

General Council speakers, actions stressed OPEU's ideals

Support for strikers; national figures speak



Vice President Al Gore said that the forces against us are the same as those seen nationally. Dawn Morgan looks on.

Vice President Gore identifies with our struggle: "We're on your side."

"... Neither will we forget the struggle you're involved in, which is part of a larger ongoing struggle after all, which is whether we're going to give working men and women the respect and dignity they deserve in this country.

"Part of the forces that are arrayed against you are the same forces that scream bloody murder about a tax rate increase that only affected the wealthiest 1% of Americans, even though it enabled us to give working families a huge tax cut and to lift working families with children out of poverty for a change in the United States. Once we started focusing on working families, all of a sudden the economy started turning around..."

"I want you to know what side we're on. We're on your side."

Al Gore

Vice President of the United States

OPEU-endorsed candidate for Governor Kitzhaber knows importance of our work

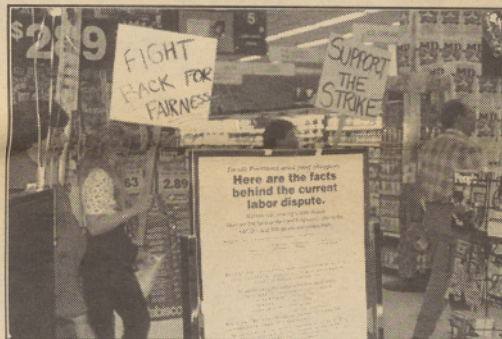
"Unfortunately, public employees have been overtaken by circumstances and now are being unjustly attacked. Not for anything that you've done. Because you haven't done anything different. You've worked hard, you're supporting your families. You've been involved in your communities. And you've taken an active role in public issues. And been an important part of Oregon's society..."

"And let no one forget exactly who public employees are. You're the people who educate our

children. You're the people who patrol our streets, and our neighborhoods, and our highways. You're the people who take care of the frail elderly, and people with mental disorders. You're the people who guard the convicted criminals in our prison system. You are just as important to the fabric of this state as those in the private sector work force and I will not tolerate — nor should anyone tolerate — the politics of fear and the politics of intimidation."

John Kitzhaber

OPEU-endorsed candidate for Governor



The march on Fred Meyer: Joining with strikers from UFCW Local 555 and the Teamsters at the Stadium Fred Meyer, top; taking our message inside the store, above.

Morgan highlights strengths of OPEU

"I know there are people out there who would like to predict the demise, the downfall of organized labor, especially those public employee unions.

"But, I'm here to tell you, this Union is stronger than it's ever been before. ... In my own personal opinion, the reason we're stronger than we were two years ago, four years ago, any time you can list, is because we're maturing as a labor union.

"Those of you who were here in '87 understand in that year, the year state employees went on strike, this organization moved from being an association, to being a real, live union, with union values and a commitment to the trade union movement.

"We have now reaped the benefits of moving into real trade unionism. We now have a political arm that has to be reckoned with both by our friends and our enemies. We are able to shape the public debate on issues that are important to our members.

"We also are reaping the rewards of our commitment to organizing the unorganized. I think that is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3