



# C A L I F O R N I A LABOR NEWS

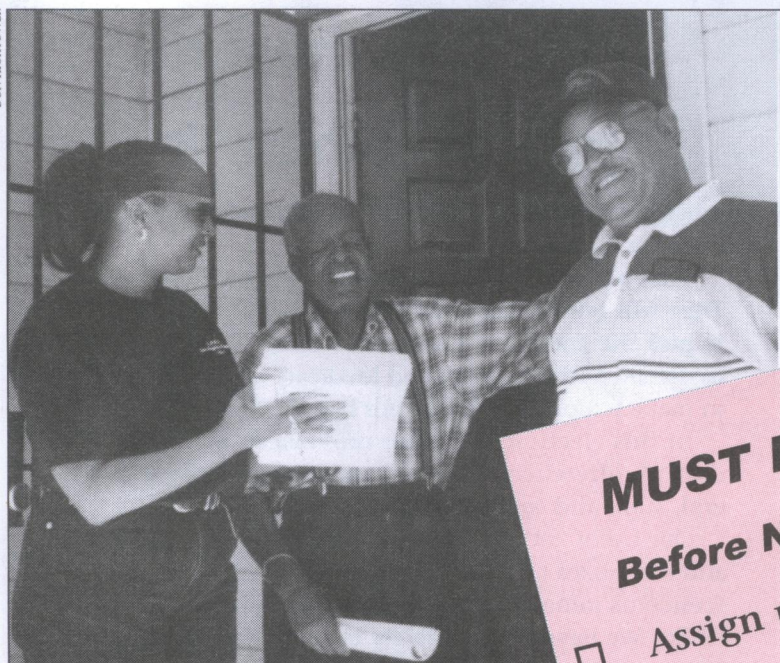
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DON HIGHTOWER



Stockton precinct walkers are out in force calling on union families to vote this November 3. **Paulette Rothchild**, UAW 2244 and Federation Vice President **Billy Joe Douglas**, Cement Masons 814, called on **Charles Williams** of Laborers 73.

For a complete list of the California Labor Federation's endorsements, check our website, [www.calaborfed.org](http://www.calaborfed.org).

## Unions check the GOTV list for November 3

With just a few hectic days remaining before the November 3 election, union leaders and members are checking their lists to Get Out the Union Vote for statewide candidates, legislative races and ballot propositions.

As key races come down to the wire, the Labor '98 program is prepared for Election Day mobilizations that will bring union members out to vote. At press time, attention focuses on these races:

**U.S. Senator** Labor can send Barbara Boxer back to Washington to protect Social Security, Medicare, and the interests of working families. Or we can send her opponent to represent our state, to vote for privatizing Social Security, undermining prevailing wage, and shipping good jobs overseas.

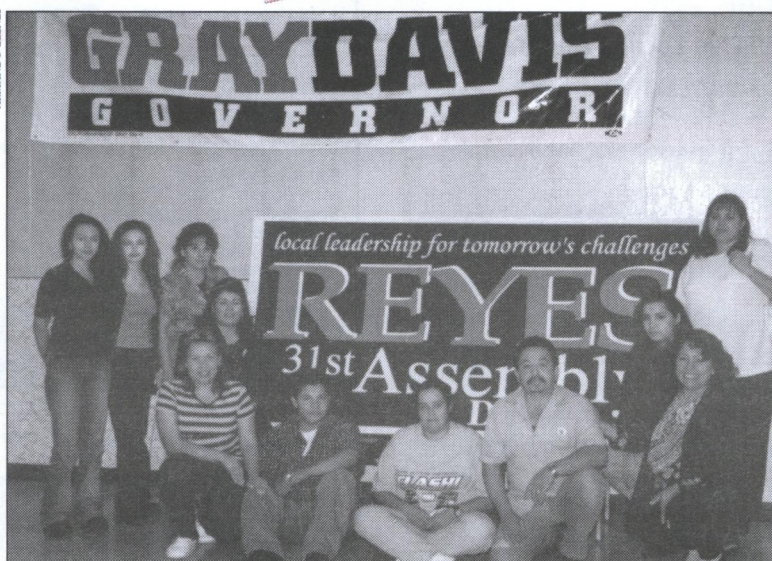
**U.S. Congress** California races will determine the balance of power when the 106th Congress convenes. Gingrich & Co. hope to recreate their 1994 off-year victory, and would like to take out another *Contract on America* on working families.

**State Senate and Assembly** Swing districts in the Legislature will determine whether pro-worker forces have a majority when the new Governor and Legislature begin meeting in January. A new Governor can restore daily overtime pay and work with a pro-worker Legislature to preserve prevailing wage.

**Check your must-do list** and join Labor '98 in an Election Day blitz that makes the difference for working families.

- MUST DO LIST**  
**Before November 3**
- ☐ Assign union staff to Labor '98 for final week
  - ☐ Recruit members
  - ☐ Make financial contribution to Labor '98
  - ☐ Get out the union vote!

ARMANDO ELENES



UFW organizer **Danny Romero**, kneeling in foreground, has plenty of help from United Farm Worker members to get the word out for Sarah Reyes, labor candidate in the 31st Assembly District in Fresno and Tulare counties.

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## How California representatives voted

### Fast Track derailed

Five California Democrats voted to ship good jobs overseas last month, by supporting presidential fast track authority on trade agreements. On the other side of the aisle, six Republicans voted against HR 2621, which lost 243-180.

The bill's critics, with organized labor leading the way, charged Republicans forced the vote so they could embarrass Democrats just before midterm elections. A similar bill was defeated last year. Passage would have accelerated the flight of American jobs to countries with weaker labor and environmental standards.

#### ROLL CALL: HR 2621, FAST TRACK TRADE AUTHORITY

##### DEMOCRATS AGAINST WORKING FAMILIES

Cal Dooley, *Hanford*  
Anna Eshoo, *Palo Alto*  
Jane Harman, *Los Angeles*  
Zoe Lofgren, *San Jose*  
Ellen Tauscher, *Walnut Creek*

##### REPUBLICANS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

John Doolittle, *Roseville*  
Elton Gallegly, *Oxnard*  
Duncan Hunter, *El Cajon*  
Richard Pombo, *Stockton*  
Dana Rohrabacher, *Huntington Beach*  
Ed Royce, *Fullerton*



### Golden State publications ace ILCA awards

Congratulations to California labor publications, winners in the journalism awards sponsored by the International Labor Communications Association. The 1998 winners are:

AFSCME Local 2626,  
*LG Communicator*

Alameda County Central  
Labor Council, *East Bay Labor Journal*

California Federation of  
Teachers, *The Classifieds*

IAFF Local 112, *Los Angeles Fire Fighter*

IBEW Local 1245, *Utility Reporter*

ILWU, *The Dispatcher*

Operating Engineers Local  
3, *Engineers News*

Operating Engineers Local  
12, *Unit 12 Advocate*

SEIU Local 1000, *California Pride*

SEIU Local 535, *Local 535 Dragon*

UFCW Local 1167, *Desert Edge*

UFCW Local 1428 *Messenger*

### Welcome new affiliates

Thirteen additional American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) locals affiliated with the Federation in September. That's in addition to 180 locals which joined earlier this year. We extend our warmest welcome to AFGE members across the state.

The California Labor Federation represents the legislative and political interests of 2,000 local unions and 2.1 million California union members. Increased affiliation builds power for working people, union members and not-yet-union members alike.



## Art Pulaski Speaks Out

### What we must do on November 3

The representatives we elect on November 3 will work for us or against us.

They will protect our pensions or they will raid them. They will restore daily overtime pay or they will continue to pick the pockets of California workers. They will fight to defend Social Security and Medicare or they will vote to make seniors wait longer for benefits they have earned.

**In this election, the labor movement will make a critical difference in the representatives elected to federal, state and local offices.**

Our Labor '98 program has worked the phones, doors and mailboxes to get the message out. Federation Vice Presidents joined rank and file members in our Leadership Walks. We have talked directly to members about the differences between candidates on the issues that matter.

**Now is the time that we have prepared for, when our actions will make all the difference.** Every thing we do in these remaining days determines the outcome of important races.

**The choice is ours.** The Federation calls on you to make certain that your union is well represented at phone banks and get-out-the-vote mobilizations during these last few days. Member-to-member contact is essential.

In addition, we ask that all union staff—field reps, administrators, clerical workers and organizers—be assigned to councils for the final week. *Union offices should be empty on Election Day, with all staff in the field.*

**We'll see you in the precincts.**

### CALIFORNIA LABOR NEWS

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Art Pulaski, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Tom Rankin, President

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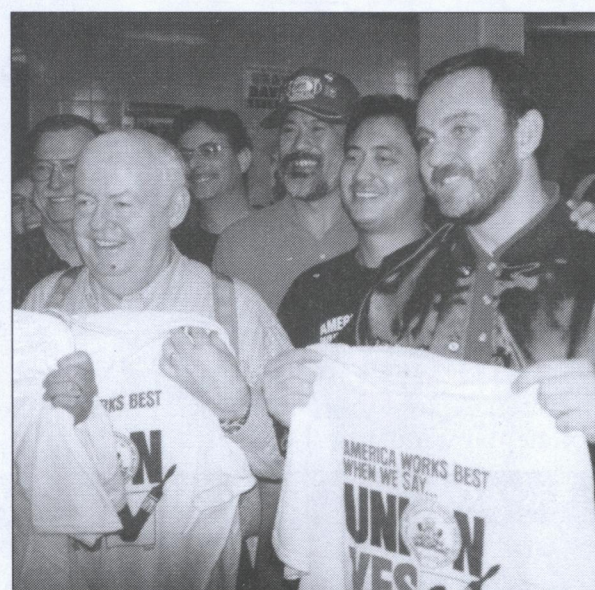
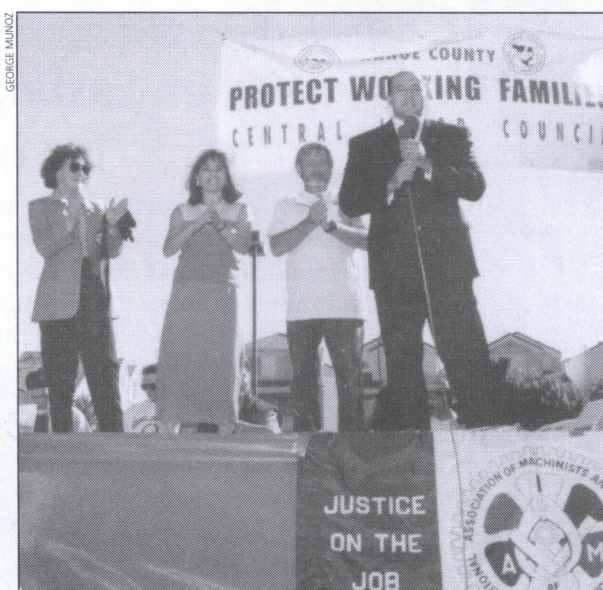




# Leadership walks get the message out

Congressional candidates **Pat Neal** and **Loretta Sanchez** join Orange County CLC leader **Bill Fogarty** in cheering **Lou Correa**, candidate for Assembly, as he rallies union members in Garden Grove on Oct. 17.

Far right: AFL-CIO president **John Sweeney** joins **Art Pulaski**, S.F. Building Trades Council President **Stan Smith**, Carpenters Local 22 members **Ed Yee** and **Bill Wong** in San Francisco precincts on Oct. 10.



## Legislature adjourns after veto-prone session

Labor's resounding, come-from-behind victory over the political right made headlines across the county this spring. But this public support didn't translate into majority support for labor's legislative agenda.

"We still have a lot of work to do before we can get some of our Democratic legislators to put the interests of working people ahead of the interests of big business," said Tom Rankin, Federation president.

"We expected Governor Wilson to be vindictive and veto all the major labor bills that reached his desk. What was more disappointing was to see some of our so-called friend opposing key bills that

would have put dollars in the pockets of working families.

When the Legislature reconvenes in January, California working families can look

forward to a new Governor. The next session will pick up many unfinished items from this year's calendar—meaningful HMO reform, workers compensation, and on-the-job protections.

### Three Federation Priorities Fail to Pass

■ **SB 1968** (Solis), would have required employers to provide part-time workers with wages and benefits equal to full-time personnel's on a prorated basis. **Only 18 Assembly Democrats voted for passage in the face of Chamber of Commerce pressure.**

■ **AB 1184** (Alquist and Shelley) would have raised the minimum wage to \$6.50. It failed to come up for an Assembly floor vote. **Some Democrats thought raising the minimum was "too controversial" for an election year.** Dick Floyd, Dennis Cardoza, and Mike Machado were openly opposed to the bill. The Federation applauds Adam Schiff (D-Pasadena) who cast the decisive vote for Senate passage.

■ **SB 1743** (Johnston) would have required temporary agencies to let workers know what their employers are actually paying. It failed on the Senate floor, 12-19.

### Veto Carnage Continues

Some bills survived the Chamber of Commerce's "Job-Killer" label, passing the legislature, only to fall under the Governor's veto.

■ **SB 495** (Rosenthal) would have increased state disability benefits from \$336 to \$490 a week.

■ **SB 1909** (Rosenthal) would have raised unemployment insurance benefits from \$230 to \$300. Just one in three of unemployed California workers receive benefits, one of the worst rates in the nation.

■ **AB 15** (Knox) would have allowed workers to use sick leave to care for an ill child.

■ **AB 1643** (Escutia) would have stopped companies from the discriminatory practice of replacing older workers with younger ones to slash wages.

■ **AB 574** (Villaraigosa) would have prohibited arbitration agreements as a condition of employment.

■ **SB 1933** (Johnston) would have stopped the denial of workers' compensation to immigrant

workers hurt while working for uninsured employers.

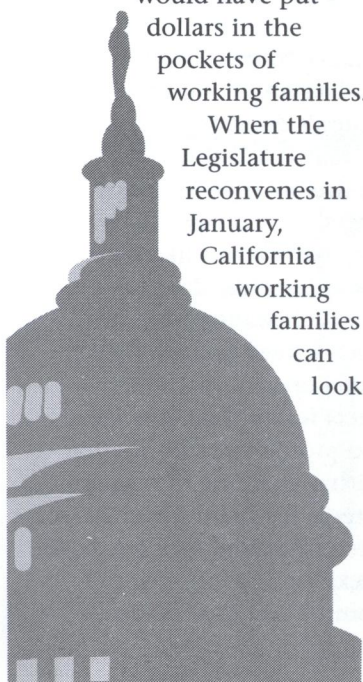
■ **SB 924** (Solis) would have authorized the Department of Industrial Relations to penalize employers for failing to provide workers' compensation benefits when stop work orders aren't issued.

**"We still have a lot of work to do before we can get some of our Democratic legislators to put the interests of working people ahead of the interests of big business," said Tom Rankin, Federation president.**

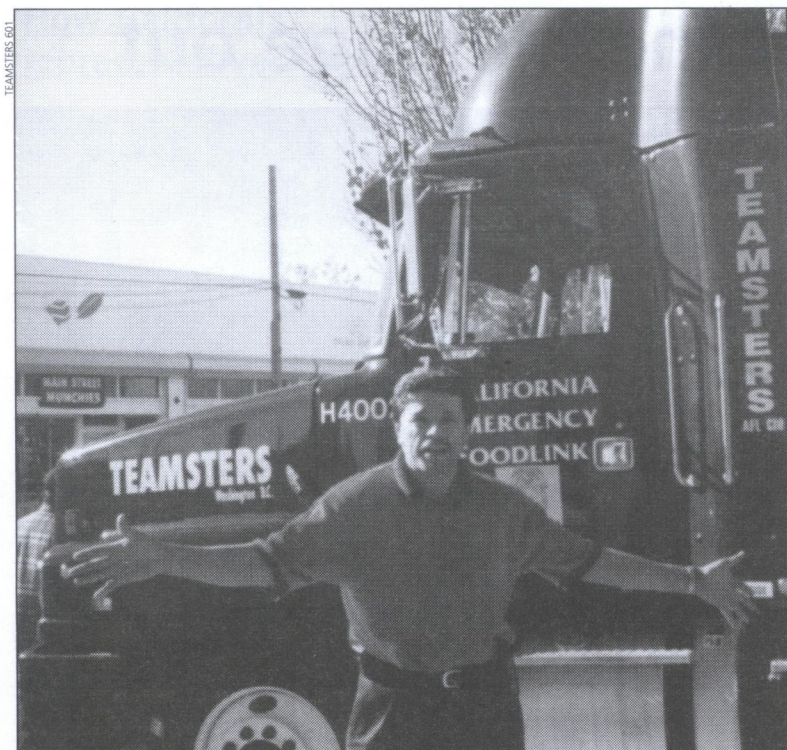
"This sad record stresses the need to elect a pro-worker Governor and legislative majority in both houses," said Lisa Ecks, Federation legislative representative.

### Defend the minimum wage & FLSA standards

Legislative advocates are seeking individuals employed in CalWORKS, work experience, community service or other programs, who are not receiving the minimum wage or other job protections in violation of DSS ACL 98-32. Contact the **Employment Law Center** at (415) 864-8848.







Lucio Reyes of Teamsters Local 601 reaches out to the community for material aid and support as Diamond Walnut workers prepare to vote again for union representation.

## Diamond Walnut workers to vote third time

For the third time, workers at Diamond Walnut in Stockton will vote on restoring union representation.

The National Labor Relations Board ordered another election after finding that the grower-owned cooperative, one of the world's largest, had violated its workers' rights.

"Diamond Walnut isn't above the law," said Lucio Reyes, secretary-treasurer of Teamster Local 601. "We are looking forward to another election that is fair and aboveboard."

Diamond Walnut workers were Teamster members until the company brought in permanent replacements during a strike in 1991. Workers organized again, but the NLRB threw out the 1992 and 1993 elections after employer intimidation and discrimination.

Teamsters Local 601 had represented workers at Diamond Walnut since the early 1950s. Facing bankruptcy in 1985, the company asked its workers, mostly Mexican-American, African-American, and Indian/Pakistani women, to take pay cuts of more than

\$3.00 an hour. They agreed to bail the company out and economic health returned, putting Diamond Walnut among the Fortune 500 list of most profitable companies. The company continued to seek concessions, forcing the strike.

"Diamond Walnut is just one example of the inadequacy of the election process," said Art Pulaski, "We continue to see employer abuses go unpunished under the NLRB and ALRB election process, in this cannery and in strawberry fields. Workers need a direct way to exercise the right to organize."

Reyes is optimistic that the union will prevail in the third election. "For the first time both parties are negotiating in good faith. Before the end of the year we may have a settlement. The company is taking strikers back and replacement workers are showing support for the union," he said.

The union is appealing for donations to help out the strikers with food baskets during the holidays. Funds can be sent to Teamsters No. 601, 745 E. Miner Ave., Stockton, CA 95202.

## Guest Column: Delaine Eastin

### Three choices for schools

## Yes on Eastin, Prop 1A — No on 8

Thank you for supporting me and my efforts to give our children the schools they deserve. I am very proud to have the endorsement of teachers, classified school employees and the California Labor Federation.

In my tenure as State Superintendent, we have taken many important steps to improve public education in California. We reduced class sizes, adopted high statewide standards for the first time in California's history, and began building a system of accountability.

On November's ballot, there are two measures that will have a profound impact on the future of our schools. And I urge you to please join me in taking a stand for California's schoolchildren by voting **YES on Proposition 1A** and **NO on Proposition 8**.

California desperately needs funds to build new schools and modernize outdated facilities. Proposition 1A takes a big step towards meeting these needs by providing \$9.2 billion for school construction and repair.

Proposition 1A will help relieve classroom overcrowding and improve school safety. Most importantly, it will accommodate the huge demand for classrooms that has resulted from our class size reduction program and a rapidly growing student population.

For children, Proposition 8 is a demon in disguise. It eliminates statewide standards and moves us away from real school accountability. It diverts millions of tax dollars away from existing education programs to fund a huge new bureaucracy and an Education Czar who has no public accountability, yet serves a 10 year term.

Proposition 8 is opposed by the California PTA, the California Teachers Association, the California Labor Federation, every major education stakeholder, and every major taxpayer organization in our state.

Delaine Eastin is the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

## HERE struggle continues

## Marriott pays \$1.5 million

Union members at the San Francisco Marriott enjoyed an unexpected windfall last month when hotel management decided to pay \$1.5 million in back wages—more than \$2,000 per worker—plus improved health benefits.

The retroactive raise came at a time when the National Labor Relations Board is expected to act on several unfair labor practices charges brought by HERE Local 2.

"They're trying to do two things at once—scurry out from under the NLRB prosecution by throwing money at people, and use this as a

chance to trash the union," said Kevin O'Connor, the union's director of organizing.

Marriott workers have been in this struggle for many years. In two years of bargaining, basic issues like retirement benefits, days off, and shift scheduling have not been agreed upon. When the hotel opened in 1989, managers forgot their nine-year old promise not to interfere with organizing rights, and later actively campaigned for decertification. Workers have picketed and engaged the community in their campaign.