long, careful years of work to protect America's workers trashed by this Administration – and that's a national disgrace! That's more than 1.6 million workers who every year suffer painful injuries on the job who will be denied the protections they have a right to. That's tens of thousands of workers here in California, especially Latino workers, who labor at hazardous jobs with repetitive motion and heavy lifting, who face crippling and disabling injuries – all for just trying to make a living and support their families. Musculoskeletal disorders – such as strains, back pain and carpal tunnel syndrome – already are going the wrong way in California – going up from 46 incidents per 10,000 workers in 1999 to more than 54 incidents today.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

“It’s a tragedy and a scandal, and our union movement will never give up – not until every workers is guaranteed a safe workplace.

“I’m telling you tonight that we will fight on this issue across the bargaining tables – we will fight on the work floors, in the press, down the halls of Congress and at the ballot boxes this fall. And we will turn the Bush Administration’s so-called ergonomics standard on its head because we’re on the right side and the American people are on our side.

“We’ll win because today’s labor movement in fundamental ways is tougher than ever, and much of our new strength comes from the wonderful diversity of today’s union members. We’ve come a long way in opening our doors to all workers, in truly helping all Americans lift themselves up. Today, almost two out of every 10 African-American men, and nearly as many African-American women, belong to unions. Today, the percentage of African-Americans who belongs to unions is higher than for any other group of U.S. workers. Likewise, union membership among other people of color is on the rise and the percentage of Latino workers in unions is up by 20 percent over the last two decades. Today 12 percent of Asian-American men and women are members of unions.

“Through unions, workers know they can be guaranteed a share of the wealth we produce, and that’s especially important for women and people of color who still have to fight in too many workplaces for fair treatment and a fair deal. Joining a union makes a huge difference for workers and their families. It raises wages by 40 percent for working women, by 44 percent for African-Americans, and by 53 percent for Latinos. And joining a union means huge differences in benefits — 86 percent of union workers receive health benefits on the job, compared to only 74 percent of nonunion workers. And almost eight out of every 10 union workers are covered by guaranteed, defined-benefit pensions, compared to less than half of workers who are not union members.

“But we haven’t just opened our doors, we’ve opened our minds as well, especially when it comes to embracing the newest arrived workers to this country. Many of you, I know, recall the days when organized labor saw new immigrants as a threat and there were few hands of help extended from our unions. That’s no longer true. **Today’s AFL-CIO proudly stands on the side of immigrant workers.** New arrivals from every continent are contributing their energy and talents to making the United States richer and stronger, and they’re also strengthening and reviving many of our unions. But immigrant workers should have full workplace rights in order to protect their own interests as well as the labor rights of all American workers. Today, millions of hard-working people who make enormous contributions to their communities and workplace are exploited by employers and denied basic human rights because of their undocumented status.

“The AFL-CIO supports a comprehensive reform of our immigration laws to lift undocumented workers from the shadows and bring them fully into our society and economy, with the full rights enjoyed by other workers — and we won’t stop until we get it.

continued on page 3 column 1 - top

Matthew Ross Introduces Richard Trumka at SF Bay Area NLG May, 2002

Matt Ross, Bay Area NLG and AFL-CIO LCC member, with Leonard, Carder et. al. in the Bay Area, introduced Rich Trumka, providing insight into this lawyer turned labor-leader. Trumka, was elected in 1995 along with President John Sweeney as part of a national effort to reinvigorate the American labor movement.

Matt noted that Brother Trumka mentioned before the evening’s program that he wanted to be simply introduced as a third generation coal miner from West Virginia. But Matt ignored his modesty to give Guild attorneys some real insight. Below is an abbreviated version of Matt’s introduction.

After Rich worked in the coal mines as a youth, he became active in his local and was elected to the position of Chair of the local’s Safety Committee. Those familiar with the UMWA know this is an important position. The UMWA had the best, most *state of the art health and safety program* ever developed – if mine conditions were bad, the safety program focused on three words: **SHUT IT DOWN!**

Brother Trumka was active in the *Miners For Democracy* caucus within the UMWA nationally. That group successfully campaigned against Union President Tony Boyle, a true viper and murderer of Jock Yablonski and a cancer on the labor movement. In the early 1970s, Richard graduated from Villanova Law School; he eventually worked with the UMWA legal staff. Rich participated in the successful litigation of *Carbon Fuel*, a significant labor law decision, to and in the Supreme Court.

After a few years in our legal domain, Brother Trumka returned to the mine fields, literally and figuratively speaking. He soon became President of his local union, and not long after was elected President of the International Union, serving in that position until 1995 when he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO with John Sweeney as President. His tenure in office as President of the UMWA was the second longest in the Union’s history, second only to the legendary John L. Lewis.

Before yielding the podium to Richard, Matt noted that the “Mine Workers union holds a special place in the history of the Movement for many of us. This is the union of the Molly McGuires, Mother Jones and the Ludlow Massacre. It also held a special place for the lawyers who served that Union.” Matt said, “In thinking about my remarks tonight, I did a little bit of utterly frivolous and totally unauthorized Westlaw research to confirm a long-held belief: I always suspected that, at least on a *per capita* basis, the UMWA has been sued or has sued more than any other national union. To test this hypothesis, I ran the phrase *United Mine Worker* through Westlaw and came up with over 1740 *hits* since 1944. ... SEIU and the Steelworkers had about a hundred more *hits* apiece, and the Teamsters came in with three times as many *hits*, but those unions are considerably larger, with many more locals than the UMWA to get *in trouble*. ... So, based on my not so reliable analysis, I feel comfortable awarding the ex-President of the UMWA, our speaker tonight, bragging rights and the dubious award for **MOST LITIGIOUS UNION**. Keep up the trouble-making and keep them cases coming!”

continued on page 3 column 1 - bottom

continued from page 2 column 1

“Today’s union movement is reaching out not only to immigrants but to all American’s who share our vision of a fairer economy and more just society. **Organizing the unorganized and building progressive coalitions isn’t an option any longer; it’s a priority.** Through our “Voice At Work” initiative and our Working Families Network, we’re reaching out in every community where there are people of like minds who are out of patience with our new Enron economy of corporate corruption and greed. We’re building bridges with people who are outraged by the drive of global capitalism for cheaper and cheaper labor at the bottom of the world’s economy. We’re building alliances to people who want America’s agenda to serve all Americans, not just the privileged few – to people who want a society that puts into practice every day the belief that all citizens should be able to seek and find equal justice under the law — regardless of the color of their skin or the size of their pocketbook – a society where the rights of workers are respected, where honest work is rewarded with fair wages, and where corporations are held to higher standards of honorable behavior – much higher standards!

“I know that’s my dream and I know it’s all of yours. So let’s keep pushing, keep marching, keep fighting, keep helping our union movement, keep helping working families. We’ll make it together.

“Because we are men and women, old and young, blue collar workers and white collar workers, African-Americans, Latinos, Asian Pacific-Americans and Native Americans. We are 13 million working men and women across America, and we are struggling together, fighting together, and we are winning together. Thank you very much.”

Trumka - Labor Lawyer, Labor Leader

by Joan Hill

Rich Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, is proof that being a labor lawyer does not disqualify you from being a labor leader.

Secretary-Treasurer Trumka addressed lawyers and legal workers at a recent event honoring longtime Guild Labor & Employment Committee member and worker health and safety activist Fran Schreiber at the San Francisco Bay Area Dinner in May, 2002. Trumka praised the Guild’s contribution to the labor movement.

Trumka touched on a number of themes of the Guild and the AFL-CIO – including a common focus on the need to protect workers, their lives, their communities, the environment and workers’ pension funds. Trumka honored Fran Schreiber for her efforts to protect workers in the area of safety and health.

Trumka continued themes from his remarks to the AFL-CIO attorneys at a demonstration in April in Chicago, that the labor movement was at war with “anyone whose greed puts their hand in the pockets of America’s working families,” and that the union is the way for workers to protect themselves.

Trumka referred to Fran as “the backbone and the heart and the soul of our progressive movement and our struggle for justice.”

continued in column 2

continued from previous column

He highlighted her career, from one coast to the other, in New York as a Public Defender, in Wounded Knee on behalf of Native Americans, and with respect to her work in California fighting for the health and safety of all California’s workers.

The AFL-CIO Executive Secretary concluded his Bay Area Chapter speech with examples of the positive effects of unionism on American working families. Union membership, said Trumka, means differences in benefits-pension and insurance, safety on the job and of course, wages. The common interest of the National Lawyers Guild and the AFL-CIO in comprehensive reform of immigration laws was also emphasized. Building progressive coalitions, according to Trumka, were not an option, but a priority. In almost a cadence, Trumka concluded urging Guild members, to keep pushing, keep marching and keep fighting for the labor movement and working families.

Local News - NYC

New York City has lost 107,000 jobs. The unemployment rate is at 6.1%. BUT only 3.3% of the labor force is receiving unemployment benefits. These facts spurred the NYC Labor and Employment Committee on to organize a training on Unemployment Insurance Advocacy on September 22, 2002. Together with the Unemployment Action Center and the National Employment Law Project, we brought law students, lawyers and advocates together to learn about unemployment insurance law and to urge volunteers to represent claimants in UI hearings. Governor Pataki’s refusal to extend unemployment benefits for 100,000 New Yorkers about to be cut off was also addressed by speakers from the New York Unemployment Project, which is organizing the unemployed.

Local News - CALIFORNIA

Governor Davis - A Partner in Progress

Unions won major new laws to help organize more workers and protect millions of working families in tough economic times. **Davis signed 16** California Labor Federation sponsored bills by session’s end. **Injured workers got a raise** in benefits and **tougher safety legislation** will help prevent injuries. **Unemployed workers got a raise and better notice if they face a layoff.** Our unions will be better able to organize immigrant workers with legislation that **protects immigrants’ workplace rights**, and to represent farmworkers with **new legislation to help achieve contracts in the fields.** Additional **pro-union legislation** was signed to assist court interpreters and UC workers. And a phenomenal victory was achieved with the **paid Family Leave bill.**

Davis Signs Immigrant Rights Legislation

Governor Gray Davis signed two bills that will give Braceros more time to recover lost wages and clarifies the State’s position on worker rights in relation to immigration status. From 1942 to 1950, many Braceros came to the United States to work on farms or railroads to relieve a wartime labor shortage. A portion of the Braceros’ wages was withheld as a savings fund, to be paid to the Braceros upon their return to Mexico. However, many Braceros never received such moneys, and many were unaware that they were owed moneys, while others who sought payment were unable to obtain it.

continued on page 7 column 1 - bottom



March 15-23, 2003



**The National Lawyers Guild Labor & Employment Committee
and
The Cuban Workers' Trade Union Federation**

present

***“NEOLIBERAL GLOBALIZATION AND LABOR RIGHTS”
The First International and Fourth Bilateral (U.S. / CUBA) Exchange
of Labor and Employment Lawyers, Neutrals and Trade Unionists in
cuba***

Meet with Cuban workers. Engage in direct dialogue with labor relations professionals from all over the world.

Since 2000, the NLG and the Cuban Workers' Federation (CTC) have organized bilateral exchanges in Cuba between U.S. and Cuban workers, lawyers, trade union leaders and judges. In 2003, the NLG and CTC will continue the bilateral exchange and add a separate international component, to which labor lawyers, trade unionists, academics and students from all over the world are invited.

Maintaining the bilateral component, with its emphasis on informal and frank discussion, will continue to raise the mutual level of awareness of U.S. and Cuban participants about both the realities of life for workers in each country and the legal and political foundations of their respective labor systems. Adding an international aspect will contribute to much needed communication between labor movements around the world, especially towards the goal of coordinating international trade union opposition to unchecked transnational corporate globalization. The bilateral foundation for the international meeting is a promising basis for balance and international trade union unity.

**Contact: Dean Hubbard, Coordinator, NLG Cuba Labor Delegation, Sarah Lawrence College,
One Mean Way, Bronxville, NY 10708, dhubbard@slc.edu - (914) 395-2410**

[Note: Price estimate of \$1700 includes airfare, hotel, registration fees, translation and guide services.]

**L&E Committee Sponsors Major Panel at NLG Convention - -
Labor Alternatives to the *Neoliberal* Corporate Agenda for the Americas**

The integration of the global economy under the “neoliberal” model poses the major challenge of the 21st century to labor and other social movements. One has only to look at the power of the World Trade Organization to eliminate national barriers to so-called free trade, including national laws protecting workers and the environment, and compare this to the complete powerlessness of the ILO to enforce international labor norms, to realize what we are up against. This dynamic is reflected regionally in NAFTA and its toothless side accords and, currently, in the so-called Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which US-based multinationals are pushing as a means to convert all of North, South and Central America and the Caribbean into a market for their products and a source of cheap labor; essentially annexing the weaker economies of the south. We must acknowledge, too, the success of the IMF in pushing the nations of the developing world to adopt the neoliberal philosophy of deregulation, privatization and austerity, which has worked such wonders for the economies of countries such as Argentina, and has pitted the workers of the world against each other in a race to the bottom.

Given the forces arrayed against workers internationally, the compelling need for inter-hemispheric coordination between trade unions and other social movements to develop alternatives to the globalization of unregulated transnational capitalism and specific manifestations such as the FTAA should be self-evident. The World Social Forum which took place in Porto Alegre, Brazil last year was an important concrete step in that direction. Both opportunities for and obstacles to further such steps exist throughout the hemisphere. Panelists will discuss the experiences and strategies of workers' movements in the U.S., Canada, Cuba and elsewhere in the Americas in addressing potential alternatives to the neoliberal model.

continued on page 5

Among other benefits, this panel will facilitate communication and could constitute a concrete step towards coordination between labor movements of the Americas. At a minimum, the trilateral foundation is an excellent basis for a balanced, challenging and provocative discussion.

Panelists

Guillermo Ferriol - chief counsel of Cuban Workers' Federation (CTC) and a leading Cuban proponent of international labor solidarity.

Ben Davis - AFL-CIO International Department, represents the U.S. labor movement in international solidarity work.

Sid Shniad - Research Director of the Canadian Telecommunications Workers Union in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Moderator: Dean Hubbard, Joanne Woodward Chair in Public Policy and Advocacy at Sarah Lawrence College, is a long-time trade union lawyer and international labor activist.

NLG Labor & Employment Committee and NLG Sugar Law Center Reception

Friday - October 18, 2002

- 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.



**SORRY - PARTY CANCELLED -
we will get together for dinner
after our meeting**

RSVP to Fran Schreiber at fcs@kazanlaw.com
or call (510) 302-1071.

Selected HIGHLIGHTS of NLG Convention for NLG Labor & Employment Committee Members

WEDNESDAY October 16 -

9 - 5 pm

ICLR organizational meeting and training. The ICLR.(Intl Commission for Labor Rights) is sponsoring an organizational/planning meeting at the NLG Convention (see article on page7)

9 - 5 pm

Natl Immigration Project advanced skills seminar - *Challenges to Deportation and Removal*

THURSDAY October 17 -

3:30 - 5:30 pm

L&EC Steering Committee (whoever is there at this time will meet at the L&EC table - we'll post a note there as to where we are meeting)

5:30 - 7 pm

Opening Session - *Aftermath of 9-11* - Special guest Lynne Stewart

7:30 - 9 pm

Informal dinner w/ L&EC members (we will circulate an e-mail to get an idea of how many and post the location at the L&EC table)

FRIDAY October 18 -

- 8:30 - 9:45 am **Workshops I -**
10 - 11:45 am **Major Panel - *The War on Terror, the Axis of Evil and the Pursuit of the American Empire***
12 - 1:30 pm **Women's luncheon -** Marcia Freedman, former member of Israeli Knesset, a founding member of feminist movement in Israel, founding member of Bay Area Women in Black and of just formed natl org Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace
- 1:30 - 2:45 pm **Workshops II -**
#11 ***Low Income Workers*** (Hadsell)
- 3 - 4:15 pm **Workshops III -**
4:30 - 6pm **Women and the Guild -** NLG will pay special tribute to extraordinary achievements of women who have worked for social justice in the name of the Guild.
- 6:15 - 8pm** **L&EC Labor & Employment Committee meeting - (we will post location at L&EC table)**
8:30 - 10:30 pm **L&EC Reception at the home of Laurie Traktman (see box on page 5)**

SATURDAY October 19 -

- 9 - 10:30 am **Workshops IV -**
#7 ***Bringing into the Fight: NAFTA*** (Benson)
#15 ***Immigrant Workers: Life after Hoffman*** (Narro)
#18 ***Disability Law*** (Frishberg)
- 10:45 - 12:15 pm** **Major Panel - *Strategies for Labor and Other Social Movements to Oppose and Develop Alternatives to the Neoliberal Economic Program in the Americas*** (see article on page 4)
- 12:15 - 1:30 pm lunch / regional meetings
12 n - 5 pm bus tour - Murals of East Los Angeles
1:30 - 3:30 pm Substantive Plenary
3:45 - 5 pm **Workshops V -**
#27 ***Disability Law*** (Frishberg)
- 6:30 - 7:15 pm **Reception -**
7:30 - 9:30 pm **Banquet - honoring Maria Elena Durazo, Margie Ratner, Marti Hiken, Roseanne Scotti**

SUNDAY - October 20 -

- 10 - 11:15 am** **Workshops VI -**
Workers' Rights Post 9/11 (NLG L&EC and Sugar) - (see article below)
- 11:30 - 12:30 pm **Women's Caucus**
1 - 2:30 pm **Plenary - Elections, Resolutions**

Workers' Rights Post 9/11: Who's Paying for Patriotism?

The only thing shocking about the Right's efforts to advance its anti-worker domestic agenda in *response* to the events of September 11, 2001, is how open and unabashed those efforts have been. Each new proposal in the *war on terrorism* does more to subsidize corporate coffers and weaken the rights of workers than enhance real issues of national security. This Panel will highlight efforts by members of the labor community to educate the public about the "war on terrorism" and the very real war on working people. The topics to be addressed will be:

* The USA Patriot Act and the homefront *war on terrorism*, their impact on our civil liberties, and the expansion of the term *domestic terrorism* to potentially cover labor disputes.

* Public opinion following the 9/11 attacks and how the right is using the tragedy to advance its pre-existing domestic agenda, including how other post 9/11 legislation is being used to attack workers at our ports and airports, where anti-terrorist hysteria is being used as cover for a blatant attempt to undermine trade unionism.

Gordon Lafer, Professor of Labor Studies at the University of Oregon and on the National Coordinating Committee of Scholars, Artists and Writers for Social Justice

Carol Sobel, civil rights/civil liberties lawyer specializing in First Amendment issues and employment law.

Maria Elena Durazo, President HERE Local 11

Moderator: Mark Fancher, NLG/Sugar Law Center

ICLR to Hold Organization Meeting at NLG Convention in Pasadena October 16

On October 16, 2002, a full-day organizational and planning meeting of the International Commission for Labor Rights (ICLR) will be held at the National Lawyers Guild Convention in Pasadena California.

The ICLR was officially launched on June 16, 2001, in Geneva by leaders of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), and the International Commission for Trade Union Rights (ICTUR). Its mission is to provide assistance to workers around the world who are seeking to exercise their rights under the ILO core labor standards. Commissioners will investigate violations of these standards and become involved as appropriate in campaigns to enforce these rights. Assistance might, for example, take the form of advice and legal consultation on rights and remedies under international and domestic labor law, and international human rights law.

The NLG has endorsed the work of the ICLR's leaders in developing the organization, and we invite you to inquire more about joining the ICLR and participating in its trainings and activities by writing to iclr2001@yahoo.com.

Jeanne Mirer

on behalf of the ICLR Steering Committee

Kevin Kolben, International Commission for Labor Rights

Tel/Fax 212-749-0917 or kkolben@kolben.net

Local News - CALIFORNIA

continued from page 3 column 2

"It's an outrage that many Braceros who worked in California during a national time of need have never been paid for their labor," Davis said. "This bill will help pay a long overdue debt."

AB 2913 by Assembly Member **Marco Firebaugh** (D-East Los Angeles) prevents defendants from using the current statute of limitations to dismiss legal actions filed by, or on behalf of, Bracero workers for failure to pay withheld wages, provided that the claim is filed on or before December 31, 2005.

SB 1818 by Senator **Gloria Romero** (D-Los Angeles), establishes declarations of law to ensure that all protections, rights, and remedies available under state law are available to Californians who have applied for, or who have been employed or who are currently employed in California, regardless of their immigration status. The only exception is the reinstatement remedies prohibited by federal law. This bill is intended to clarify any confusion created from a recent Supreme Court decision on the protections, rights, and remedies available to the nation's workforce depending on immigration status.

Some Disappointments - OSH Discrimination & Other Whistleblower Protection Legislation Vetoed

AB 2752 sponsored by WORKSAFE! and carried by Assembly Member **Elaine Alquist** (D-San Jose) was vetoed with a message from the Governor affirming the importance of protecting workers who experience employment discrimination because they exercise their rights to report hazardous working conditions or refuse to perform unsafe work. The message noted, however, that current law contained significant protections for the workers, and the proposed legislation could reduce the government's ability to properly enforce the protections.

WORKSAFE! was troubled by final compromises that reduced the civil penalty for workers suffering retaliation, and although it believes the legislation would not have impeded government enforcement, it may **not** have had a significant impact - in its final form - on a decades old problem.

If statistics show the Labor Commissioner's administrative changes are still insufficient to promptly and effectively protect workers, WORKSAFE! will rewrite the legislation to include meaningful penalties, and will seek official labor endorsement for the next legislative session.

Davis also vetoed **AB 2990** and **AB 363**.

Davis Signs Legislation to Improve WARN Act

Davis signed **Paul Koretz's AB 2957** (D-W Hollywood) strengthening the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act for Californians. This law will cover an estimated 5 million more California workers than are now covered by federal law. Impacted are establishments with at least 75 workers in which 50 or more are laid off. The numbers are computed on an aggregate, statewide basis, as compared to the federal WARN, which only recognizes layoffs at a single location.

Gov Davis Signs Paid Family Leave Bill

SB 1661 makes California the first state to enact a program of paid family leave. Authored by State Senator **Sheila Kuehl** (D - Los Angeles, this bill will provide workers up to 6 weeks paid leave per year to care for a new child (birth, adoption or foster care) or seriously ill family member (parent, child, spouse or domestic partner) beginning July 1, 2004. "California's working families will no longer need to choose between their paychecks and caring for their loved ones," noted **Art Pulaski**, CA Labor Fed Executive Secy-Treas, sponsor of this legislation. "**Big business opponents waged an intense lobbying effort to kill this bill, but the Governor has once again chosen to stand with the working families of this state.**"

Gov Davis Signs Historic Legislation for UFW

Following a 165 Mile March to the State Capitol, attended by thousands of farm workers and supporters, and an on-going vigil at the State Capitol, on Monday September 30, 2002 Gov. Davis announced he signed **SB 1156** by state Senate leader **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) and **AB 2596** by Assembly Speaker **Herb Wesson** (D-Los Angeles).

The historic legislation will allow many farm workers to finally realize the 1975 farm labor law's (Agricultural Labor Relations Act) promise of the right to organize and bargain with their employers. The new law will provide for mediation when contract negotiations between growers and farm workers stall and are dragged out. The law includes a five year "sunset" clause and a limit of 75 cases that can be brought under this law during these five years. The Governor's signature means that some of the poorest workers in California can win the life-changing benefits of union contracts for themselves and their families.

L&EC Meetings & FUN Stuff! NLG Convention - Pasadena 2002

Thu - Oct 17 - 3:30 to 5:30 pm - L&EC Steering Comm

Thu - Oct 17 - 7:30 pm. - Dinner - All Welcome

Fri - Oct 18 - 6:15 pm. to 8 pm - Full Committee

Fri - Oct 18 - 8:30 to 10:30 pm - Dinner!

Sat - Oct 19 - 10:45 am. - Major Panel

*Strategies for Labor and Other Social Movements to Oppose and
Develop Alternatives to the Neoliberal Economic Program in the Americas*

Sun - Oct 20 - 10 am. - Workshop

Workers' Rights Post 9/11 - Who's Paying for Patriotism?

STOP BY THE L&EC TABLE FOR LOCATION INFO

National Lawyers Guild

Labor & Employment Committee

c/o Kazan McClain Edises Abrams Fernandez Lyons & Farrise

171 - 12th Street

Oakland, CA 94607