

GMP *Horizons*

January/February 2011

Serving Workers in the Glass, Metal, Pottery and Plastics Industries



GMP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS

Proposed Budget for 2011 Affirmed

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BRUCE R. SMITH
International President

“The GMP joins with the AFL-CIO and all of its affiliates in calling for dramatic action to prevent further layoffs and create jobs.”

The Way to Fix the Economy

“Year’s end is neither an end nor a beginning, but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.”

— Hal Borland

As we go on in 2011 many of the challenges that confronted us in 2010 remain. As the 112th Congress convened, the new House Republican majority and Senate leadership moved to undo all the progress we’ve made over the past two years, starting with a vote to completely repeal the Affordable Care Act, and pledging to make President Obama a one-termer instead of addressing the real problem of putting America back to work.

It’s **JOBS, JOBS, JOBS.**

Although there’s been welcome news recently of some job growth, we are unfortunately far from an economic recovery. Recently released numbers show 103,000 jobs added in December (non-farm payroll employment). Looking back over calendar year 2010, we saw a net growth of 1.1 million jobs overall, and 1.3 million jobs in the private sector. Even with that, the unemployment rate is still 9.4% (down from 9.8%). In real terms, this equates to some 14.5 million unemployed people in this country. Something must be done.

Without a bold and committed investment in job creation and infrastructure modernization, we will see weak job growth indefinitely. The GMP joins with the AFL-CIO and all of its affiliates in calling for dramatic action to prevent further layoffs and create jobs. Only then will our economy see the robust and sustained recovery we need to put millions of Americans back to work.

We must make an investment in rebuilding roads, bridges, schools and clean energy systems and a manufacturing policy to build things in America and cease the outsourcing of our jobs overseas to get this country back on its feet.

This is not the time for cuts to services or investments. Voters and economists reject the Republican proposals to “fix the economy”, especially when their concept includes cutting taxes on the wealthiest 2 percent and privatizing Social Security. The only way to fix the economy is by putting Americans back to work.

All Americans have been impacted by our jobs crisis, with some families bearing multiple burdens of job loss, foreclosures, and benefit cuts. Not since the Great Depression have so many workers been out of work for so long. Almost half of the 15 million unemployed workers in America have been jobless for more than 6 months.

We must maintain funding for vital services by state and local governments and prevent destructive cuts in education, police and fire protection and more. We must take the additional steps needed to extend economic and health care lifelines for the jobless.

It’s time for action, not political posturing. During the midterm elections the Republications campaigned on slashing spending and spurring economic growth. The most effective way to reduce the deficit is to create jobs, thereby contributing to the tax base, and growing the middle class.

It is now time for all our elected representatives to work together to create secure, sustainable jobs in the United States and end the off-shoring of jobs that has devastated millions of families, entire communities and important U.S. industries. We, as leaders and activists, have the responsibility to hold our elected representatives accountable and call on them to end the gridlock and do whatever they can to tone things down and bring back respectful debate on how best to create good jobs that can support a family and allow workers to retire with dignity, and promote an economy that works for everyone. The key is **JOBS.**

GMP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS

Proposed Budget for 2011 Affirmed



(L-R): Executive Officers Donald "Butch" Carter, Rickey Hunter and Edward Bedocs follow the discussions.



Director of Organizing Brenda Scotland listens to the presentations.



(L-R): International Representatives Matthew McCarty and Kim McNeil and Executive Officer Bruno Cyr hear reports from the Board.

The GMP Executive Board met in Melbourne, Florida, on February 7 through February 11, 2011.

The Board met to deal with the challenges for the upcoming year and to set the operating budget for 2011.

International President Bruce Smith chaired the meeting and discussed numerous issues facing the GMP in the coming year. Among the topics of discussion were the upcoming Area Educational Conferences to be held in July of 2011, as well as the many political challenges that the GMP, and Labor as a whole, will face in the next year.

International Secretary-Treasurer Walter Thorn presented the proposed budget for 2011 along with a detailed overview of all financial issues. After thorough discussion, the Executive

Board unanimously approved the proposed budget.

Recently retired officers, John P. Ryan (President) and Frank Grotti (Director of Research & Education) were able to attend the meeting and were honored for their years of dedication and service to the GMP and its membership.

Vice Presidents Ignacio De La Fuente, Frank J. Brandao, Sr., and Randy Gould reported on events and situations in their respective areas. Executive Director of Canada David Doyle reported on current affairs in Canada.

Director of Organizing Brenda Scotland and Director of Research & Education Don Seal gave reports on activities in their respective departments.



(L-R): Recently retired officers Frank Grotti (Director of Research and Education) and John Ryan (International President).

President Smith concluded the meeting with comments regarding the future of the organization and our mission to continue the long history of dedication and service to the GMP membership.

OSHA: Committed to the Safety of Green Jobs



Green jobs are being defined broadly as jobs that help to improve the environment. These jobs also create opportunities to help revitalize the economy and get people back to work. Green jobs do not necessarily mean that they are safe jobs. Workers in the green industries may face hazards that are commonly known in workplaces – such as falls, confined spaces, electrical, fire, and other similar hazards. These hazards may be new to many workers who are moving into fast-growing green industries. Additionally, workers may be exposed to new hazards which may not have been previously identified. For example, workers in the solar energy

industry may be exposed to Cadmium Telluride, a known carcinogen, if adequate controls are not implemented.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act) requires employers to comply with safety and health standards and regulations promulgated by OSHA or by a state with an OSHA-approved state plan. In addition, the Act's General Duty Clause, Section 5(a)(1), requires employers to provide their employees with a workplace free



from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm. In the absence of an OSHA standard, OSHA can enforce the General Duty Clause. OSHA standards cover many of the hazards in green industries and employers must use the necessary controls to protect workers.

A key concept for all industries, but especially those that are just beginning to grow, is “Prevention through Design (PtD)” – designing the process/equipment in a way that eliminates hazards to the workers who use them. Employers should have a system in place where safety and health professionals work with design engineers in

“designing out” hazards throughout the design phase of their products.

OSHA is committed to helping workers and employers ensure that green jobs are safe jobs.

Resources

U.S. Department of Energy (www.eere.energy.gov)

Blue Green Alliance (www.bluegreenalliance.org)

DISCLAIMER

This guidance is not a standard or regulation, and it creates no new legal obligations. It contains recommendations as well as descriptions of mandatory safety and health standards. The recommendations are advisory in nature, informational in content, and are intended to assist employers in providing a safe and healthful workplace. The Occupational Safety and Health Act requires employers to comply with safety and health standards and regulations promulgated by OSHA or by a state with an OSHA-approved state plan. In addition, the Act's General Duty Clause, Section 5(a)(1), requires employers to provide their employees with a workplace free from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm.

*Hydrogen fuel cell photo courtesy of National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Jack Dempsey, photographer.

For more information, visit: www.osha.gov.

GALLO GLASS COMPANY MODESTO, CA

World's Largest, Most Versatile Glass Container Plant

In 1958, Ernest & Julio Gallo, recognizing the need for a consistent, quality supply of bottles to meet the demands of their growing winery, opened Gallo Glass. Their company started with 80 employees, a 220-ton per day furnace and forming machines that produced pint, fifth, quart, half-gallon and gallon containers. In those days, the ware was packed off thelehr into cases by hand.

From their first day more than 53 years ago, the production lines at Gallo Glass have run continuously. Situated on the E & J Gallo Winery campus in Modesto, California, Gallo is a private, family-owned business that employs over 850 people. Compared to production in 1958, Gallo Glass now has four oxygen-fired furnaces; 14 production shops, each featuring computer-controlled forming machines and forehearths; and dimensional, visual and mechanical quality inspections. Gallo's emissions abatement technology has been recognized as a model of efficiency.

Approximately 640 **GMP Local 17** members employed at Gallo Glass in Modesto produce bottles for its parent winery and other customers that include Mona Vie, Diablo Valley Packaging, Tropical Resources and Delicato. The officers of Local 17 are: President Carlos Contreras, Vice President Richard Motsenbacker, Recording Secretary Stephen Talbott and Financial Secretary Jessie McKaughan. The local was chartered in 1958.

The future of Gallo Glass includes a philosophy of continuous process and product improvement. In this decade, Gallo is committed to minimizing their carbon imprint for the benefit of current and future generations. Two projects underway include a 5th furnace powered by 100% electricity, emitting zero emissions, and a new light-weight 750 ml wine bottle which weighs only 14.25 ounces. Gallo continues to achieve record levels of recycled glass usage. 50% of every wine bottle they make is from recycled glass. Gallo also recycles 95% of their water.



Gallo Glass headquarters in Modesto, California.



Local 17 member Laura Salvo, with 20 years of service, performs a visual inspection of finished ware.



Local 17 member Debbie Mendes, with 31 years of service, is in front of the 'fill high tester machine' testing the weight and capacity of the bottles.



Hot End Production Line.

John Gallo explains the success of Gallo Glass this way: "Our success is driven by our dedicated and highly skilled employees; many of which are second and third generation employees. We provide our employees with both internal and external resources for training and development. Our internal training program for the forming department is one of the best in the industry. We also offer 'Technical Programs' in four of our five apprenticeship programs which allow employees to increase their skill and ability by taking courses at the local junior colleges. As employees reach certain milestones in their Technical Program, they are able to move up the pay range in their department. I am also extremely proud of our employee's commitment to safety. As of the third quarter of 2010, we were ranked 7th out of 55 plants for our Recordable Case Rate."

GALLO'S LIGHTWEIGHT BOTTLES:
(weigh 20% less than standard bottles)



Barefoot
Pinot Noir



Gallo
Pinot Grigio

GALLO'S PREMIUM BOTTLES:



Louis M.
Martini
Cabernet
Sauvignon



Starborough
Sauvignon
Blanc

GALLO'S 'SPIRITS' BOTTLES:



E&J XO
Brandy



New
Amsterdam
Gin

Regarding innovation, John Gallo has this to say: "Our commitment to innovation at Gallo Glass is one of the areas I am most proud of. Because of this commitment, we were the first glass manufacturer to use oxygen-fueled gas furnace technology as well as to utilize '3-mix' cullet from curb-side pickup in our furnaces. Today, we continue to drive innovation through our involvement in IPGR (International Partners in Glass Research) where we are able to network and collaborate with other glass manufacturers to develop technology and disciplined processes to make lighter, stronger bottles that not only are environmentally friendly, but also maintain image to meet customer needs".

For more information about Gallo Glass visit: ejgallo.com

Local 244, Newark, OH Holds Eighth Annual Kids Christmas Party



Elves, from left to right, back row: KD Scarberry, Jenny Farmer and Hillary Dennison. Middle row: Emily Baldwin, Steve Clay and Shelby Burchard. Front row: Cheyanne Townsend, Abby Baldwin and Samantha Elliot.

Once again GMP Local 244 held its traditional kids Christmas Party in December. Over 280 children attended. Steve Clay, a 35-year member played Santa Claus.

Local 164B President Calvin King, Jr. Retires after 37 Years of Service



Calvin King, Jr., has retired on December 18, 2010, after 37 years of service with his Local 164B in Oakland, California. The Executive Board and GMP International Vice President Ignacio De La Fuente honored Calvin with a retirement dinner at a local restaurant

for Calvin, in December. He became a member of the International Molders in 1973, where he entered the trade as a helper in the foundry. He went on to become a welder and burner. In 1974, he was elected to sergeant-at-arms. Over the years, he went on to serve as Auditor, Treasurer and President (1989-2010). King served as: a trustee with the CMTA GMP Local 164B Pension Trust and Health & Welfare Trust, a merger delegate, and a delegate to all conventions. He also served with the West Coast Protective League, Central Councils & California Labor Federation. He gained valuable knowledge from training at the GMP Summer School and International Foundation of Employees which aided him in assisting his fellow officers and members in such areas as negotiations and medical and pension benefits.

Local 45B, State of Ohio Wins Arbitration Award



Executive Officer Edward Bedocs and Grievant Damian Burnside (R) review the Arbitrator's decision that resulted in Burnside's reinstatement and being made whole in the amount of \$8,235.00. Burnside is a member of State of Ohio Local 45B and is employed by Grimco, Inc. in Akron, Ohio. Bedocs would like to give special thanks to International Representative Pete Jacks for his assistance in this case.

MI & Vicinity Conference Bd Meets in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan



The Michigan & Vicinity Conference Board held its Fall Meeting on Saturday and Sunday, October 9 & 10, 2011, in Mt. Pleasant. The November national elections were discussed and an election of officers was held. Executive Officer Rick Vitatoe swore in the new officers. Seen here (L-R) front row: Vitatoe, Trustee Doug Vannmaaren, Recording & Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Knuppenburg. Standing (L-R) back row: President Tom Kimble, VP Virgil Slack and Trustee Ed Hall.

New Officers at Local 316B



Executive Officer Rick Vitatoe attended the Local 316B membership meeting in Michigan City, Indiana, on Wednesday, November 17, 2010. Vitatoe is seen here swearing in the newly elected officers: (L-R): Vitatoe, Secretary-Treasurer Phil Grams, President David Glancy and Vice President Wayne Leslie. Not present was Recording Secretary Frank Hampel.

Northeast Protective League Meets in December 2010



The Northeast Protective League (NEPL), formerly known as New Jersey State Council, met on December 17, 2010. Seen here (L-R): NEPL President Edison Williams, NJ 1st District Assemblyman Nelson Albano and International Representative Matt McCarty.

Assemblyman Albano is a shop steward where he works and is also a Vice President of his UFCW Local Executive Board. Albano is a prime sponsor of New Jersey Paid Family Leave. New Jersey is one of only three states to have paid family leave. Assemblyman Albano spoke to the NEPL delegates about his efforts to get this bill passed. The GMP PEL fund made a contribution to Albano's campaign fund.

The next meeting of the NEPL will be held on March 18, 2011 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Local 17 Members at Gallo Glass, Modesto, CA, Brighten the Holidays for 50 Needy Families



Members of the "Local 17 Christmas Needy Family Drive".



Food packages and gifts overflowed the Local 17 Union Hall.

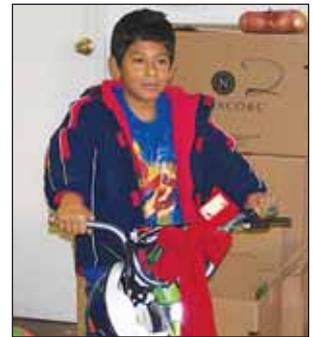
New Officers Sworn In at Local 19, Gardena, CA



Seen here (L-R) are: Shop Steward Ruben Maldonado, Recording Secretary Alonso Guerrero, Vice President Jesse Ledezma, Chief Steward Kenneth McDaniel, Financial Secretary Wanda Marshall and President Leonard Ysabal.

Executive Officer David Pope recently swore in newly elected officers at Local Union 19, where approximately 260 GMP members are employed by Hitco Carbon Composites in Gardena, CA.

During this past holiday season, members of Local 17, Modesto, California, reached out to families in the community during their Christmas Needy Family Drive. The Program is headed up by Local 17 member Ralph Romero. Besides Local 17 officers, members and their families, local charities and outreach groups, local businesses,



This child is thrilled with his new bicycle.

including Gallo Glass and community outreach groups also assisted in this huge effort to brighten the holidays for these families. When the program began 15 years ago, Local 17 adopted 10 to 15 families. Now they adopt over 50 families. Each family is provided with enough food for two weeks and presents for every child and teenager in the family. President Carlos Contreras said that the program is so successful now that the Local 17 Union Hall was overflowing with gifts for the children and teenagers.

International President Smith Addresses Delegates at Indiana State Council & Education Conference



International President Bruce Smith addresses the IN State Council & Educational Conference.

On January 21, 2011, President Smith was joined by International Vice President Randy Gould and Executive Officer Rick Vitatoe as guest speakers at the Indiana State Council & Educational Conference held in Indianapolis.

The meeting was presided over by Council President Paul McCoy (LU 65-Winchester, IN). Approximately 35 GMP delegates braved a winter storm to hear President Smith's presentation. An educational program on FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) was presented by Director of Research & Education Don Seal.

Submitting photos to *Horizons*: To achieve the best printed results, the following guidelines should be followed: **Traditional film photography:** 4" x 6" glossy prints on photographic film paper (such as that from your local drug store developer) are preferred. Do not send ink jet, copier, or laser prints. **Digital photography:** A 4.1 megapixel camera or better is recommended. Our printing press requires 300 dpi (dots per inch) for photographs at the final size printed. This means subjects should be photographed using the highest quality JPEG setting on your digital camera (fine). Only JPEG or TIFF formats are acceptable. Images should be unmanipulated; not corrected for size, cropping, color mode, quality of color, or sharpness. Download them from your camera and submit on a CD with a hard-copy print out. Do not e-mail due to large file sizes and the possibility for corruption in transmission.

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THE LABEL
BUY UNION
BUY AMERICAN
BUY CANADIAN**



DEATH BENEFIT DUES - In the event you leave employment seeking permanent and total disability, **YOU MUST CONTINUE PAYING YOUR DEATH BENEFIT DUES** until such time as permanent and total disability status is established. As a general rule, disability determination routinely takes from 6 to 8 months. Any overpayments will be refunded.

Do not permit your DEATH BENEFIT DUES to become delinquent over 90 days. All GMP members are responsible for making payments to maintain death benefit eligibility. Persons wishing to report a death or discuss the death benefit may call the Death Benefit Department at 1-610-565-5051 ext. 221. Remember to check your official beneficiary information. The beneficiary of record is solely entitled to the Death Benefit. Submit beneficiary changes immediately.

All claims must be filed within five (5) years of death.

Early retirees are also responsible for payment up to age 65. If you are self-paying, indicate your local union number and forward your check to:

Walter Thorn
GMP Int'l. Secretary-Treasurer
PO Box 607
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saving for my son’s future”*



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Union SAFE College Savings Grant

Saving for college can be a daunting prospect—but with education costs rising almost 6% every year, now is the time to get started. **Union Plus may be able to help, with a \$500 College Savings Grant** for union members or retirees who open a new 529 college savings or pre-paid tuition account for their children or grandchildren. Visit **UnionPlus.org/CollegeSavings** for details and an easy-to-complete grant application. You must have opened a new 529 account and contributed at least \$1,000 to be eligible.



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Will 2011 Be an Election Year in Canada?

Canadians should begin thinking about who they will elect to form the next Federal government. Indications are that the current Prime Minister of Canada is thinking in these terms with the so called “mini-shuffle” of his cabinet and the apparent attempt to garner votes in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

The shuffle includes the appointment of several high profile individuals. Peter Kent, the MP for Thornhill, moves from Minister of State Foreign Affairs (Americas), a junior minister appointment, to the high profile portfolio of Environment. Kent had a solid career as a television newscaster who was well respected in the industry and he appeared daily on television in Toronto.

Rookie politician Julian Fantino, the MP, is well known to Torontonians as the former chief of police in Toronto who, after a well-documented and respected career, moved on to become the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police prior to retirement and his move into federal politics. Mr. Fantino’s service as top cop in Canada’s largest city has afforded him media attention across the country and his reputation as a no-nonsense, by the book, police officer, endeared him to many. Fantino will serve the Conservatives as the new Minister of State (Seniors) in what must be considered a huge leap from the backbench to a junior minister’s position as a rookie.

Ted Menzies, who became an Alberta M.P. in 2004, has been appointed Minister of State (Finance). Menzies is from the Prime Minister’s home province. While he is moving to a junior cabinet position, the position is a very high profile spot in the Federal Government. Menzies will have the daunting job of getting the Canada Pension Plan (CCP) figured out. CCP has been under close scrutiny for some time now due to bonuses being handed out to the guardians of the fund amid losses in investments. The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and the provinces have mounted a well organized campaign to reform the current plan and increase funding so as to provide Canadians a better standard of living in retirement. Menzies will work closely with Finance Minister Jim

Flaherty on this issue.

In recent weeks Finance Minister Flaherty has reversed his position on the reforms spearheaded by the CLC and the provinces, stating “now is not the time for such reforms”. Menzies will be in familiar territory as he has served as Parliamentary Secretary for the

Finance Portfolio and was in charge of the Federal Government’s pension consultations.

Another MP from the Prime Minister’s home province received a promotion as well. Diane Ablonczy, MP for Calgary – Nose Hill, has been appointed Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Americas). Ablonczy is formerly of the Reform

Party and is one of the originals elected back in 1993. Ablonczy’s actions in 2009 of granting \$400,000.00 to Pride Toronto while standing next to drag queens during the announcement of the funding landed her in hot water with some of the Conservatives. She found herself demoted from Minister of State for Small Business and Tourism to Minister of State for Seniors.

It is apparent to those who follow politics that the Prime Minister will be defeated in a no-confidence vote of the Federal Budget in February. The Liberal Party says they are not intending to defeat the government, but who really knows what the Liberals will do. The NPD and the Bloc can bring down the government while Conservatives keep repeating that Canadians want Ottawa to govern the Country responsibly. Prorogation can hardly be considered as responsible. The long lapse of the House sitting in session did nothing to improve the lives of Canadians and, in fact, left a very sour taste in the mouths of a lot of Canadians. Prime Minister Harper must have his own demons he is wrestling with, otherwise, why the Cabinet changes now? As Canadians seem to be getting tired of the minority government, the time may be right for a change.

One thing must be clear to all Canadians, we must get out there and vote. Perhaps now could be more important than ever for some of us.

“As Canadians seem to be getting tired of the minority government, the time might be right for a change.”

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- ✓ is 100% pure, protecting product taste
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RECYCLE GLASS FOR THE PLANET

Recycling glass bottles:

- ✓ minimizes use of raw materials
- ✓ lessens demand for energy
- ✓ reduces greenhouse gas emissions

Glass bottles and jars can be **recycled endlessly** without loss of quality or purity. Glass container manufacturers set a **goal to use 50% recycled glass** in the manufacture of new glass bottles and jars by the end of 2013. This would save enough energy to power 21,978 homes for one year and remove 181,550 tons of waste from landfills every month.

Learn more at gpi.org

The Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) is the trade association representing the North American glass container industry. Through GPI, glass container manufacturers speak with one voice to advocate industry standards, promote sound environmental policies and educate packaging professionals. GPI member companies manufacture glass containers for food, beverage, cosmetic and many other products. GPI also has associate members that represent a broad range of suppliers and closure manufacturers.



Is There Anyone Paying Attention?

If you're like a lot of Americans, you're probably tired of hearing all the political rant that went on during, and continues after, the last election. To be sure, we are saturated with media coverage and so called "expert" opinions; however, everything that affects our daily lives is a direct result of our political process. With that in mind, here I go again!

After eight years of Republican control that saw our country attacked by terrorists, go to war in both Iraq and Afghanistan (allegedly to capture or kill Osama Bin Laden), spend untold billions on the efforts, and then suffer an almost fatal collapse of our economy, the American voters have elected to place their trust, and the future of their children, in the hands of the very people who were in power when all of the above occurred. That's right, everything mentioned above happened **before** President Obama and the Democratic majority in the House and Senate were elected.

I have to give credit to the Carl Rove Republican strategy. Over the years they have become masters of deception. Their strategy is simple yet effective. Simply create issues that neither Republicans nor Democrats can control and use them as fear tactics to gain public support. A few examples:

Gun Control – For years Republican candidates have run campaigns warning that Democrats will take away Americans right to bear arms. The fact is, owning guns has become increasingly easier over the past twenty years, including the eight years of the Clinton Administration. The only Federal Law that has been passed regarding gun control was the Brady Bill after Jim Brady (Reagan's Press Secretary) was nearly killed in the assassination attempt on President Reagan in 1981. Do Republicans really think that was a bad idea?

Birth Control – Again, for years Republican candidates have campaigned on their promise to end abortion, yet during four years of Bush I and eight years of Bush II, not a single thing has been done to end abortion. Why? Because, no matter how you personally feel about a woman's right to have an abortion, it was not a Law passed by Congress that legalized abortion, but rather a Supreme Court decision. And, lest we forget, it was a conservative, Republican-appointed Court that decided *Rowe vs. Wade*.

And new this year! Earmarks, those pesky little add-ons that both Republicans and Democrats use to obtain funding for projects in their home states. While it is true that some of that spending, like the proposed "bridge to nowhere" in Alaska, borders on the absurd, it is also true that earmark spending accounts for about 1% of the Federal budget. That's 1% folks! Republicans campaigned in November to end earmark spending. Are they going to save the country by reducing the budget by 1%?

Recently, the Republican leadership held the American unemployed hostage to gain President Obama's agreement to continue the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest 1% of the country's citizens. That tax cut for the wealthy represents billions of dollars in lost tax revenue for a country that is drowning in its own debt, brought on, in part, by the institution of the tax cut in the first place! If cutting taxes for the wealthiest 1% of Americans is good for the economy, as President Bush and others claimed when they instituted the cuts, why are we in this economic mess?

Some millionaires get it. Ben Cohen, founder of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, has started a campaign urging President Obama not to continue the cuts. Along with over 40 other wealthy Americans, Cohen has created "Patriotic Millionaires for Fiscal Strength", including launching a website to gain more support. The group is quoted as saying, *"We have done very well over the last several years. Now, during our nation's moment of need, we are eager to do our fair share. We don't need more tax cuts, and we understand that cutting our taxes will increase the deficit and the debt burden carried by other taxpayers."*

The same day the Patriotic Millionaires campaign was launched, the Center for Responsive Politics released a new study revealing that one half of the House and Senate are millionaires! Now we know why the tax cuts for the wealthiest are so important in Washington.

I am dumbfounded that Americans continue to fall for the smoke and mirrors routine. In the words of the Monday night football crew, "Come on, Man!!"

DON SEAL
Editor

"The tax cut for the wealthy represents billions of dollars in lost tax revenue for a country that is drowning in its own debt..."

Hitting hard times?

Union SAFE grants provide a **SAFETY NET** for union families struggling in today's tough economy.



Many union families have been hit hard in today's tough economy. Help is now at hand. Our **Union SAFE programs have provided \$5 million in assistance to working families.**

1 Become more financially secure.

For Union Plus Credit Card holders

- **Job Loss Grant of \$250** available if you're laid off
- **Disability Grant up to \$2,000** to help when you can't work
- **Strike Grant** of \$250 available if you're on strike
- **Furlough Grant** of \$250 available if you're furloughed for 15 days
- **Disaster Grant of \$500** to help families impacted by a FEMA declared emergency

2 Make your mortgage payments.

- **Mortgage Assistance Grant of \$1,000** for Union Plus Mortgage holders
- **Save-My-Home Hotline** for workers worried about falling behind on their mortgage—a HUD certified counselor provide free advice
- Union Plus Mortgage has built-in protection that **covers your payments up to 6 months** when you're laid off, disabled or on strike

3 Deal with health care expenses.

- **Hospital Care Grant of \$1000** covers large out-of-pocket hospital bills for Union Plus credit card, mortgage, insurance holders
- **Health Savings Programs** cut your out-of-pocket costs at participating pharmacies, vision providers, dentists, doctors and hospitals
- **Free Medical Bill Negotiator** can help you lower your medical bills

4 Afford higher education.

- **College Savings Grants of \$500** to your college fund for the future
- Union Plus has contributed more than **\$3 million in scholarships** for union leaders, members and their families



NOTE: Some benefits are only available to members who have a Union Plus Credit Card, Mortgage or Insurance.

For details about hardship assistance, visit: UnionPlus.org/UnionSAFE