

BCTGM *News*

JANUARY/
FEBRUARY 2008

VOLUME 10
NUMBER 1

International Solidarity: a Key to Organizing





the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Working Families Suffer As...

"THE CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST"

For seven years, the politicians running this country have forced upon the American people an economic plan that has had one purpose—to make the richest individuals and wealthiest corporations in our country even richer and wealthier than they already are.

To that end, they have been successful. But, in doing so, these political leaders have shredded the standard of living and quality of life for millions of American families.

In doing so, they have thrown the country into the worst economic crisis in 25 years, jeopardizing the economic foundation of our great country.

Seven years of enormous tax cuts for the ultra-rich have squandered a \$236 billion dollar budget surplus and created \$3.5 trillion in new federal debt—suffocating economic development and job growth and saddling future generations of Americans with a financial burden they cannot afford and do not deserve.

More reckless and job-destroying “free-trade” agreements and new tax advantages for corporations that close production facilities in the United States and move them to low-wage countries around the globe have cost our economy more than 3 million good, high-wage manufacturing jobs—leaving behind devastated families and financially-strapped communities.

Seven years of energy policy being written by and for the financial benefit of the handful of multinational oil and gas companies have left American workers spending an ever-increasing portion of our paychecks to fill up our cars and heat our homes.

Seven years of health care policy being written by and for the financial benefit of the largest health insurance and drug companies have left American workers struggling to see that our loved ones receive the basic medical care they need.

Seven years of banks and mortgage companies running amok, operating virtually unregulated, have resulted in the greatest home foreclosure crisis since the Great Depression. While banking industry speculators and Wall Street hotshots have pocketed tens of millions of dollars from the subprime mortgage scam, working people are losing their homes and everything they have worked so hard to achieve.

Seven years of a Labor Department turning a blind eye to vicious employer harassment of workers coupled with an employer-biased Labor Board have left

American workers handcuffed in their desire to join a union and improve their lives.

This is the legacy of political leaders who came to power riding on the backs and wallets of big business and the corporate elite. Sadly, many working people voted to put these people into office, with the belief that somehow these representatives of big money would protect the interests of workers.

We now have seven years of proof positive that the warnings and objections raised by the labor movement about the true allegiance of this Administration were accurate and justified.

Between now and November, it is the responsibility of all of us to do everything we can to ensure that the person elected President is a leader who advances an economic plan that has only one purpose—to improve the lives of ALL Americans and not just the privileged few.

What an enormous and refreshing change that would be from the past seven years!

Frank Hurt

BCTGM International President

Official Publication of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union
10401 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, Maryland 20895-3961
(301) 933-8600
www.bctgm.org
Frank Hurt, Editor
Corrina A. Christensen, Assistant Editor

BCTGM General Executive Board
President Frank Hurt • **Secretary-Treasurer** David B. Durkee
Executive Vice President Joseph Thibodeau • **Vice Presidents**
 Steve Bertelli • Anthony L. Johnson • Sean Kelly
 Micheal T. Konesko • Arthur Montminy
 Robert Oakley • Randy Roark

BCTGM General Executive Board Members
 Joyce Alston • Edward Burpo • Johnny Jackson
 Paul LaBuda • Richard Lewis • Narcisco Martas
 Vester Newsome • William F. Pearce • Ron Piercey
 Danny Murphy • Tony Pegram • Donna Scarano
 Brad Schmidt • Doyle Townson

BCTGM News (ISSN 1525-4860) is published bi-monthly by the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union, 10401 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895-3961. Periodicals postage paid at Kensington, MD and at additional mailing offices. Subscription to new members only. Postmaster: Send address changes to BCTGM News, 10401 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895-3961.

BCTGM Participates in Historic Global Union Conference

The BCTGM, along with more than 200 union representatives and activists from over 60 nations, participated in an historic two-day gathering to brainstorm ways to increase organizing and cooperation within the global labor movement.

The two-day conference, “Going Global: Organizing, Recognition and Union Rights,” was sponsored by the Council of Global Unions (CGU), a governing body composed of representatives from numerous international labor federations, and hosted by the AFL-CIO at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies, in Silver Spring, MD.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring together a large group of high level labor leaders from across the globe to deliberate, and in some cases debate, ideas and strategies to combat the rising power of global corporations and national governments’ attack on working families.

According to Guy Rider, general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, “What we have now is a very clear recognition that we cannot, as an international labor movement, respond to international phenomena and international operations of capital with purely national responses.”

The conference featured extensive discussions in a town hall format on a myriad of issues, including recent examples of global solidarity in organizing wins. David Durkee, BCTGM Secretary-Treasurer and Director of Organization, spoke to the assembly about the BCTGM’s recent



Members of the IUF delegation include (from left to right) BCTGM Intl. Dir. of Research & Education Ray Scannell, IUF Regional Coordinator (Russia) Kirill Buketov, BCTGM Intl. Secy. Treas./Dir. of Organization David B. Durkee, IUF General Secy. Ron Oswald and Asst. Dir. of Research & Education Matthew Clark.

organizing victory at Dannon’s yogurt facility in Minster, Ohio and described how important the support from Dannon’s unionized workers in Europe and Asia was to the union’s victory.

Many of the labor leaders acknowledged that globalization and the increased predominance of global companies have hurt national union’s bargaining power and leverage. However, according to Durkee, the Dannon organizing win is one example of the power and effectiveness of global solidarity in an organizing drive.

Securing the right to engage in collective bargaining was also highlighted. In his opening remarks, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney stated, “There’s no greater challenge than making it possible for all workers from all

nations to form unions and lift themselves with collective bargaining.”

Speaking on that theme, several labor leaders from developing countries spoke on the importance of having collective bargaining rights signed into law and, more importantly, having those laws enforced. In addition, there was a discussion about the recent Labor Party victory in Australia which was the result of a two and a half year campaign led by the labor movement to oust the right-wing, anti-labor conservative government.

The conference also featured a special forum on Capitol Hill which focused on the Employee Free Choice Act. Participants included Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Representative George Miller (D-Calif.).

AFL-CIO Launches Massive Health Care Survey

On January 15, the AFL-CIO launched its largest-ever online survey to capture Americans' real experiences with the broken health care system in the U.S. Survey responses will be given to the presidential candidates, every U.S. Senator and Representative, every candidate for Congress and state and local officials in every state in the country. The AFL-CIO expects many thousands of responses, which will make this survey one the largest data sets available on individuals' and families' health care experiences. The survey is available at www.healthcaresurvey.aflcio.org.

"You don't have to look far to see how broken and expensive health care in America is," AFL-CIO President John Sweeney says. "We are doing this survey because we want to be sure every leader in our country understands exactly what's going on—every elected official from mayor right on up to the top, and every candidate."

Questions will cover such topics as:

- Whether Americans are going into debt because of medical bills;
- Whether they are instead skipping follow-up visits, treatments and prescriptions because they can't afford to pay for them;
- Whether people are locked into jobs for fear of losing health insurance;
- What Americans are paying out of pocket each year for health care.

Perhaps most importantly, the survey will invite respondents to tell their own personal stories, in as much detail as they choose.

The survey will run for one month and is open to everyone. Participants can choose to keep their responses anonymous or have them published online with their first name.

In addition to reminding candidates what voters are going through, the results influence the legislative debates about policy reform.

2008
HEALTH CARE
FOR AMERICA SURVEY



THE 2008 HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA SURVEY
GET INVOLVED!

Tell your story at www.healthcaresurvey.aflcio.org

HOT FACTS AMERICA'S **BROKEN** HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

■ **Premium costs are rising three times faster than wages or inflation**

- The average premium for family health insurance coverage today is more than \$12,000—and it's expected to double by 2016 unless we do something.

■ **Exploding costs are hurting working families**

- One in four families had a problem paying for medical care in the past year—and more than two-thirds of those with problems had insurance.
- Nearly 30 percent say someone in their family has delayed medical care in the past year.
- Every 30 seconds, someone files for “medical bankruptcy.”

■ **Rising costs are hurting our employers**

- As health costs increase, employers that offer health coverage are finding it harder to compete—with companies in countries that have universal coverage and with nonunion employers here in America that don't offer benefits.

■ **As costs rise, more people are uninsured**

- Today, 47 million people in our country have no health coverage—including 8.7 million children—and these numbers are going up. In 2013, if we don't change things, 56 million of us will be uninsured.

■ **Retirees especially are losing employer-sponsored health care**

- Only half the employers who provided retiree health coverage in 2000 are still providing it today—a 50 percent drop in seven years.

■ **Lack of insurance hurts all of us**

- Premiums for employer-provided family health insurance coverage include about \$1,000 toward the cost of care for the uninsured.

■ **Today's health care system is wasteful and inefficient**

- Private insurance companies spend 15 percent of their money—our money—on administrative costs. Compare that to less than three percent for large public plans such as Medicare.

■ **But insurance and drug companies are profiting**

- Profits for drug makers are almost 20 percent, compared with 6.3 percent for all Fortune 500 companies. Health insurance company profits have increased 1,084 percent in five years.
- Pharmaceutical company CEOs average \$4.36 million a year in compensation. For health insurance companies, it's \$8.75 million a year. One insurance CEO alone, Aetna's Ronald Williams, brings in more than \$32 million a year.

■ **The people want America's broken health care system fixed**

- Ninety percent of Americans say the U.S. health care system needs to undergo fundamental change or be rebuilt completely. Among union members, 71 percent say it is “critical for elected officials to address health care.”

**In America
No One
Should Go
Without
HEALTH
CARE**

AFL-CIO

2007: A Year In Review

In its annual Year in Review, the Drum Major Institute for Public Policy offers a look back at the best and worst in public policy, including the 2007 Injustice Index. We've included highlights from that publication here.

The Drum Major Institute for Public Policy is a non-partisan, non-profit think tank generating the ideas that advance social and economic justice. To read the entire 2007 Year In Review, visit www.drummyajorinstitute.org.

SOME OF THE **BEST** PUBLIC POLICIES OF 2007

State of the Unions Addressed

Labor unions built the American middle class. Membership today, however, hovers around 12 percent of our workforce even as millions of non-union employees say they want a union at work. So why aren't more people organized? Routine intimidation is one reason: employers hold backroom private meetings with employees, threaten factory closings, and illegally

intimidation and retribution are out the window, as the Act would provide greater protection and remedy to sanction scare tactics against organizers. For trying to provide stronger protections against unfair labor practices and giving greater access to union membership for millions of American workers, the Employee Free Choice Act is one of 2007's "best."



fire the leaders of union-organizing campaigns. This year, Congress took action to stop the harassment by introducing the Employee Free Choice Act. Introduced by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), and killed by a Senate filibuster, the act would streamline the process by which employees may organize, join or support a labor organization, making it easier for workers to collectively bargain for anything from higher wages to better healthcare and safer workplaces. Wal-Mart-style

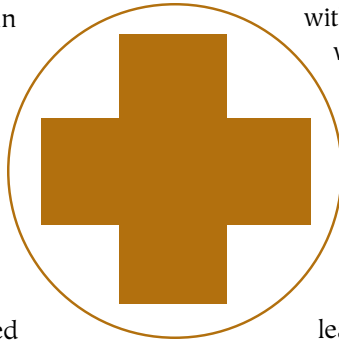
Arbitrary Dispute Resolution

From purchasing a new cell phone, obtaining a credit card, or even getting a new job, few Americans realize that they have signed away a crucial right. Tucked deep into lengthy contracts written in fine print are clauses dictating that any disagreements be resolved by arbitration, a judicial process in which an arbitrator issues a binding decision without ever having to make its reasoning public. An employee disputing poor working conditions or a nursing home resident alleging medical negligence might never know why their claims were denied. Worse, since the arbitration firms have an interest in maintaining good relationships with the corporations that are their steady customers, it's little surprise that 98.4 percent of arbitration decisions by the top 10 arbitration firms are made in favor of companies—and against consumers, employees, and patients.

The Arbitration Fairness Act (AFA), proposed this year in the U.S. Senate by Senator Russell Feingold (D-Wis.), protects against clandestine decision-making and corporate favoritism by invalidating pre-dispute BMA "agreements" between parties of unequal bargaining power. For safeguarding the right to trial by jury, where a body of law protects the rights of producer, consumer, employer, and employee alike, the AFA is one of the best policies of 2007.

No More Working While Sick

San Francisco became the first place in the country to mandate at least five days of paid sick leave for everyone employed within city limits. The measure permits employees to use the sick days to care for themselves, family members, or another person designated as dependent on their care. While businesses complain about the cost, the ordinance—approved by voter referendum—is expected



to lower employee turnover, raise productivity with a healthier workforce, reduce the rate of workplace-related illness as fewer people go to work with contagious conditions, and allow illnesses to get treated before they become serious. Workers, meanwhile, will no longer face an impossible choice between health and employment. For giving everyone time to heal without losing a day's pay, San Francisco's sick leave is one of the best policies of 2007.

SOME OF THE **WORST** PUBLIC POLICIES OF 2007

Selling Out Consumer Safety

The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), an anemic agency with a meager budget that pays for just 15 employees to inspect consumer product imports and one employee to inspect toys. Overall, the agency staff is just half what it was in the 1980s, when many fewer imported goods were on the market. Congress recently moved to remedy the problem, proposing to enlarge the CPSC's staff and budget, increase the maximum penalties for safety violations, and strengthen protections for industry whistle-blowers. Astonishingly, the Commission itself said thanks, but no thanks. Acting Chairwoman Nancy Nord, a former corporate lawyer who was appointed without congressional approval, insisted that she had not requested the staff and budget increases and that the bill was too tough on manufacturers. For undermining its own mission to improve consumer safety, the CPSC's sell out is one of the worst policies of 2007.

For undermining its own mission to improve consumer safety, the CPSC's sell out is one of the worst policies of 2007.

Tricked on Trade?

Fair trade certainly wasn't the only issue in the 2006 elections, but it played a major role in some of the key races that won the Democrats a congressional majority. So the news last May came as quite a surprise: behind closed doors, the Democratic leadership had negotiated with President Bush to pass a new NAFTA-style trade deal with Peru. To be fair, the deal contains some important advances over previous trade agreements, including measures requiring Peru to fulfill its obligations on environmental agreements, as well as new language on labor rights. But the deal also retains incentives for companies to outsource jobs and has troubling language that gives foreign investors special rights to challenge American laws—from local zoning decisions to environmentally-friendly procurement policies—in foreign courts. What's more, in a time of increased concern about the safety of imported products, the deal raises alarm bells with its limits on U.S. inspections of food imports. Even the labor provisions may be less positive than they sound: Peru must agree to follow a set of labor rights principles, but is not bound to specific agreed upon standards. As yet another unfair trade deal that meets only the lowest standard, the Peru agreement is one of 2007's worst policies.

Minimum number of hazardous children's toys recalled by Mattel in August 2007:

9,500,000

Number of employees on the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CSPC) in 2007: **420**

Number of full-time CPSC staff who currently inspect toys, according the *The New York Times*: **1**

Number of CPSC staff eliminated by the Bush Administration's 2008 budget: **19**

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

Helps Dannon Workers

More than 300 workers at the Dannon yogurt plant in Minster, Ohio voted on December 5 and 6 for a voice on the job and are now proud members of the BCTGM.

“These workers are to be commended for standing strong in their efforts to become unionized,” notes BCTGM International President Frank Hurt. “While this organizing victory was the culmination of efforts on many different fronts, it all came down to the strength of the workers,” Hurt adds.

The Dannon workers first reached out to the BCTGM through the union’s online organizing contact form in January 2007. A group of workers met with BCTGM International Representative John Price to discuss their desire to become unionized.

“The workers primary issues concerned health and safety, retirement and job consistency and stability,” recalls Price. “But what it always comes down to is the dignity, justice and respect of workers.”

After the Minster workers contacted the BCTGM, organizing efforts began on two fronts. While workers in Ohio were forming committees and talking with co-workers about the benefits of forming a union, the BCTGM contacted allies in Europe to plan joint strategies to urge Dannon’s parent company, Paris-based Danone Corp., to support the workers’ desire for a union. Groupe Danone is one of the world’s leading producers of fresh dairy products, the second largest producer of biscuits and cereal products and a leading producer of bottled water.

The BCTGM’s affiliation with the global International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations (IUF) and



Dannon workers give thumbs up to the BCTGM prior to their December vote.

the group’s IUF Danone Workers Group played a large part in the organizing effort. The majority of Danone’s worldwide operations are unionized and the IUF has a formal relationship with Groupe Danone dating back to 1986.

The IUF reached out to unions in Europe and Asia that represent Danone workers to inform them of the organizing efforts in Ohio. Upon learning of the Dannon workers’ desire to join a union, Danone unions from around the world began sending letters of solidarity to the Minster workers. Letters were received from Belgium, Russia, Germany and other countries.

IUF leaders also sponsored a face-to-face meeting with Danone CEO Franck Riboud and a joint meeting with French and U.S. management.



Intl. Rep. John Price explains how to demand union recognition to the Dannon workers.

“I am excited about forming a union.” —Greg Meier, Dannon worker

Win a Voice at Work



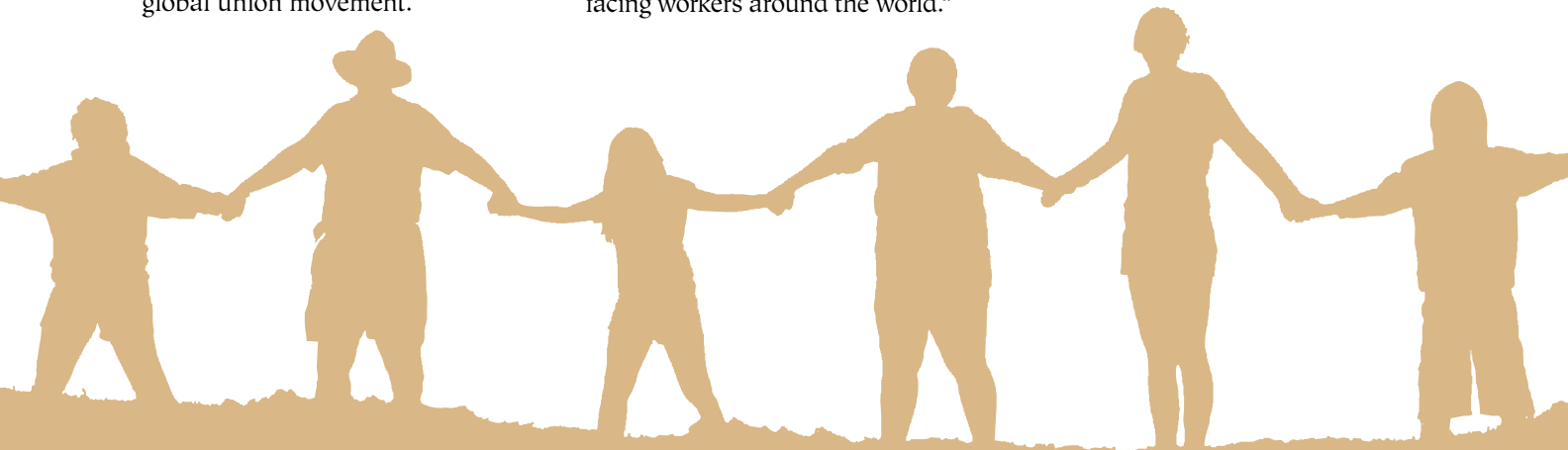
Workers leave the Dannon offices in Minster, Ohio after requesting voluntary recognition of the BCTGM.

“Within this global economy, this was an overwhelming show of global solidarity,” concludes Hurt.

AFL-CIO Organizing Director Steward Acuff notes that such solidarity across borders is an important part of reviving the global union movement.

“International solidarity was critical in this very important BCTGM victory,” notes Acuff. “The global labor movement brought Dannon to the table. They supported the workers. Other unions pushed Dannon to honor the workers’ decision to form a union with the BCTGM. This kind of global union organizing solidarity is part of the answer to the crisis facing workers around the world.”

“I am excited about forming a union,” notes Dannon worker Greg Meier. “We will no longer have to go to work wondering what changes may come without warning, or whether or not anyone is actually worried about our well-being. Our relationship with management will no longer be one sided but more even. No more smoke and mirrors or empty promises,” concludes Meier.



“Within this global economy, this was an overwhelming show of global solidarity.” —BCTGM Intl. Pres. Frank Hurt

International Staff Meetings Held at Headquarters

Organizing, 2008 contract negotiations and political action topped the agenda at staff meetings held at BCTGM International headquarters in January.

Regional Vice Presidents and Representatives from the First, Second, Third and Fifth Regions



Regions One & Two



Region Five

plan for maximizing organizing opportunities, maintaining high-quality local union service work and implementing an effective grassroots political action

program in this crucial election year.

Each International Vice President reviewed the past year, including local union mergers, contract settlements, and arbitrations. Additionally, the group discussed upcoming contract negotiations.

“We will continue to negotiate some of the best contracts in the

food industry throughout North America,” said Hurt.

Both Hurt and Durkee stressed the need to continue to make organizing a high priority. Also discussed was the current political climate at both the federal and state levels.

Hurt commended each region on their hard work and dedication. “These staff meetings allow us to look back on the previous year, and learn from what we have done well. In addition, we can plan ahead to make the upcoming year, even more of a success for our members and our organization,” said Hurt.

Similar staff meetings will be held in March for the Sixth Region and April for the Fourth Region.

attended the individual meetings that were led by International President Frank Hurt and assisted by International Secretary-Treasurer/Director of Organization David B. Durkee, and Executive Vice-President Joe Thibodeau.

The purpose of the meetings is to develop a region-by-region game

Labor Women in the Spotlight



Three BCTGM Local 364 (Portland, Ore.) executive board members were recently honored during a Washington State Labor Council dinner entitled, “Labor Women in the Spotlight.” The guest speaker was Washington Governor Christine Gregoire. Pictured here (from left to right) are Kaye Weekes (Kraft/Nabisco), Governor Gregoire, L. 364 Rec. Secy. Regina Klavano and Luz Georgeades (Kraft/Nabisco).

HEALTHCARE DOMINATES

BCTGM Bargaining in 2007

BCTGM local unions represent approximately 100,000 workers in the food, milling and tobacco industries across North America and bargain hundreds of collective agreements every year with employers both large and small.

Despite the pressures of rising healthcare and commodity costs, the BCTGM continued its strong tradition of negotiating outstanding contracts for its membership. According to BCTGM International President Frank Hurt, the first-rate contracts are a testament to the fine negotiating skills of the local union bargaining committees.

“When you have a dedication to the membership, when you do your homework, and when you stand up for what is just and fair—the end result will be a fine contract for our members,” said Hurt.

Most contract negotiations in 2007 were with small to medium-sized companies or plant locations, a different pattern than in previous bargaining years when large, master negotiations were held with General Mills, Kellogg’s, ConAgra and Sara Lee. According to Hurt, “It does not make a difference whether there are ten members or four hundred members at a location; we will put forth the energy and resources needed to negotiate a great contract.”

The underlying theme concerning most contract negotiations was the issue of rising healthcare costs. At the majority of locations, locals were able to resist their employers attempt at saddling workers

with excessive amounts of healthcare costs.

When the issue of health care came up in negotiations, local leaders echoed the words that Hurt told delegates to the 2006 BCTGM Constitutional Convention: “Healthcare has always been a subject of negotiations and has been reflected in our final negotiated package.”

The BCTGM is currently preparing for 2008 negotiations. International Representatives are

working with individual Locals to train bargaining committee members and prepare contract proposals. The Research & Education Department is helping Local unions research the companies they will be negotiating with. Additionally, the Organizing Department has spurred on organizing non-members in the right-to-work states. “With preparation and perseverance, 2008 will be another successful year for BCTGM members at the bargaining table” said Hurt.

Bargaining Highlights

Baking

- Alfred Nickles Bakery, Elkhart, IL (Local 1)
- Baldinger Baking, St. Paul, MN (Local 22)
- Sara Lee Corp., Traverse City, MI (Local 81)
- Central Bakery (Canada Bread), Toronto, ON (Local 264)
- Albertson’s (in-store bakeries), Utah (Local 401)
- Hillaton Foods, Port Williams, NS (Local 446)

Confectionery

- Just Born Inc., Bethlehem, PA (Local 6)
- American Licorice, Union City, CA (Local 125)
- Jelly Belly Candy Company, Fairfield, CA (Local 125)

Grain Milling

- Ralston Foods (Ralcorp Holdings), Cedar Rapids, IA (Local 10G)
- Tate & Lyle Ingredients, Houlton, ME (Local 334)
- Bunge North America, Delphos, OH (Local 336G)
- Knappen Milling Company, Augusta, MI (Local 365G)
- Southern Minn Beet Sugar Co-op, Rennville, MN (Local 369G)

THE GEORGE W. BUSH LEGACY —

The Country He Leaves Behind

On January 28, President George Bush delivered his last State of the Union address. Not surprisingly, President Bush painted a far prettier picture of the state of the union than most American families see and live everyday. From the economy to trade to health care to war, the words of Bush’s last State of the Union address collided with reality.

How out of touch is Bush? A recent Harris Poll finds that 81 percent of Americans think the current state of the country is fair or poor while just 19 percent think it is excellent or good.

In his speech, Bush admitted that the economy “going through period of uncertainty” and that there is “real concern.” Yet he claimed great economic progress during his time in the White House, citing job and wage growth. However, analysis and fact check

of Bush’s speech by the Drum Major Institute (DMI) found for most of America’s current and aspiring middle class, there was no economic recovery during the Bush years—even during the economic peak, stagnant wages barely kept up with the rising cost of living.

The labor movement is in the midst of the broadest grassroots effort ever to elect working family candidates who will work to rebuild America’s middle class. On Election Day 2008, 13 to 15 million voters across the country will stand with candidates who support working family issues like health care, retirement security, economic equity and the freedom to form and join unions.

Here is a brief look back at the country President Bush inherited when he took office, and what it looks like today.

THE ECONOMY	JANUARY 20, 2001	TODAY UNDER BUSH
Real GDP Growth	4.09% over prior 8 years	2.65% over prior 7 years
National Debt	\$5.7 Trillion	\$9.2 Trillion
Budget Deficit/Surplus	\$431 Billion surplus over the previous 3 budget years	\$734 Billion deficit over the previous 3 budget years
New Private Sector Jobs Created	1.76 Million jobs per year over previous 8 years	369,000 jobs per year over previous 7 years
Americans in Poverty	31.6 Million	36.5 Million
QUALITY OF LIFE		
Americans Uninsured & Change in Uninsured Level	38 Million uninsured 4.5 Million less in 2 years	47 Million uninsured 8.5 Million more in 6 years
Annual Total Premium Cost	\$6,230 for family premium	\$12,106 for family premium
Median Household Income & Change in Median Income	\$49,163 \$6,000 increase in 8 years	\$48,023 \$1,100 decrease in 6 years
Price of Gas	\$1.39/gallon	\$3.07/gallon
Cost of College	\$3,164 per year	\$5,192 per year
Consumer Credit Debt	\$7.65 Trillion	\$12.8 Trillion

Canada's Manufacturing Job Losses More Than Double in 2007



Some 132,000 Canadians lost their jobs in the manufacturing sector in 2007. This is more than double the sorry statistics of the previous year. In 2006, Canada posted a loss of 59,000 jobs in these industries.

"This is an urgent crisis that requires immediate action. Instead of the short-term narrowly focused *Community Development Trust* that will likely be hostage to parliamentary games, workers want the Prime Minister to show leadership to address this urgent crisis," says Ken Georgetti, president of the Canadian Labour Congress.

Georgetti notes that Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey for December 2007, released January 11, defied even the most pessimistic forecast. The country posted an overall loss of jobs. Young workers are leaving the job market. Private sector creation of paid employment is particularly weak.

According to Georgetti, a plan to stimulate the creation of good jobs should include at least the following five features: Buy Canadian procurement policies; a national high-level task force on the jobs crisis that brings together governments, labour and business; targeted measures to support new manufacturing investments; a call for cuts to interest rates to help bring down the dollar and positive reform of Employment Insurance.

Statistics Canada's Labour

Force Survey reports that in December 2007, the unemployment rate remained at 5.9 percent—unchanged from November. The survey shows 33,000 new job losses in manufacturing. In December, in seasonally-adjusted numbers, there were still 1,072,400 Canadians who wanted to work but did not have a job.

According to Chief Economist Andrew Jackson's analysis, the

While the national unemployment rate remained stable at 5.9 percent in December, the unemployment rate and numbers of unemployed rose among adult men and women, and would have risen for youth if it had not been for the fact that many withdrew from the labour force.

The figures underline the continuing story of Canada's two economies, notes Jackson.

"It's time for the federal government to take the lead to arrive at a coordinated made-in-Canada jobs strategy."

—CLC Pres. Ken Georgetti

job numbers show that fears of a looming recession are justified, and underline the need for immediate action.

The labour force numbers show a much higher than anticipated deterioration in the economic situation, says Jackson. In a single month, Canada lost another 33,000 manufacturing jobs, bringing the total job loss in this sector in 2007 to 132,000. This was more than double the manufacturing job loss of 59,000 in 2006. In December, Canada lost a total of 51,000 private sector paid jobs, offset in the total numbers by an increase in mainly low-paid and insecure self-employment.

Alberta in particular continues to generate jobs and higher wages—driving up the national averages for both—while Ontario and Quebec in particular struggle because of the manufacturing and forestry crisis. Ontario's unemployment rate jumped alarmingly from 6.2 percent to 6.5 percent in December, a huge increase for a single month. Ontario has lost 64,000 manufacturing jobs this year. Quebec has an unemployment rate of 7.0 percent.

Georgetti says, "It's time for the federal government to take the lead to arrive at a coordinated made-in-Canada jobs strategy."

Local 85 Celebrates Retiree

BCTGM L. 85 (Sacramento, Calif.) retiree Roy Morrison started out as a jobber in 1962. He worked as a foreman on the loading dock at the Blue Seal Bakery until the bakery closed.



Morrison began working full time at Wonder Bread in 1968 on the bun wrapper and served as a shop steward. He worked at the IBC bakery until 1985 when he was hired by L. 85 as an assistant business representative, a position he served until his retirement in 1992. At his first L. 85 Retiree Club meeting, the local retirees surprised him

by naming him the club's new president—a position he proudly served for 14 years. According to L. 85 Secy.-Treas. Marty Zimmerman, "Roy has always been a strong supporter of L. 85 and the BCTGM. Even in retirement he helped this Local and its members by serving on Boards of Adjustment, the Election committee, and whatever was asked of him or that he saw needed to be done." At the Christmas Retiree luncheon, Zimmerman (left) presents Morrison (right) with a plaque recognizing his devotion and tireless work.

50 Year Award

Local 317T (Greensboro, N.C.) member Minnie C. Lynn was honored at the local's membership meeting on January 12. L. 317T Pres. Tony Pegram presented Lynn with a plaque and a gold card marking



her 50 year anniversary as a member of the BCTGM. Lynn went to work at in the Packing Dept. at Lorillard Tobacco on August 28, 1957

as a cellophane machine operator. She is currently a 250 Packer Operator and works the second shift. Lynn has trained countless operators on new packaging machinery in her many years at Lorillard. Pictured here is Lynn (left) as Pegram (right) presents her with the union plaque honoring her 50 years of union dedication.

Strikers Remain Strong

The more than 50 striking BCTGM Local 50 (New York, N.Y.) members at Redco Foods say they've shared a lot outside the Little Falls, N.Y. plant. The union members have been picketing from 6 a.m. until 5 p.m. every working day since Nov. 1. Additionally, workers have been striking outside the company's warehouse in East Herkimer, N.Y. The L. 50 members are striking over medical insurance and pen-

sion changes proposed by the company. The strikers have received a tremendous amount of community support—from train conductors who blow the whistle while passing by the picket lines, to one who actually stopped to deliver hot coffee. Community members, the AFL-CIO Central New York Labor Council and other unions have also assisted in various levels of support. According to L. 50 Pres. Joyce Alston, "The morale and resolve of these workers remain very strong."

Redco Foods, Inc. manufactures and distributes Salada and Red Rose tea as well as Junket brand dessert mixes. Redco is the hot tea licensee for Snapple, and distributes both Pompadour tea and Garden of the Andes tea.



BCTGM

POWER

Flower Service

**Send Flowers for Valentines Day
—or ANY Occasion!**

Flowers make the perfect gift for birthdays, holidays, celebrations and tokens of sympathy. The BCTGM Power Flower Service offers a variety of flowers and plants at union-members-only prices. Choose long-stem roses, table centerpieces, spring bouquets, flowers with balloons, baskets and more. Union members can order discounted flowers online or by phone and have them delivered anywhere in the world—satisfaction 100 percent guaranteed!



This BCTGM Power program offers:

- 15% discount per order
- Unconditional 100% satisfaction guarantee
- Additional savings for online orders (\$1.00 off service and transmission fee)
- Wide selection of expertly designed flower arrangements, blooming plants and wreaths
- Same-day flower delivery service (if ordered before noon in recipient's time zone)
- International service (with three-day delivery guarantee; orders for delivery outside the U.S. and Canada taken by phone only.)
- Secure site with a password-protected section that can also send gift reminders

Online: www.bctgm.org/benefits/discounts/savers.htm

By Phone: 1-888-667-7779

**NEWLY
DESIGNED**

www.bctgm.org

The Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers, and Grain Millers International Union



[About Us](#) | [Organizing](#) | [News](#) | [Buy BCTGM](#) | [BCTGM Power!](#) | [Political Action](#) | [Health & Safety](#) | [Resources](#)



Check out your newly designed website—www.bctgm.org! The International's web site features a fresh new look that is easy to navigate and contains more information than ever on issues of importance to the BCTGM.

Special Website features include:

- **The BCTGM Action Network**—join other online BCTGM Activists to unite in online action on important political issues.
 - **WorkingFamiliesVote08.org**—a union member's voting guide.
 - Download the **BCTGM NEWS**—2002 to present
 - **Email Members of Congress** and let them know where you stand
-and much more!

Check out the all new BCTGM.org today!



CLICK HERE!
to download the latest issue of the BCTGM News!

become an e-Activist
Click here to learn how!

The official website of the AFL-CIO
AFL-CIO
America's Union Movement
Click Here!

Canadian Labour Congress
Congrès du travail du Canada
Click to go to the site now!

THE B&C TRUST FUNDS
official website
Click to go there now!

Money saving benefits for working families
Union Plus
Click Here!