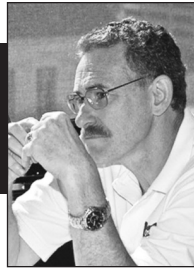


Who's On Our Side?

By Tom Chamberlain



FIGHTING FRINGE ISSUES

When we voted for annual legislative sessions in 2010, we were told that our elected leaders needed another meeting to rebalance the budget and address pressing issues that couldn't wait two years. It's a smart idea, and addressing any budget shortfalls as soon as we know about them probably saves a lot of pain in the long run.

But last month, a few legislators tried to use the short session to advance their fringe agendas.

Many good bills passed. Businesses can no longer stop unemployed workers from applying for open positions — giving everyone a fair chance at getting good work.

Local transit agencies can spend a little more to buy Made-in-America buses, streetcars, trolleys, and trains, if they want to. The budgets were balanced and, unfortunately, state workers and service providers are facing more layoffs. But many more layoffs were prevented. And our workforce system will finally get a thorough review to make sure that we're spending money on workforce development wisely, and that we're preparing workers for jobs that will really be around.

But the fringe-issue attacks were relentless, and they seemed to come from just a few legislators who let ideology trump good policy. They included:

WHAT THEY WANTED: A rollback of important cost-benefit analysis requirements that make sure any work that is contracted out really

saves money — and not just by paying hardworking people less.

WHY: A few legislators believe that we should contract out work, pay the same workers less, and allow private business owners to pocket the profits.

WHO IT WOULD HAVE HELPED: Business owners who would have bid on contracted-out work and pocketed state money.

WHAT THEY WANTED: Evaluations of teachers based on arbitrary student performance measures, just as we're trying to overhaul our education system and create a comprehensive system that makes sense for students, teachers and parents.

WHY: Paying teachers less and requiring them to teach to standardized tests (at the expense of other subjects) both undermine our public school system. This proposal came from the same legislators who gave public-school money to online schools last time the Legislature met.

WHO IT HELPED: Private schools and their funders.

WHAT THEY STOPPED: A bill requiring state agencies to buy paper made in Oregon, where our paper mills employ hundreds of Oregonians, but sometimes have trouble competing with heavily subsidized imports.

WHAT THEY FORGOT: Buying paper made in Oregon may cost a few cents more in the supplies budget line, but when you add up the costs

of those mills shutting and workers going on unemployment, it's a lot cheaper for the state to spend money locally.

WHO IT HELPED: International paper corporations.

There are a few things we can learn about these fringe conservatives from their plans. First, there is always someone looking to make money out of the deal, and their profits usually come at our expense. Second, they value your work differently depending on who signs your paycheck — a private sector worker is somehow "better" than their union brother or sister who does the same work in the public sector. And third, their plans are shortsighted — looking for immediate gains at the expense of Oregon's future.

As you listen to politicians gear up for the primary election, look for these ideals. No matter what political party you belong to, it's time to stop these anti-worker wolves who use phrases like "cost savings," "streamlining," and "private-sector profits" as sheep's clothing for their real goals.

The last two legislative sessions have shown that they truly are not on the side of working people, Oregon's middle class, or our future.

Tom Chamberlain is president of the Oregon AFL-CIO.

Passenger service and reservation agents at 'new United Air' vote for Machinists Union

Passenger service and reservation employees at the new United Airlines voted to join the Machinists Union, resolving representation issues for one of the biggest work groups at the world's largest airline.

In an election conducted by the National Mediation Board (NMB), ballots counted March 7 showed 8,305 votes for the Machinists and 5,865 for no representation.

"Voters had to overcome an aggressive anti-union campaign that included

an attempt to have the votes of nearly 1,000 IAM supporters invalidated," said IAM District 141 President Rich Delaney. "Despite United's divisive tactics, we will focus our efforts on building a better airline and unite employees into a single force to face the challenges ahead."

Chicago-based United had 16,720 employees eligible to cast ballots. The balloting followed the 2010 merger of United Airlines parent UAL Corp. with Continental Airlines Inc. and Conti-

mental Micronesia.

The Machinists Union has represented United Airlines passenger service and reservations employees since 1998, while Continental employees were without a union. Continental Micronesia employees had been represented by another union.

The new company is United Continental Holdings Inc.

The Machinists Union also represents 14,800 ramp service and stock and stores employees at the new United. With the addition of the newly acquired passenger service and reservations bargaining unit, the IAM now represents more than 31,500 employees at the combined airline.

"(This) win provides all IAM members at United with the advantages of size and strength that airlines themselves are seeking through consolidation," said IAM Transportation General Vice President Sito Pantoja.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Today, when a would-be U.S. president, Mitt Romney, is wealthier than 99.9975 percent of his fellow Americans, and wealthier than the last eight presidents combined, there's a global conversation raging about the rich, the poor, the gap between them, and the role of vested interests in the significant widening of that gap in advanced economies over the past three decades."

WAYNE SWAN, AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, THE 0.01 PER CENT: THE RISING INFLUENCE OF VESTED INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA, THE MONTHLY, MARCH 2012

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DUPLEX for rent, 2 bed, all appliance, no pets, smoking or Section 8, 2704 SE Tibbetts, \$1,100 per month. 503-788-1147

FOR THE HOME

FRENCH provincial bdrm set, twin, head/foot boards, 6-dwr dresser w/mir, 2-dwr night stand, chair, \$425 OBO. 503-753-1714
UPRIGHT OAK entertainment cabinet, \$35, 503-784-8326

WANTED

OLD WOODWORKING tools, planes, levels, chisels, handsaws, slicks, adzes, wrenches, folding rulers, leather tools, tool chests. 503-659-0009
MOTORCYCLES, scooters, quads, running or not, riding lawnmowers, VWs, tractors, cash paid, will pick up. 503-880-8183
COLLECTOR PAYS cash for older toys, older oil paintings and older American art pottery. 503 703-5952
SILVER COINS, US and Canadian, 1964

and older dimes, quarters, half-dollars and dollars for top silver prices. 503-806-6287
LIFELONG COLLECTOR buying U.S. and world coins to add to collection, paying fairly, any amount welcome. 503-939-8835

U.S., GERMAN, Japanese military items, uniforms, hats, helmets, swords, daggers, bayonets, rifles, pistols. 503-852-6791

COLLECTOR, cash paid for old fishing tackle, wood plugs, reels, creels, salmon fishing photos, etc 503-775-4166

PAY CASH for pre 1964 silver coins, and new American Eagle dollars. 503-449-0584 (Kenny)

SPORTING GOODS

CLASSIC 1949 JC Higgins girls 24" balloon bicycle w/skip tooth sprocket and All-state tires, excellent orig condition, \$135. 503-798-6517

SAVAGE 7MM mag/with scope, like new, \$675 or obo. 503-706-1182

FRANCHI SHOTGUN, model 48AL, semi-auto, 20 gauge, lightweight, nice, \$375; case of ammo, \$40. 503-253-1003

MISCELLANEOUS

FURNACE AIR duct pipe, approx 50' of 12", 8" and 6" plus 6 register connections, all new, \$100. 503-665-7633

RIGID RADIAL arm saw, 10" w/rolling stand, excellent condition, \$250 cash. 503-256-2416



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