

AFL-CIO opposes cuts to Social Security

By KENNETH QUINNELL
WASHINGTON, D.C. — AFL-CIO Policy Director and Special Counsel Damon Silvers made it clear that the labor federation opposes any benefit cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. He said these cuts would harm seniors and that the motivations of those who favor the cuts are suspect, at best.

Silvers told Salon: "The labor movement is going to fight to the death to stop cuts to Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid. Not 'unreasonable cuts.' Not 'cuts without tax increases.' Cuts period. We're against all of them, we will fight them ferociously, and we will give no cover to any Democrat who supports them."

Silvers said it would be "simply an invitation to a fratricide in the Democratic Party" for the president to take up a renewed push for "chained CPI," a proposed change in cost-of-living calculations that would reduce future Social Security benefits. "It hits the absolute most vulnerable people..." Silvers charged. "It's a proposal that has no merit at all other than that billionaires like it."

In an appearance on CNBC, Silvers rejected several outlandish claims from the network's anchors. The Los Angeles Times' Michael Hiltzik reports:

At that point anchorwoman Kelly Evans steps up to the plate. "Nobody's saying that there's not a good rationale for having these programs in place," she

"The labor movement is going to fight to the death to stop cuts to Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid. Not 'unreasonable cuts.' Not 'cuts without tax increases.' Cuts period. We're against all of them, we will fight them ferociously, and we will give no cover to any Democrat who supports them."

AFL-CIO POLICY DIRECTOR
DAMON SILVERS

says, charitably. "Of course people want to make sure that our citizens are taken care of. But that's almost not the point." (It's not?) Evans proceeds to assail Silvers and the AFL-CIO for refusing to

"negotiate" over seniors' well-being. "We're not embarrassed about that whatsoever," Silvers replies. "If you cut Social Security benefits or Medicare benefits to our seniors, to our most vulnerable people in the country, you are going to get no support on it."

Then anchorman Simon Hobbs breaks in to deliver what he thinks is the coup de grace, asking, "Are you as clear on the reality that if you don't cut entitlement benefits this country may well go bankrupt." That's certainly one of the most baldly ignorant statements about the country's fiscal condition and the effect of the two big social insurance programs ever to be heard on CNBC (and that's a high bar), since (A) the U.S. can't go "bankrupt," and (B) the country has more than enough resources to pay for all its obligations to its seniors.

Silvers responds more politely than I would have. "That's frankly not true," he says. "That's a lie put forward by billionaires who don't want to pay higher taxes." (He might have mentioned, but didn't, Peter G. Peterson, the hedge fund billionaire whose network of Washington think-tanks relentlessly pushes for "entitlement reform.")

"The only people who believe what you just said," Silvers added, "are people who are worried that their very large incomes will be taxed."

Donations sought for holiday party

Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA) and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council (NOLC) are accepting donations of toys and cash for their 17th annual Presents from Partners Holiday Toy Party.

The event is for families of unemployed union members and includes a luncheon, a visit with Santa Claus, and lots of toys. The party will be Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 Hall in Northeast Portland.

Donations can be dropped off at the

IBEW and United Workers Federal Credit Union or at LCSA (Suite 211). Both offices are located in the same building at 9955 SE Washington St., Portland; at the NOLC office, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., at the main office of Jobs with Justice, 1500 NE Irving St., Suite 585, Portland, or at any office of Sunrise Dental.

Toys will be accepted now through Dec. 10.

Call 503-231-4962 to make arrangements for drop off.

Low Prices!

WHITE & WESCO
"Always the best Quality"
10" SMOKE JUMPER
16" LINEMAN
HUGE SELECTION
WATERPROOF BOOTS
SIZES IN NARROW,
MEDIUM & WIDE
AI'S SHOES
5811 S.E. 82ND • 771-2130
Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9:30-5:30, Sun 12-6

**Tired
of
Working
in
PAIN?**

**Most Insurance
Plans Accepted!**

**PROUDLY SERVING
PORTLAND WORKERS
FOR OVER 29 YEARS**

**Beeson Chiropractic
helps bring the
relief you need!**

- ◆ Treatment for pain due to overuse and repetitive motion
- ◆ Chiropractic adjustments
- ◆ Treatment for accident and sports-related injuries
- ◆ Rehabilitation exercises
- ◆ Therapeutic massage
- ◆ Internal diagnosis and treatment
- ◆ Lab tests and x-rays



Dr. Dan Beeson, Chiropractor
7215 SE Thirteenth Ave. in Sellwood

CALL 503-238-7025



**We Shop the
Insurance
Companies
for You!**

We'll find the right coverage at the best price for all your personal insurance needs.

- Independent agency
- Fully union owned by Teamsters Federal Credit Union

Insurance Agency

503-251-2398

Toll Free 866-312-2399

www.cuinsuranceagency.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
- All lower case (NO CAPITAL LETTERS, PLEASE) •

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

AUTOMOTIVE

KARGOMASTER utility rack, fits truck 58" to 62" inside width, made of 2" pipe, very solid. 503-753-9571

2 STUDDER TIRES, 5-hole rims, P205 65/R15, \$60; tonneau cover off '02 Chev shortbed, bronze, \$150. 503-303-4227

'03 EXPLORER XLT, moon roof, PS, PB, tilt, AC, PDL, pseats, PW, 3rd row seat, leather, 153K miles, \$5,900. 503-663-4269

HOUSING

ROCKAWAY BEACH rental, 3 bed, 2 bath, sleeps 10, Jacuzzi, 5 min to beach/shops; Vacationhomerentals.com/43026

ROCKAWAY ocean front, 503-777-5076, 5 bdrms/2 ba, call for Fisherman's Special, http://rockawaybeachfrontrental.com

300 ACRES, Spray Oregon, trees and wildlife, will carry contract, \$750 per acre or reasonable offer. 541-468-2961

WANTED

OLD WOODWORKING tools, planes, levels, chisels, handsaws, slicks, adzes, wrenches, folding rulers, leather tools, tool chests. 503-659-0009

MOTORCYCLES, quads, boats, tractors, RVs, trailers, bicycles, autos, lawnmowers, cash paid will pick up 503-880-8183

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

BUYING US & world coins to add to collection, paying fairly, any amount welcome. 503-939-8835

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

COLLECTOR PAYS cash for older toys, oil paintings, American art pottery, and costume jewelry. 503 703-5952

HAM RADIO & short wave radio equip, (no CBs), including older 1950s/60s/70s equipment w/tubes. 503-823-4577

MISCELLANEOUS

HONDA 6,000w generator, electronic ignition, \$475; wood chipper 8hp \$295; shop heater 4000w \$155. 503-799-1715

CONTINENTAL FLATHEAD 6 cyl engine, industrial/stationary model F227, good shape, \$200. 503-253-1003

SPORTING GOODS

2 SKB SHOTGUNS, Model 280, SXS, 12 ga., 26" barrels, IC & Mod; 28" barrels, \$1,200 ea, both \$2,000. 503-366-0218

ISRAELI ARMS commander, 45 auto, cleaning rod & case, Model M5000 \$400, excellent 97203 503-926-3253

31' CHRIS CRAFT sport fisherman, 1968, twin 454s, freshwater cooled, newer electronics, lots of upgrades, \$18,000 obo. 503-504-7876.

18.5' JET BOAT GM 350, 200 hr, \$9,000. 503-761-5619

MENS HODGEMAN'S breathable waders, XL, new, \$50; 4 whitewater life vests, universal size, \$25ea. 503-236-5822

Your Oregon & Washington
Union Mail House.



MORE INK

Print anything, mail anywhere.
Formerly Wilham and Dickey

Proud Mailers of the
Northwest Labor Press

www.morelink.biz | 503-736-0111 ext. 40

IRS PROBLEMS?

- Haven't filed for ... years?
- Lost records?
- Liens - Levies - Garnishments?
- Negotiate settlements.
- Prepare offer in Compromise.

Call Nancy D. Anderson

Enrolled Agent
NPTI Fellow/America's Tax Expert
LTC-1807

www.nancydanderson.com

503-244-2577



RE/MAX
equity group

Grady Storms, Principal Broker
Senior Real Estate Specialist
Member of CWA Local 7901

7886 SE 13th • Portland, OR 97202
Cell/Text (503) 784-8326
Fax: (503) 232-2049

gstorms@equitygroup.com

LinkedIn/GradyStorms

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated