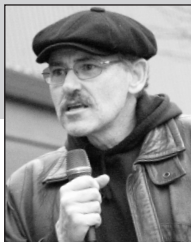


Who's on our side?

By Tom Chamberlain Oregon AFL-CIO President



Oregonian subscriber no more

I've been a subscriber to the Oregonian since I was 21 years old. It's been the first thing I read in the morning, every day, for decades. Newspapers are important to me: They present the big stories that impact us and determine what we will discuss throughout our day with co-workers, family, and friends. It's a timeless medium that has long served us well.

But these days not all newspapers are equal. And it's for that reason I am no longer a subscriber to the Oregonian.

When considering who has our back, as workers and as Oregonians, we need a statewide newspaper that shares our vision for Oregon's future, one that understands that the minimum wage is too low and that there are serious issues when a workforce's wages require billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies just to make ends meet.

As reported last month in Labor Press reporter Don McIntosh's article "Up is down," it is very troubling to see a paper like the Oregonian flip-flop on a major issue within the span of a week, especially when that issue is a straight shot at giving thousands of Oregonians a better life by raising our minimum wage.

Sadly, I've grown accustomed to seeing attacks on workers pop up in the Oregonian, and it's made it quite clear whose side they are on. Not ours. Not when ripping PERS, lobbing rocks at our labor movement, and ignoring the issues that Oregon's workers really care about is a common theme.

Newspapers are a hallmark of our society, and we deserve a paper for Oregon's people, not a mouthpiece for the loud opinions of an editorial board that just doesn't understand the economy that we're all living in.

Income inequality is the defining issue of our time. What we do to fight it — whether that be raising wages, forming unions, or working toward a secure retirement — will set the stage for the next generation. I don't want to see my grandkids grow up in a world where 1 percent of the people can create lopsided policies that keep them rich and the rest of us struggling.

Based on their coverage and opinions, I'm convinced the Oregonian doesn't share that perspective. That's not the kind of newspaper I want to read. It's the same reason I don't watch Fox News. There's just too much distortion and not enough balance to their coverage.

I'm done supporting media that vilify workers who are standing up for a fair shot. Anytime a worker speaks out, they should be commended for taking action, for trying to raise the bar, and for inspiring the hopes and dreams of everyone who works for a living. That's why I'm cancelling my subscription to the Oregonian, turning off biased news programs, and seeking the truth from publications who take their journalistic integrity seriously.

Tom Chamberlain is president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, a 120,000-member-strong federation of labor unions.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Who was Bayard Rustin?

By Kenneth Quinell
AFL-CIO NOW blog

Bayard Rustin (1912-1987) has been referred to as the "most important civil rights leader you've never heard of." A key mentor of Martin Luther King, Jr., he served the trade union and civil rights movements for decades as a theorist, tactician and organizer. He conceived the coalition of liberal, labor and religious leaders that supported passage of the civil rights and anti-poverty legislation of the 1960s. And as the first executive director of the AFL-CIO's A. Philip Randolph Institute, he worked to ensure African American workers' rightful place in the House of Labor. Rustin was also silenced, threatened, arrested, beaten and fired from leadership positions because he was an openly gay man in a severely homophobic era.

Rustin was tapped to organize the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, an event for which he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Organized during a two-month period, Rustin helped create what would be the largest protest in America's history at that point.



The manual that was handed out by Rustin and other leaders of the march made it clear that economic and workers' rights were an integral part of the fight for civil rights for African Americans. The list of demands central to the march included a massive job training and placement program with a living wage, a national minimum wage that gave all Americans a decent standard of living, an expanded Fair Labor Standards Act, and a federal Fair Employment Practices Act that would prohibit discrimination not only by the government, but by employers and unions, too.

LOCAL MOTION → JANUARY 2015

The following are Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces where workers are determining whether to be represented by a union. The thumbs-up symbol means workers will be union-represented. Thumbs-down means they'll be on their own. Decert means a decertification election, where union-represented workers vote whether to remain union. The information comes from the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

Election Requests

Employer (Location) Union

ABM Onsite Services (Portland International Airport) IAM District Lodge W24
■ 28 workers – baggage handlers and dispatchers

Election Results

Employer (Location) Union

Curry Community Health (Gold Beach) SEIU Local 503 10-19 🗳️

WASHINGTON

Unions want lawmakers to tie Boeing tax breaks to jobs

A new poll shows more than two-thirds of likely Washington voters support a requirement that Boeing maintain jobs and provide living wages if it's going to get state tax breaks.

In November 2013, a special session of the Washington Legislature extended tax cuts for Boeing through 2040. The \$8.7 billion price tag made it the largest tax subsidy in U.S. history. Boeing started moving work out of state soon after.

Now two unions at Boeing — the Machinists and SPEEA — are calling for legislation to reduce the tax break if in-state employment drops below certain benchmarks, and eliminate it if the company doesn't pay wages equal to the typical Washington worker's paycheck by year three of employment.

The poll, conducted Feb. 2-8 by EMC Research, found that 73 percent of the public supports tying tax breaks to jobs, and 68 percent support establishing a wage standard for companies receiving the tax breaks.

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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

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