

ing areas and much of the rest of the United States. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 1 in 3 of the District's residents lives in a poverty area, and 1 in 25 lives in an area where there is extreme poverty.

Now Mr. President—and those who would be President—can you smell the methane?

Of course you can't—neither could the miners. That is why they used canaries. But the human canaries, the homeless, are trying to tell us that there is something seriously wrong in the mine.

How serious is it?

In D.C. alone, according to the Community Partnership, approximately 15,000 people become homeless over the course of a year, and on any given day, 9,000 people are homeless, half of whom are women and children.

In D.C. alone, according to a Fannie Mae [Federal National Mortgage Association] report, 1 out of every 200 families requested emergency shelter assistance between May 1996 and June 1997; and 40% of homeless families in the D.C. area have been homeless more than once.

In D.C. alone, according to the Community Partnership, 1,406 families with 3,367 children applied for emergency shelter in 1996, and because emergency shelters for families remain full, most of the families had an average wait of six months for emergency shelter.

In D.C. alone, according to the Women's Service Providers Report, on any night, there are over 250 women in the D.C. singles shelter system. Sixty-five to 80% of the women do not have their children with them. Eleven to 16% of these women report their children as being in foster care.

An extrapolation of these data across the nation would be most revealing! Need I say more? Of course not. The homeless on the streets and in the shelters around the country are like the canaries in the mines, they're saying, "All is not well!" So I say to all those who would be President, listen to our human canaries and take note!

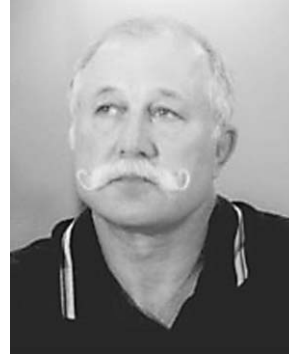
Dump Free Trade, Adopt Fair Trade Policies

by Robert Cebina

I am Robert Cebina, vice president of UAW [United Auto Workers] Local 723 in Monroe, Michigan. I would like to thank this panel for the opportunity to testify this morning, and hope that the results of this proceeding succeed in changing the policy both of the Democratic Party and the government.

First, I would like to address the problem of NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and its impact on the

UAW. According to a recent UAW release, supporters of NAFTA claimed it would create 200,000 jobs in the U.S. But, the AFL-CIO now estimates that up to 400,000 jobs have been lost to Mexico alone under NAFTA; 90% of the companies that promised to create jobs in 1993 have failed to do so. Forty percent of U.S. so-called exports to Mexico under NAFTA are, in fact, parts that are assembled at low-wage U.S.-owned plants and returned as finished products for sale! The U.S. now has a shocking \$13.2 billion trade deficit with Mexico, and in Mexico, their wages have fallen 29%. What a disaster!



The big auto makers have been outsourcing for years, to earn large profits and destroy the workforce. . . .

Globalization, as endorsed by the Democratic Party, has created slave-labor conditions worldwide. This must be halted.

—Robert Cebina

Taking the case of General Motors as an example: The impact has been devastating. Over the period 1978-97, General Motors slashed its hourly labor force from 520,000 workers to 224,000, laying off nearly 300,000 workers. While some of the layoffs were due to technological improvements, the vast bulk was due to "outsourcing" to slave-labor work sites in Mexico and other nations.

Of the 296,000 workers that GM fired in North America, 81,400 jobs, or 28%, are now in Mexico alone.

Many tens of thousands of additional workers, paid below subsistence wages, have replaced the 300,000 fired workers. GM has Delphi Automotive divisions around the world, from Brazil to Malaysia to South Korea. In 1997, South Korea's Delphi Division had almost \$1 billion worth of parts sales.

This process has not stopped, it has accelerated. According to one UAW official in Detroit, the UAW has lost over 500,000 members in this time frame. Ford Motor Co., like GM, has been both outsourcing and spinning off divisions into private companies, to cut costs and increase profits for shareholders.

Like GM's Delphi Division, Ford has now created

Visteon Co., to produce parts such as seats, shock absorbers, and other things. Visteon will then be spun off from Ford and become independent. Ford will merely retain the licensing ability of the Ford name and make its money off its name. Things will hardly be “Ford tough.” Times will be tough for Ford employees.

Ford employees now earn \$21 per hour plus benefits at its parts division. They earn more in overtime, evening work, etc. Now they will be competing with inferior work and lower-wage workers in Japan and other nations. Those parts can be purchased by Visteon over the parts made in the U.S. This will lead to more plant closings and even more layoffs.

The big automakers have been outsourcing for years, to earn large profits and destroy the workforce. They have also been creating slave-labor conditions in Mexico and other *maquiladora* countries. Globalization, as endorsed by the Democratic Party, has created slave-labor conditions worldwide. This must be halted. The *maquiladora*, duty-free assembly plants and other plants, producing textiles and other goods, now employ over 1 million workers. The stories of horrible working conditions in these nations now fill the press; there is no need to repeat the horror stories, of long hours, no health care, horrible working conditions, child labor violations, environmental violations, “up the proverbial wazoo,” and other travesties of justice and morality. They have been documented elsewhere.

It is high-time the Democratic Party included in its platform a repudiation of free trade, NAFTA, WTO, and other “globalist” policies. This might “alienate” those high-wage, high-flying corporate big shots now being courted by the party: Good! It is long overdue to alienate those people. I hereby call upon the Democratic Party to strike the free trade plank from its platform, and return once again to the “fair trade” outlook of President John Kennedy, President Franklin Roosevelt, and other traditional Democrats.

We should expand trade with our brothers and sisters around the world, to feed a hungry world, and provide jobs for those nations and ourselves, in the tradition of the great Marshall Plan of the postwar period. That plan rescued a starving, war-torn world, and was the driver for our postwar recovery. It put Detroit on the map as the leading city for industrial jobs and high living standards. Now is the moment to restore that policy.

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Health-Care Policy

AIDS: Whole Nations Are Near Extinction

by Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad, MD

Dr. Muhammad is the national spokesman for Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan, Minister of Health and Human Services for the Nation of Islam, and director of the Abundant Life Clinic in Washington, D.C.

In the Name of God the Beneficent, the Merciful, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for this opportunity — and for the whole panel, I will say that the remarks that I will give, can be supplied at a later date in a written format, so that whatever I don’t have a chance to cover today, verbally, can be available for the record.

I was asked to make some commentary about the issue of HIV and AIDS, and I think that this room and the people who are associated with this movement, are very familiar, especially those who read the *Final Call* newspaper, the *EIR*, and the *New Federalist*, they are certainly more aware than perhaps the average citizen would be, either in the United States or throughout the world. So, I will make certain assumptions that we are very familiar with the overall dimensions of this problem.

However, I will summarize, and then quickly jump onto the solution side, because I think we’ve been hearing about HIV and AIDS since about 1981, and people talk about it, and then tend to bury their head in the sand, as though there’s nothing that can be done. But as we speak, the world is facing an unprecedented biological holocaust, and right now the major impact is being felt in Sub-Saharan Africa. But I also have coined a phrase, which is the “Africanization of AIDS in America,” because early on in the epidemic in this country, the epidemic was actually called a “gay men’s disease,” which it never was exclusively, and it seemed to be a matter for high-risk groups to be concerned about. But if we look at the example of Africa, it always has been and continues to be predominantly a heterosexual disease — not that it is specifically associated with heterosexuality, just as it is not specifically associated with anybody’s sexuality, it happens to be something that is part and parcel of certain policy decisions that were entered into by the United States and our allies in the late ’60s and in the mid-’70s.

The disease has been documented to be due to an artificially created microorganism commonly known as human