

# We thank those who have paid their dues

Union-busting efforts across the nation have nothing to do with balancing out-of-control budgets, as President Mike Futhey and Assistant President Arty Martin explain in their columns on page 4 of this newspaper.

In fact, right-wing extremist legislatures are seeking to turn back the clock.

Following is a sampling of what the workplace was like before the 1926 Railway Labor Act and 1935 National Labor Relations Act gave workers rights to join a union free of employer interference and to bargain collectively.

Previously, the American judicial system was modeled on English common law, which considered any combination of workers seeking wage increases a criminal conspiracy, punishable by prison. Even picketing an employer was considered an unlawful restraint of trade.

Workers typically put in a 12-hour day, six days a week, with no overtime pay, no paid vacations, no employer-provided health care insurance, no process for worker grievances to be heard and no compensation for on-the-job injuries.

In 1855, Chicago railroads hired Pinkerton detectives to spy on workers, blacklisted troublemakers



and informed them in writing that if injured on the job, the railroad had no responsibility.

In 1867, Central Pacific financier Charles Crocker responded to a work stoppage by denying workers food, telling them it was he who made the rules and if they did not return to work he would pay them nothing for the work already performed and for which they were owed.

"Robber barons prevailed in their pursuit of endless treasure at the expense of their employees," wrote a federal judge in 2006, describing 19th century working conditions.

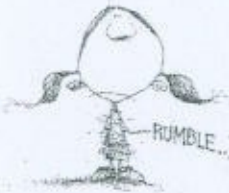
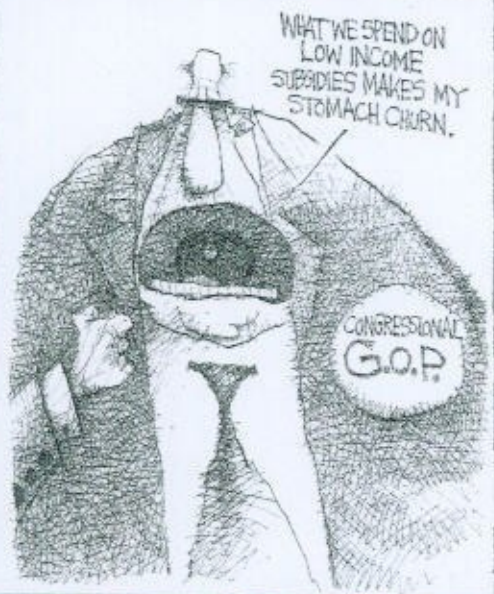
During the late 1800s, federal troops were used to put down work stoppages. In 1877, 20 rail workers were killed and another 29 wounded in clashes with 3,000 soldiers brought in to end a work stoppage.

In 1891, the Colorado legislature established 18 consecutive hours - with no overtime pay - as a lawful day's work for railroad workers.

Turn back the clock? As President Futhey says, "We are not going away. We will not forget. And, thanks to the values of the union movement and our members, **THE UTU IS STRONGER THAN EVER!**"

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① The 1935 <sup>year</sup> National Labor Relations Act gave workers rights to join a union free of employer interference to bargain collectively.  
② English common law saw any combination of workers seeking wage increases as a criminal conspiracy punishable by prison.



③ Workers used to put in a 12-hr. day, 6 days a week, with no overtime pay, no paid vacation, no employer-provided health care insurance, no process for worker grievances to be heard and no compensation for on-the-job injuries. ④ In 1877, 20 rail workers were killed and another 29 were wounded in clashes w/ 3,000 soldiers brought in to end a work stoppage.

⑤ In 1891, the Colorado legislature (which makes ~~the~~ laws) established 18 consecutive hours - with no overtime pay - as a lawful day's work for railroad workers. ⑥ Cartoon: Congressional political party ~~don't~~ don't want to spend money on low income people. ⑦ To take back what one has said: Recant. ⑧ Passed after 9/11, the Patriot Act is taking away our Constitutional rights. ⑨ "fair" causes the loss of freedom, liberties, and rights! ⑩ The 6<sup>th</sup> Amend. gives people the right to a speedy and public trial, the right to an attorney, and the right to know what evidence the gov't has. ⑪ John Ashcroft said that if you complain about the Patriot Act then you are on the side of the terrorists.