

Labor battling Washington Legislature

OLYMPIA — Washington labor leaders are doing battle in the State Legislature. Sometimes it's with Democrats.

When it comes to health care, the most common sense reforms often run aground if monied stakeholders are opposed to it. Case in point this month is a "prescription privacy bill" backed by a coalition that includes the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. The

bill (HB 2664 in the House and SB 6241 in the Senate) would restrict pharmaceutical companies from purchasing physicians' prescribing histories for marketing purposes. WSLC reports that the bill is in trouble. A large majority of House Democrats support the bill, but it will not get to the House floor unless they can show that 50 Democrats are on board. A media campaign was planned for this week targeting De-

mocrats who seem to be favoring the pharmaceutical lobby on this issue. Two were in Southwest Washington: Vancouver Representative Deb Wallace (D-Dist. 17) was reportedly opposed to the bill, while Rep. Bill Fromhold District 49 (D-Clark County) had concerns and questions about it. WSLC is asking constituents to call their representatives.

Several other health care reforms are part of the package the coalition is pushing. One (SB 5261) would give the state insurance commissioner the ability to review any rate increases proposed by health insurance companies. That bill passed the Senate Jan. 31 by 31-18; a companion bill (HB 1234) is being taken up by the House. Another proposal would create a committee to envision the future of health care in Washington, which would come back with a proposal for lawmakers to consider.

The Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council is also pushing a set of bills, including one aimed at reviving career and technical education in Washington high schools. High schools would be encouraged to start programs in high demand, high wage fields like construction.

On the employment front, labor is supporting a green jobs measure proposed by Gov. Chris Gregoire. The bill would provide more than \$7 million in the next five years for workforce training and education programs to increase so-called "green-collar" jobs. The sector employs about 12,000 Washingtonians now, and backers say they want to triple that number by 2020. SB 6516 and its companion measure HB 2815 have each been approved in committee.

AFL-CIO blasts Bush renomination of anti-union NLRB chairman

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PAI) — AFL-CIO President John Sweeney blasted President Bush for renominating Robert Battista to a new 5-year term as chair of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Sweeney called the nomination "poisonous."

Battista has presided over arguably the most anti-worker, anti-union labor board in history. His last five-year term expired in December.

"Under the Bush Board, the National Labor Relations Board abandoned its statutory mission to protect workers' right to form unions and promote collective bargaining," Sweeney said. "In a series of results-oriented decisions, the Bush Board stripped workers of their rights while protecting employers — and with breathtaking bias."

The NLRB's party-line 3-2 rulings under Battista produced nationwide labor-led protests in November and a formal AFL-CIO complaint to the International Labour Organization that the agency breaks international rules. ILO is investigating the charges.

Along with Battista, Bush nominated management attorney Gerard Morales of Arizona and former NLRB member Dennis P. Walsh. Walsh has served on the Board twice, beginning with a recess appointment in December 2000.

Bush's nominees must now be confirmed by the Senate.

Swanson, Thomas & Coon

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Since 1981

James Coon	Ray Thomas	Kimberly Tucker
Jacqueline Jacobson	Margaret Weddell	Cynthia F. Newton

Tip of the week: It is best to provide your employer written notice of an on-the-job injury, even if you don't intend to file for a workers' compensation claim right away.

We represent people on all types of injury and disease related claims.

- Workers' Compensation
- Construction Injuries
- Asbestos/Mesothelioma
- Personal Injury/Product Liability
- Death Claims
- Social Security Disability

We provide straight answers at no cost on any of the above areas of law.

CALL US or VISIT OUR WEB SITE

(503) 228-5222

<http://www.stc-law.com>

FREE BARGAIN COUNTER

Free classified ads to subscribers

DEADLINE: Friday prior to publication

Published 1st and 3rd Fridays

Now accepting e-mails

Send to: Michael492@comcast.net

Mail to: NWLP, PO Box 13150, Portland OR 97213

(Please include union affiliation)

- 15-20 words • No commercial or business ads • 1 ad per issue
- Please print legibly • Sorry, we cannot accept ads over the phone

Ads MUST include area code *or they will not be published*

Automotive

'94 FORD 3/4 ton w/canopy, 1 owner, 460 w/auto trans, low miles, loaded, \$3,695. 503 654-5109
'93 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LTD 4WD, strong V8, leather, cd/mp3 player, maint. records. \$4,500 obo. 503-666-1864
'02 FORD F-150, 82,000 miles, V6, auto, diamond plated toolbox, AC, snow tires, \$6,995. 503-357-3293
'01 SATURN loaded, 1 owner, 25-30 mpg, excellent cond, 69,600 mi, new tires, 60% on brakes, 5 spd, \$5,500 firm. 503-913-7853
'01 HONDA XR650R, Baja designs road kit, aftermarket FMF pipe, power up kit, good shape, \$2,750 obo. 360-904-5686 or 541-550-7609
'99 BMW 323i, 26,000 mi, 5-speed, all options, like new, \$16,900. 503 381-4992

GLOCK 36 OR 26, must be in excellent cond, cash paid. 503 539-0288
MILITARY COLLECTIBLES, uniforms, helmets, swords, flags, rifles, pistols, Etc. US, German or Japanese. 503 852-6791
CROSS CUT log saws, slicks, double bit axes, blacksmith hammers, planes, woodworking hand tools. 503 819-3736
OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, postcards, old ephemera. Please call 503 201-6689

For the Home

DOOR, 36 X80", white alum clad frame, 30 x40" glass pane, 2 locks and LH hinges, \$30. 503 281-0181
DINING ROOM TABLE, glass top, ornate metal frame, six chairs, oval 66" x 36", \$250. Four Sansui speakers, \$50. 503 655-3353

Sporting Goods

TOP CONDITION, '06 27' Sprinter T.T. w/large slide-out, loaded w/extra large storage area, \$14,000. 503 325-0890 or 503 440-2367
6.5 MILITARY RIFLE, believed to be Arisakas Type I made by Italy for the Japanese Navy, damage to bolt, all serial numbers match. \$150 obo. 503 366-0218
CAMPER, 8' older cabover, 2-way fridge, 4-burner stove, hydraulic jacks, sleeps 4, good condition, \$600 obo. 503-659-4018

Housing

HUNTING/FISHING, 2 bed, 1 bath, manf home on lake, garage for toys, Sportsman's Park, Wamic, OR. 541 544-2030
FOR RENT, studio apt. 4124 S.E. 65th, Portland, washer dryer on sight, \$450+ deposit. 503-232-3685
ROCKAWAY BEACH house, 3 bed, 2 bath, sleeps 9, great amenities, minutes to beach. 503 355-2136 or 503 709-6018
ROCKAWAY BEACH vacation home, 3 bed, sleeps 8, beachfront, all amenities, \$175/nite. 503 842-9607

Wanted

OLD WOODWORKING tools, planes, levels, chisels, rulers, handsaws, shaves, leather tools, slicks, adzes, chests. 503 659-0009
CASH FOR old Mexican jewelry, Taxco. 503 653-1506

Miscellaneous

LOWERY ORGAN w/cassette player, treble, bass keys, peddles, instrument keys, bench, \$300. 503 774-0181
UTILITY TRAILER, HD, new 8 lug axle w/electric brakes, new light and jack, 9x6 steel bed w/tail-gate, \$1,050. 503 829-9374

NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

Call
503-
288-3311

Subscribe Today!

Receive 24 issues of the latest labor news and views from Oregon and Southwest Washington

Special group rate of \$7.92 on orders of 50 or more

Mail To: Northwest Labor Press
P.O. Box 13150
Portland, OR 97213

Name/Union Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____