

Local Electricians



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The Electrical Workers Minority Caucus Third Annual National Conference January 16 & 17

More than 125 delegates from across the U.S. and Canada will be attending the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC) 3rd annual National Conference, January 16th and 17th at the Benson Hotel. The conference theme is "Implementing the Plan." The purpose of the EWMC is to promote and support African-Heritage and other minorities in attaining leadership positions within

the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

Norm Hill, National President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) will be the guest speaker for the Saturday luncheon. The APRI is an arm of the National AFL-CIO, dedicated to empowerment and leadership training for African-Heritage workers.

Oregon State Representative, Mar-

garet Carter will give the delegates a warm welcome to the Pacific Northwest and lead the Black National Anthem, Lift Every Voice and Sing!

IBEW is an AFL-CIO affiliated union with approximately 700,000 members in the U.S. and Canada.

For a complete agenda of workshops and speakers call Donna Hammond at 241-4644 or Keith Edwards at 284-4805.



"The dream is one of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where man will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few; a dream of a land where men do not agree that the color of a man's skin determines the content of his character; a dream of a place where all our gifts and resources are held not for ourselves alone but as instruments of service for the rest of humanity; the dream of a country where every man will respect the dignity and worth of all human personality, and men will dare to live together as brothers..."

Martin Luther King, Jr. - 1960



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King's Goal To "Redeem The Soul Of America"

Excerpts from 1991 speech by Norman Hill, former associate of Dr. Martin Luther King and National President of the labor union-based A. Philip Randolph Institute.

...How can we understand King's assertion that the goal of his lifework was to "redeem the soul of America"...What does it mean to redeem the soul of a nation? What is the soul of our nation? Does it have certain specific creed or color to it? And, what does redemption have to do with the Black-labor alliance?

Let us first confront directly certain unreal stereotypes about the labor movement. If labor -- allegedly -- only helps blue-collar workers, and if labor -- allegedly -- only exists to be corrupt and raise the wages of our own members at the expense of everyone else, then one could say that labor is interested only in grease and in greed, and certainly not in anything as noble as human spirituality or redemption.

King's speech to sanitation workers in Memphis, given on the day before his assassination, comes to mind to combat these twisted and misleading anti-labor stereotypes: "you are demanding that this city respect the dignity of labor. So often we overlook the work and the significance of those who are not in the so-called big jobs. But let me say to you tonight that whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity and is for the building of humanity, it has dignity and it has worth!"

In fact, throughout our long and proud history, the labor movement has sought to honor the dignity of the individual, and respect the worth of all

humanity, regardless of their social class or position or race or creed. This egalitarian and democratic spirit is our ideal, and in a very real sense is also the soul that must be redeemed.

We need a new view of human existence; we need to reassert the value of work. It is false and misleading to imply that while you work with your hands, your soul is not also nourished and exercised. We need a concept of humanity that emphasizes the holiness and uniqueness of the entire human personality, the physical as well as the spiritual. It is precisely such separations -- mental versus manual work, blue-collar versus white-collar, Black versus white -- that oppress us as a society. It is this spiritual blind spot in our workplaces, our imaginations, and our souls, that keep us as a nation from doing the more concrete, the more practical things that we need to do to honor the full dignity of all our citizens -- to feed our hungry, educate our children, house our homeless, give medical care to our ill, and give jobs and job training to our unemployed, our underemployed, our unskilled, to our workers put permanently, callously, and systematically out of work by the excesses of the Reagan-Bush laissez-faire economic policies...

When King accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he said: "I refuse to accept the idea that humanity is mere flotsam and jetsam in the river of life which surrounds us. I refuse to accept the idea that the 'isness' of humanity's present nature makes us morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal 'oughtness' that forever confronts us."

But isn't that what we are always

told when we propose new programs to meet pressing social needs in this country? That there isn't enough money, that we are being too idealistic, that America could never really hope to take care of all those things that we ought to?...

There is an unforgettable and tragic poignancy to a person or a nation that gives up, that turns its back on its dream settling for less than it really deserves. Because we know in our hearts that we can win this battle. Sure, there are tough budget choices -- but when poll after poll shows that Americans are willing to raise taxes to meet specific, pressing social needs, only the conservative...can fail to believe in the innate goodness of humanity, or at least in the potential for goodness that we all have, the potential of human spirit to achieve and earn redemption...

For, in the final analysis, when we are asked to account for our choices and our actions, we shall be reminded of the words of our founder and namesake, A. Philip Randolph: "Salvation for a race, nation or class must come from within. Freedom is never granted; it is won. Justice is never given; it is exacted. Freedom and justice must be struggled for by the oppressed of all lands and races, and the struggle must be continuous, for freedom is never a final fact, but a continuing evolving process to higher and higher levels of human, social, economic, political and religious relationships..."

(The Portland Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7 PM at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. 7th, Portland, OR.

The Portland A. Philip Randolph Institute Welcomes Norman Hill National President of APRI

To A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin, APRI's co-founders, the fight for workers' rights and civil rights were inseparable.

Randolph (1889-1979) was the greatest black labor leader in American history and the father of the modern American civil rights movement. Rustin (1912-1987), a leading civil rights and labor activist and strategist, was the chief organizer of the historic 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and Randolph's greatest protege'.

Randolph and Rustin forged an alliance between the civil rights movement and the labor movement. They recognized that blacks and working people of all colors share the same goals: political

and social freedom and economic justice.

This Black-Labor Alliance helped the civil rights movement achieve one of its greatest victories - passage of the Voting Rights Act, which removed the last remaining legal barriers to broad black political participation.

Inspired by this success, Randolph, and Rustin founded APRI in 1965 to continue the struggle for social, political and economic justice for all working Americans. Today, APRI is led by President Norman Hill, who served as Executive Director under the two founders, and Chairman Leon Lynch, International Vice President for the United Steelworkers of America.

King, on speaking: " Unfortunately, when hope diminishes, the hate is often turned most bitterly toward those who originally built up the hope...the only time that I have been booed...I went home that night with an ugly feeling...I finally came to myself, and I could not for the life of me have less than patience and understanding for those young people...their hopes had soared. They were now booing because they felt that we were unable to deliver on our promises [of equality]."

A.P.R.I. Portland Chapter Itinerary

Friday 1/15/93

8:00 am Labor Breakfast Kirkland Union Manor
12:00 noon Portland Bldg.

Saturday 1/16/93

9:30 - 12:00 Summit Benson Hotel
12:30 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus Conference Luncheon Benson Hotel

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"I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits"

Martin Luther King, Jr. - Acceptance speech, Nobel Peace Prize, Dec. 10, 1964



What begins with a great idea sometimes takes a dream to see it through. We're proud to honor the man who gave Americans, both black and white, a share of his dream.



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Martin Luther King
1929-1968

"I have a dream that one day the nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed...all men are created equal."