



Building Material and Construction Trade **news**

October 2004

Organizing For Strength

Two Units of Workers Join Teamsters in California

On July 16, 31 workers at Associated Ready Mix and Cemak Incorporated voted to join Local 36 in San Diego, California. Eight of the workers are belly-dump drivers for Cemak, a material hauling company, and 23 of the workers are mixer drivers, mechanics, yard personnel or loader-operators for Associated Ready Mix.

“The workers showed a great deal of interest right away,” said Erik Madsen, the Local 36 business agent who organized the group. “I was able to stay in daily contact with the guys. I had some real good leaders in there.”

The workers are seeking better wages, more affordable health benefits and improved pension benefits, said

Michael Garcia, a driver at Associated Ready Mix for the past year and a half. Many of the workers were familiar with the strength of Teamster contracts and representation and that attracted them to the union.

Immediate Improvements

“I figured if we’ve got someone speaking for us, we’ll get better treatment from the company,” Garcia said. “Because we’ve chosen to become Teamsters, everybody’s in a positive mood.”

“My father-in-law is a Teamster, a lot of my friends are Teamsters and I was a Teamster at another company,” said Marco Laguna, a two-year driver for Associated Ready Mix. “I just like the way the Teamsters handle business.”

Madsen has helped the workers organize a negotiating committee made up of members of both units, and at press time, the union and the company were still working on setting contract

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Election 2004: A Clear Choice for Working Families

Bush for Big Business, Kerry for Workers

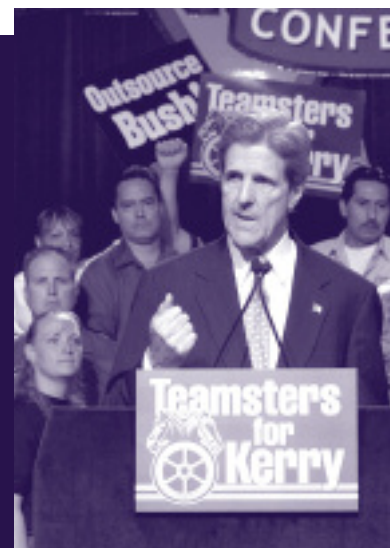
Since taking office, George W. Bush has made it clear what his attitude is toward the needs of working families. From health care to retirement security to jobs and trade, this administration consistently has worked for its Big Business contributors and against the men and women across this country who work for a living.

Still, many people are asking: How would a second Bush term affect the needs and

challenges of working families? During his acceptance speech at the Republican Convention in early September, Bush shared his vision for working families, if he’s given a second term in office. In his speech, the President set his sights on basic worker benefits.

“Many of our most fundamental systems—the tax code, health coverage, pension plans, worker training—were created

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Senator Kerry at the Teamsters Unity Conference

A Message from Building Material and Construction Trade Division Director Richard Stern



Building our Political Strength

From organizing small groups of drivers to efforts to change entire industries like pipeline construction, the Building Material and Construction Trade Division is working hard to make a difference, one jobsite at a time. However, this fall, we must ask you to act on behalf of your brothers and sisters in this division and throughout the union movement. Without your help, it will only get more difficult to fight for family wage jobs for America's construction workforce.

Job losses, outsourcing, cuts to health care benefits and wages that do not match the rising cost of living are everyday occurrences for millions of workers. This trend is not likely to change without tough, immediate action from

workers everywhere. We need every bit of strength we can muster to force changes in the battle against the devastating labor and trade policies that are in effect today. Only a powerful voice will reach the ears of our politicians and cause them to alter their ways.

John Kerry is the candidate we believe will get the economy back on the right track. He understands the issues and will work with labor to develop fair and equitable solutions for all. Another four years under the current administration will take a tremendous toll on millions of working families.

Don't let that happen. United and strong in number, we can be that powerful voice for change on November 2. Every action matters now, and more importantly, to our future.

PUMP It Up

Pipeline Campaign Successfully Targets Willbros RPI Inc.

Willbros RPI Inc. is the latest target of an organizing campaign designed to put more Teamsters and other union pipeline workers to work at pipeline construction sites around the country.

The coalition working on the campaign includes the Teamsters, the Pipeline Workers of America and other unions. The groups formed the Pipeline Union Mobilization Project (PUMP) to address pipeline-related concerns. It was also created to increase communication among the building trades unions, El Paso Corporation and pipeline contractors to improve conditions for the workers.

Willbros RPI recently completed a major nonunion project in Madisonville, Texas, which PUMP representatives monitored. A protest rally earlier this year drew attention to Willbros' exploitation of their workforce and their lack of concern for environmental, safety and landowner issues, said Bill Goodrich of the Laborers International Union of North America, who coordinates PUMP.

In August, Willbros RPI was considered the leading bidder on projects in New Mexico and Texas, but both jobs ended up going to union contractors. Those contractors will put more than 700 union pipeline tradespeople to work from

October through the New Year.

"Willbros' bid on one of those projects was a million dollars less than the union contractors, but the work of the unions showed the gas company that they weren't worth the risk," Goodrich said. "August was a great month for the four pipeline trades."

Goodrich said the organizers are now focused on jobs at several large liquefied natural gas plants—and pipelines related to those plants—that are in the approval process in Texas and Louisiana. PUMP also continues to try to keep Willbros RPI Inc. and Sunland Construction Inc., another nonunion pipeline contractor, from having any major impact on market share in the pipeline industry.

Organizing for Strength

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negotiation meeting dates.

"Even though we haven't negotiated our contract yet, the company's already treating us better," Garcia said. "They want to hear what we have to say."

ELECTION 2004: A Clear Choice For Working Families

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for the world of yesterday, not of tomorrow," the President stated. Clearly, Bush intends to use the power of his office to continue undermining—and in some cases abolishing—critical health and retirement programs.

He also laid out his plan to advance his assault on core labor rights. Just days after his administration implemented new regulations that will take overtime rights away from 6 million working Americans, Bush pledged in his speech to go even further in a second term. He called for new "labor law reform"—including flex-time and comp-time programs—that would enable more

companies to force their employees to work expanded and constantly changing schedules without any additional compensation.

Kerry-Edwards: Renewing America's Commitment to Working Families

Fortunately, John Kerry and John Edwards know that health coverage, pensions, and worker training are not things of the past. These two leaders have proven their commitment to working families, as both of them have earned lifetime labor voting records of better than 95 percent.



The Kerry-Edwards health care plan would make the same insurance that members of Congress use available to all Americans, ensuring that everyone has access to affordable, quality health care. Right now they are leading the fight in Congress to allow for the re-importation of safe, approved prescription drugs from Canada, drastically reducing the costs of medication for seniors and other working Americans.

Kerry and Edwards would also bring a renewed commitment to job creation and fair trade to the White House. They will close tax loopholes that encourage companies to move overseas, and they will put an end to the Bush administration's "outsourcing" agenda, which has caused 1 million American jobs to leave the country.

"Working families and union members find themselves facing the greatest challenges and, perhaps, the bleakest future in fifty years," said Jim Hoffa, Teamsters General President. "Fortunately, we can do something about it. By voting the issues that matter most to us—health care, retirement security, jobs and trade—we can help renew our nation's commitment to the values that built our economy and created the middle class. We can put America back to work!"

for more information log on to
www.TeamstersForKerry.org

A SECOND BUSH TERM: *What Would It Mean for Working Families?*

HEALTH CARE: 3 million retirees will lose their employer-provided prescription drug plan due to George Bush's sham prescription drug plan, and 5.2 million more people are without health insurance today than four years ago. With a second term in office Bush will be able to move forward plans to privatize Medicare and establish "medical savings accounts" which would allow wealthier Americans to buy their way out of the health care crisis.

RETIREMENT SECURITY: 10 million working Americans—including many Teamsters—saw their retirement plans put in jeopardy when the President used a veto threat to prevent Congress from enacting meaningful pension relief for multi-employer pension plans. The President will continue to promote an agenda that harms traditional pension plans and their participants, while at the same time undermining laws passed in recent years to reign in corporate CEOs who doctor the books and lie to investors.

JOBS AND TRADE: 2 million more Americans are out of work today than at the beginning of the Bush administration, and 1 million jobs have gone overseas due to Bush's outsourcing policies. Bush administration officials have already stated their intention to enter the United States into more job-killing trade deals, and the President himself committed during his convention speech that he would continue his "free trade" agenda.

A Message from General President James P. Hoffa



Vote!

Every working man and woman who cares about their future—the future of their jobs, the future of their health care and retirements, and the very future of our country—should vote for John Kerry

and John Edwards on November 2.

Let's cut through the spin and campaign rhetoric and simplify the presidential race to what it is really all about. The Bush/Cheney ticket is for corporate interests while John Kerry and John Edwards stand with working Americans.

Kerry and Edwards support the right to organize. They have rallied workers on picket lines. John Kerry was once a warehouse driver and member of

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Teamsters Local 25. John Edwards has worked in a mill. Can you imagine Bush or Cheney—both former CEOs—on a picket line? You would also have to be dreaming to think Bush/Cheney would do anything to strengthen workers' rights at the expense of corporate profits.

Don't be fooled by wedge issues, comments taken out of context and savvy advertising. The choice is clear. A John Kerry administration would welcome labor as a partner in Washington. Four more years of George Bush could destroy what it has taken 100 years to build. On

November 2, stand up for working families and elect public officials like John Kerry who will build our middle class rather than destroy it. And remember, every vote counts.

Fraternally,

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for info: www.TeamstersForKerry.org



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