

Senate rejects President Obama's jobs bill despite plea from jobless

WASHINGTON (PAI) — Trenita Coleman has a lot of experience in child care — and no job to show for it. The same thing goes for Margello Virgil in landscaping. Coleman's been job hunting for two years and

Virgil for at least a year. Both took a day off from pounding the pavements — Coleman gets up at 6 a.m. to start her 12-hours-a-day door-to-door job hunts — to come to D.C. on Oct. 11 to lobby lawmakers for President Barack Obama's American Jobs Act. It didn't work.

"I have 26 nieces and nephews" to help care for, Coleman says, and that doesn't count her 18-month-old son. "If I get a job, I can get a place to stay and pay my bills. The American Jobs Act would give me that hope." The Senate, however, took it away.

"I've been getting along on a little unemployment" — since his last employer, the D.C. subway system, laid off its landscapers, Virgil explained. "But with taxes and child support, there's not much left over." He adds without a job, and with benefits running out, his joblessness could soon mean jail — if he falls behind on child support payments.

The jobs act, by pushing infrastructure projects, would provide employment for highway landscapers, too, Virgil hopes.

But their pleas, as well as those from dozens of other jobless workers who visited senators' offices, joined by AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker, SEIU Secretary-Treasurer Eliseo Medina, AF-SCME Secretary-Treasurer Lee Saunders and the Rev. Paul Sherry of Interfaith Worker Justice, fell on deaf

ears.

That's because the Senate voted 50-49 to shut off a GOP filibuster against Obama's bill — and it needed 60 votes to end the talkathon. That didn't stop the workers or the labor leaders from campaigning for the jobs bill, in economic terms and in Sherry's case, moral terms, too.

"We commit ourselves to work and pray until justice is done, until every person in this blessed land wants and receives a good job," he said at a press conference before the vote, and before the group headed to lawmakers' offices.

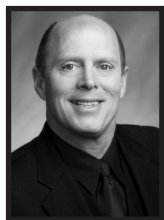
"We can rebuild our country by putting people back to work," Holt Baker declared, citing the proposed infrastructure projects in Obama's legislation, to help rebuild U.S. highways, bridges, railroads and airports, retrofit buildings to become energy-efficient and to modernize the U.S. power grid. Union workers would get jobs.

"Don't lose faith, don't lose hope," Saunders warned the group before the Senate vote. "Because your voices are being heard all across the country — on Wall Street as well as on Main Street." Added Medina: "We are here because the pain is real...and to protest our broken economy and our failing political system."

"It is past time for the Senate to do the job they were elected to do," he stated.

Davis to chair IBEW's District 9 pension fund

Clif Davis, business manager of Portland-based International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48, has been elected chair of the board of trustees for the IBEW District No. 9 Pension Plan.



CLIF DAVIS

The plan, which covers almost 30,000 members in California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii, has assets of nearly \$700 million.

There are 20 IBEW locals within the Ninth District participating.

The plan was established March 1, 1968. It is a multiemployer, collectively bargained, defined contribution pension plan with participant-directed investments.

Local Motion

September 2011

A list of Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces deciding whether to be union-represented — as reported by the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

Voting in union elections

Date Workplace (Location) Union Yes No

No unionization elections were reported for Oregon/SW Washington in September 2011.

Requesting a union election

Workplace (Location) Union Number of workers in unit

Fund for the Public Interest telephone outreach (Portland) CWA Local 7901	10
Franz Family Bakeries bakery outlet clerks (Springfield) Bakers Local 114	4
Coast Auto Supply (Portland) Teamsters Local 305 DECERT	10
Franz Family Bakeries bakery outlet clerks (Coos Bay) Bakers Local 114	4
Franz Family Bakeries bakery outlet clerks (Newport) Bakers Local 114	3
SW Washington Agency on Aging & Disabilities nurses (Springfield) OPEIU Local 11	4
Franz Family Bakeries bakery maintenance engineers (Eugene) Bakers Local 114	13

LEGEND

DECERT A decertification election occurs when some union-represented workers declare that the union no longer has majority support. A 'yes' vote is a vote for the union.

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