



BUILDING TRADES NEWS

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January 2003

Davis to Spend Billions Creating Jobs in 2003

■ Proposal will Create Thousands of Construction Jobs Across the Southland

By Adam Lancaster
BTN Staff Writer

On Jan. 7 Gov. Gray Davis announced "Build California," a major new initiative that will create thousands of construction jobs around the state by speeding up the use of \$21.5 billion in construction bond money.

Davis was at a school construction site south of Sacramento when he outlined his plan to accelerate bond projects, create construction and other jobs and pump billions of dollars into the economy earlier than planned.

"This is a very substantial step to creating jobs in 2003 and providing projects the voters wanted," said Davis. "We estimate these bonds will create

around 300,000 jobs, and we'd like as many as possible of those jobs to be created in 2003."

In November voters across the state approved dozens of bond measures totaling tens of billions of dollars. The money was intended to be phased in over several years. However, Davis' plan calls for more of the money to be spent now – helping to jump start the economy and provide thousands of much needed new jobs.

"We're very supportive of the Governor's plan," said Richard Slawson, Executive Secretary of the LA/OC Building Trades Council. "This will have a tremendous impact on the economy. It will create a flow of money that will lead to thousands of new jobs. It's a great way to help California recover from this federal recession."

Slawson estimates that the Davis plan means more than \$15 billion in investments for LA and

Orange Counties, which would translate into some 20,000 new construction jobs.

The state Building Trades have been actively lobbying Davis to invest in California as the best way to improve the faltering economy. In a letter earlier this month, Bob Balgenorth, President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council, pointed out the economic benefits of investing in road construction. For example, for every \$1 billion spent more than 26,000 jobs are created and more than \$2.8 billion is contributed to the state economy.

"The Governor has listened to us and understands the benefits of investing in construction," said Balgenorth. "Although it is early days the initial proposal looks promising. More investment will improve our schools, our roads, and also create more jobs to improve our economy."

The money in question includes the state's largest ever

school bond – a Davis-backed \$13 billion measure to build new schools and modernize others that includes \$11.5 billion for K-12 schools. Schools throughout California will also get \$9.4 billion from 90 local school bond measures approved in November. Voters also approved a \$3.5 billion in bonds to pay for water projects.

"We vigorously support this plan and the Governor's commitment to creating new jobs," said Art Pulaski, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, California Labor Federation. "Gray Davis has realized that the best way to create jobs is to invest in infrastructure. We need more schools, more housing, and more roads for a



Gov. Gray Davis explains his job creation plan at a press conference in Sacramento

California to have a strong economy."

Davis is also wrestling with the state's budget crisis, trying to devise ways to close a \$35 billion deficit. But before he spelled out those plans Davis' proposal, dubbed the "Build California" initiative, focused on how to stimulate the state's economy and create 500,000 jobs in the next four years – something that would

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Craftworkers Join Elected Officials to Spruce Up Banning Park

Volunteer Efforts Include Re-Painting and Re-Planting

Gov. Gray Davis and other elected officials joined more than 50 craftmembers and other community volunteers Jan. 4 for Volunteer Day at Banning Park in Wilmington.

The effort was part of Davis' plan to get out the word that the state could use some helping hands. With a looming state budget crisis, Davis told volunteers that community work was one of the best ways to help the state government get through this rough period.

"We thought the best way to celebrate our election was not to have a fancy ball, but to work in the community," said Davis. "This is a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community and send a

message about the important role volunteerism plays in making California great."

Volunteers scraped, brushed
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Construction Underway at Haynes Power Plant in Long Beach

To help avert future energy crises in LA, the Department of Water and Power is investing hundreds of millions in power plant construction – and the latest project is now underway at the Haynes Generation Station Repowering Project in Long Beach.

The \$200 million-plus project will increase electrical capacity while reducing pollution and costs. Craft members will spend the next two years installing two new dual-fired Combustion Turbines, two Heat Recovery Steam Generators (HRSGs), one steam turbine generator, associated pollution control systems, and associated balance of plant equipment.

"This new construction work



When completed the Haynes Power Plant in Long Beach will produce enough electricity to power 1.5 million homes.

will benefit the whole of Los Angeles," said John Dennis, Power Engineering Manager for the LA DWP. "Enhanced fuel efficiency will save millions and

also save the environment. It's a win-win."

The primary fuel is natural gas, but the Turbines would be

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'Deja Vu All Over Again'



by Richard Slawson, Executive-Secretary

Would you rather give all of your income to a millionaire and depend on his taking care of you and your family or would you like to have a decent paycheck, spend your own money and have your family decide on expenditures? This is the recurrent question in Washington, DC and states around the country. As Yogi Berra once said, "It's deja vu all over again."

The economic battle currently going on in Congress over the Bush Administration's proposed budget and tax cuts, as the conservatives like to say, is all about your money. The problem is that when they tell you that its your money, they leave out the fact that their tax plan will give back more of "their" money to the richest 1% of America!

Democrats and Republicans each have their own plan, but while they are battling, 38 or more states are being cut out of their fair share of the money that their citizens send to the federal government. In small states like "No Rights At Work" Mississippi, corporations are being awarded federal dollars on a massive scale, while California, Washington, Oregon and the northeastern

states are being ignored. California can't even get assistance on its health services shortfalls.

But, the conservatives continue to broadcast through America's "unbiased" media that the government is the problem behind America's troubles and only the rich can truly save the economy. This is a restatement of the "tickle down" theory that was pedaled during the "Raygun" presidency. Put all of the money in the hands of the millionaires and they will invest it into business, create more jobs and hire all of us poor slobs who they think don't know what to do with our money. Of course history tells us that the rich don't hire us, they limit their purchases and in many cases they invest in foreign businesses. The richest Americans, generally chief executives of major corporations and heirs to great fortunes have hoarded their money and passed it on to their own.

The other side of the argument is from the progressives. People who are supportive of working people having the opportunity to negotiate decent wages and benefits, paying their fair share of taxes to support our county's defenses, and

applying the kind of consumerism that helped the great American economy with broad-based buying.

Trickle down didn't work, but if Bush has anything to do with it we will be maneuvered more and more in that direction. Throughout the 1950s, '60s and '70s, American working families' wages and benefit plans increased and the economy benefitted from the discretionary income that was available to the expanding middle class. We bought homes, cars and other "luxury" items coming out of America's factories. These purchases drove our economy and allowed us to rebound from recessions. We also paid for our retirements through Social Security and negotiated retirement plans, which guaranteed that we could provide for ourselves in our old age.

However, there was one other thing that was different — the richest Americans paid a much higher percentage of the cost of government. In the '70s Americans making over \$1 million paid as high as 70% income taxes. It was understood that those who benefitted the most would pay the most to keep America strong. Today, that tenet has been recycled, rolled-over and spun until the average, middle income American thinks that a flat tax is fair.

When Newsweek magazine called President Bush a "High Roller" this week they probably meant he was willing to bet America on helping his rich friends, and himself, accumulating even more of the wealth in the country. Already 1% of the richest Americans control 40% of the country's wealth. This is not enough, apparently, because they want more.

The latest Bush administration proposal to eliminate the taxes paid on stock dividend is another step in dividing the country into two extremes — the rich and the poor. Bush's claim that it is unfair to tax dividends is based on the lie that it is "double taxation." Corporations are taxed just as individuals who own a business are taxed on their profits. When they pay out their profits to others for their services, those who receive the payment pay taxes as well. Except that in Bush's proposal the elimination of taxes would allow 60% of the untaxed dividends to go to the richest 10% of Americans.

We need to let our Congressmen know that we oppose this proposed raid on our government. Call your Congressional office today and say that you oppose Bush's tax plan and the elimination of the tax on dividends. It's a simple message that will have a huge impact.

Unions Protest at LA Times

Craft members have continued their protests outside the Los Angeles Times building in downtown LA.

For more than three months now members of Ironworkers 433, joined by other concerned union members, have been demonstrating against the Tribune Company's decision to award a \$1.2 million dollar seismic retrofit contract to non-union workers.

By doing so they have broken with a tradition that usually sees projects of this type awarded to the craft union with the most skilled workers.

"If allowed to stand, the Times' action could set a dangerous precedent," said Ironworkers 433 Business Rep. Steve Skinas. "This decision will throw skilled union workers out of work and risk safety standards at work sites across the Southland."

Skinas also raised safety concerns



about the project — for those working on the job, in the building and in nearby areas.

"This is on an earthquake seismic retrofit project where only the most qualified contractors and craftsmen should be used," explained Skinas. "It's another example of a multi-million dollar corporation being more concerned about profits than safety."

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phone: (213) 483-4222
(714) 827-6791
fax: (213) 483-4419

Executive Editor, Richard Slawson
Editor, Cherri Senders
Advertising Director, Lou Siegel
(310) 398-6662

Officers of the Council:

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Volunteers

(continued from page 1)

and painted walls, fences and rooms all over the park. A garden area was completely renovated and planted with over 100 plants, rocks and fixtures. The basketball court was completely re-stripped with bright paint that was hardly dry before teenagers were playing pick-up games.

The Painters District Council 36, Laborers Local 802, Steam fitters Local 250, and Ironworkers State Council all had numbers of volunteers who gave their Saturday for the community.

"This was a great opportunity to get involved in our community," said Art Guzman, Business Rep. for UA 250. "Our members felt it was important to help out and give something back."

All together, some 100 volunteers including youth groups and community associations' members, worked together to improve and beautify Banning Park.

Gov. Davis was joined by other state officials including Steve Westly, State Controller; Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Schools; and John Garamendi, State Insurance Commissioner, who all pitched in for the day.

Los Angeles city council member Janice Hahn, whose district the event was in, also volunteered at the event. "I think it's important for the community to know that the governor of California came to Wilmington," she said. The next step, she said, will be to request some of the Prop. 40 funds that were slated to help improve aging parks for her district.



Hundreds of volunteers spent the day renovating Banning Park including (above left) Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, Gov. Gray Davis, State Controller Steve Westly, and (below left) LA City Councilmember Janice Hahn. Unions at the event included Laborers Local 802 with Hahn (top right), UA 345 (bottom right), and (left) Painters District Council 36 with Westly and Art Pulaski, head of the California Labor Federation.



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Corporate Scandals Mean 'No More Business as Usual' for Union Pension Funds

The experiences of the last few years have changed the landscape and the relationship between workers, unions, employers and investment experts forever.

We will never accept "Business as Usual" in the investment markets again.

While we have the fiduciary duty to operate our trusts and protect the interests of our workers, we're not really the experts...our trust advisors are.

In the past we looked to our experts to help us navigate the complexities of the financial markets. We looked to them to exercise the appropriate due diligence. Sometimes we did that to our detriment.

The six trillion dollars in union pension funds are a sacred trust for America's working families. We must not squander these monies on faulty strategies, nor can we allow government or companies to ever invade these funds as we saw in this last year.

Briefly, let's examine just a few of the events of the last two years that have shaken not just equity markets, but the very foundations of our economy and our government.

Executive compensation became an obscene embarrassment even for Wall Street. In a decade CEO pay went from 80 times the pay of the average workers to almost 500 times that pay level. Does anyone really think the CEOs deserve that kind of money while workers' wages actually

declined in terms of buying power?

Companies like Enron, Adelphia, Global Crossing, WorldCom, ImClone and others manipulated their stock, cooked the books, misled their own employees and ripped off their own companies for billions of dollars.

The top executives of the 25 largest companies to go bankrupt looted \$3.3 billion for themselves. Instead of protecting their own shareholders and employees they treated their companies like personal piggy banks. Meanwhile pension funds and retirement goals of thousands of American workers were wiped out. The lifelong hopes and dreams of honest working families were trashed by these corporate crooks.

Since January 2001 the nation's collectively bargained pension funds, covering 5 million workers, lost \$240 billion! Here in California, the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) lost a combined \$830 million.

Despite the tidal wave of corporate fraud, the Bush administration continues to drag its feet on prosecuting these crooks. The Sacramento Bee headline said recently, "Why aren't they in the slammer?" Moving at a snail's pace, Bush and his Justice Department show no enthusiasm for going after crooks, particularly since many of them, including the President and Vice-President, have been guilty of much the

same manipulation.

And, finally, we are beginning to learn that that worst is not over yet. The press is now revealing that in addition to outrageous pay and stock rip-offs, many large companies have given their executives massive free "loans." Adelphia's \$263 million loan tops the list but companies like Bear Stearns, Provident Financial, First Virginia Banks, HealthSouth, Microsoft and others have allowed executives to secretly walk away with millions of dollars. If a union tried to secretly loan money to its officers, they'd all go to jail. We're still waiting for the cell door to slam shut on these CEOs. Clearly, events of the last two years show that no one was watching the hen house as the corporate foxes ransacked the place. Where were the analysts, the experts, the financial advisors upon whom we place our collective futures? For unions, we have a renewed public trust to protect.

Recent polls have shown that support and trust for unions have risen to 50 percent, the highest levels since 1984. Conversely, 39 percent view corporations negatively – the lowest level in nine years. AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, stood on the steps of the stock exchange in New York City and challenged corporate America and the Bush administration for tough new changes in corporate governance.

This election, we worked hard to elect

people to Congress who would give this crisis more than the shameful lip-service mouthed by President Bush. Unfortunately, Bush did well in the election and our job will be much more difficult. We did well here in California, but the next two years will be tough. We support initiatives such as that proposed by California Treasurer Angelides to use our power in large pension funds to advance social agendas and worker's rights.

Until our own advisors ask the right questions and alert us to games played by companies we'll use whatever avenues are available to use to protect our members and their pensions. It's not business as usual anymore. We will not sit back and watch passively as the futures of America's working families disappear into the pockets of greedy CEOs. This new, more aggressive approach is not just about protecting unions. It's also about preserving and enhancing the American middle class.

Institutions must step forward who represent the best this country has to offer: the sweat and blood of ordinary working people who add real value to this nation every hour, every day, year in, year out.

Only America's unions can do that. I believe that we are up to the task. I believe that our financial experts will be as well.

(This article was excerpted from a Nov. 12 speech at a San Francisco Pension Funds Forum by Robert Balgenorth)

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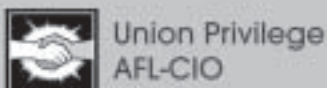
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2003 Primary Election Results for the Building & Construction Trades Crafts

The following are unanimously endorsed candidates for the Mar. 4 Los Angeles City primary election:

Los Angeles City Council:

District #2 Wendy Greuel (Incumbent)
 District #4 Tom LaBonge (Incumbent)
 District #6 Tony Cardenas
 District #8 Bernard Parks
 District #10 Martin Ludlow
 District #12 Julie Korenstein
 District #14 open

Los Angeles Unified School District:

District #1 Genethia Hudley-Hayes (Incumbent)
 District #3 Caprice Young (Incumbent)
 District #5 David Tokofsky (Incumbent)
 District #7 Mike Lansing (Incumbent)

Los Angeles Community College District:

District #1 Sylvia Scott-Hayes (Incumbent)
 District #3 Mona Field (Incumbent)
 District #5 Georgia Mercer (Incumbent)
 District #7 Warren Furutani (Incumbent)

Extension to Prop BB PLA Approved

With a unanimous vote, the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education decided last month to extend the project labor agreement (PLA) covering construction work under Proposition BB, a \$2.4 billion bond approved by Los Angeles voters in 1997.

When work began on construction funded by Proposition BB the Building Trades were able to negotiate a PLA for the project. Each year the efficiency of the PLA is reviewed by the Board of Education with the option of extending it. That led to the vote Dec. 10 when once again the Board voted in favor of extending the PLA for another twelve months.

"I was very pleased that this PLA extension was agreed on," said Board Member Julie Korenstein. "It's a wonderful partnership between the district and labor that ensures the work is done in a timely manner while providing well paid jobs and good benefits. PLAs are a benefit for the whole community."

Building Trades members were out in force at the meeting to put forward the case for Project Labor Agreements. Time and time again, PLAs have shown that they are the best way to manage complicated construction projects – delivering facilities on time and on budget. They also provide living wages, good benefits and safe



This elementary school proposed for downtown is just one of the radical new designs planned by the district.

working environments.

"The quality of the work done under the bond was evident to the board," said John Hall, Business Rep for UA Plumbers Local 78. "Their vote to extend the labor agreement ensures that the work will get done by trained local craftspeople at a large savings to the taxpayer."

The next fight for the building trades will be to get a similar PLA for the recently approved Measure K. In November, Los Angeles area voters agreed to fund \$3.5 billion in school construction.

"The PLA for Prop BB was the first time we had such an agreement between labor and education in more than 16 years," added Korenstein. "I hope the board and local unions can build on that with Measure K."

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Need Help Paying for College?

City Sponsors Programs Explaining Financial Aid Programs Beginning Feb. 1

With the price of college tuition continuing to go up, the city of LA has launched a new initiative to encourage more Los Angeles high school students to go to college by finding out about the large number of college financial aid programs available.

Called "Free Cash for College Day," Feb. 1 has been designated as the day for volunteers to help graduating seniors and their families complete financial aid forms at all LAUSD high schools.

"Our future depends in part on nurturing our greatest resource: our people," said Los Angeles Mayor Hahn, one of the backers of the program. "We need to provide Angelenos with an opportunity to receive a college education so that they can attend college and have a fair shot of getting a job after they graduate. We can unleash the potential of our diverse workforce and equip our students and families with the skills to succeed."

In addition to the mayor, Free Cash for College Day has the support of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Superintendent Roy Romer, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and civic leaders from business, education, labor, community-based organizations and government.

According to the latest government reports, Los Angeles now has the highest

proportion of low-educated adults of any major metropolitan area in the United States. One in ten adults in Los Angeles lacks a high school diploma. Research reveals that lack of information and difficulty with the financial aid application forms serve as principal barriers to students accessing and completing their higher education.

"I am delighted to partner with Mayor Hahn on this project," said Superintendent Roy Romer. "On Free Cash for College Day, every high school senior and his or her family can go to their local high school to get more information about financial aid for college."

"Every child deserves access to the financial aid available to him or her," added Romer. "We hope that this project will help close the gap between those who qualify for financial aid and those who actually receive it."

A new report from the College Board shows the average college graduate will earn \$1 million more over a lifetime than someone with just a high school diploma. Last year, 1.1 million new jobs for college graduates were created while more than 2 million non-degree jobs were eliminated.

Currently, there are record amounts of financial aid that are available this year for higher education – \$1.2 billion in Califor-



Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn "cuts the red tape" to college financial aid with (l-r) LAUSD Board Member David Tokofsky, LAUSD Board President Caprice Young and Los Angeles City Councilmember Jan Perry.

nia alone through the historic Cal Grant program. Cal Grants provide up to nearly \$10,000 per year of college in free grant aid to qualifying families. A family of four making up to \$66,000 would qualify for Cal Grants, which just last year were made guaranteed entitlements to every qualifying student in the State of California – a greater

education investment than even the GI Bill after World War II.

For more information about Free Cash for College Day, or to volunteer a Saturday to help families in your community, please call (213) 978-0721 or visit www.lafreecashforcollege.org

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Roy Ringwood, Bus. Mgr/President

One Year Later – Merger Update

*By Brad Rooker, Vice President/
 Business Rep.*

It has been a year now since the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association merged our two great local unions into one. So how are we doing so far? Have we resolved all of the problems and issues that come with a merger? Probably not! One year later, I would like to talk about just a couple of the merger issues that exist.

I know, in the eyes of some of our members and a good number of our contractors, that progress is moving slower than anticipated. Although it did not take long for General President Sullivan to merge the membership, all of the intricate details involved in dovetailing a completely cohesive merger together between the union and the contractors takes time and patience. In some cases even years.

As an example, let's take a couple of unresolved working rules and examine the road blocks and pitfalls confronting complete and satisfactory resolve.

1. Two different out of work lists.
2. Free movement of man power.

Combining the "out of work" lists of Corona and Los Angeles can be complicated. How do you determine who would be at the top of the list and who would be at the bottom? How do you determine who goes on the list first since both lists have someone in the number one spot? Do you establish the order on the list according to the date a member reports out of work? What if more than one, perhaps several, members report out of work on the same day? Should we use the date and time that a member reports out of work? That may work after the initial purging of the two out of work lists. However, time of day was not used in both local unions to establish a member's place on the out of work list before the merger and would not resolve the problem of merging the two current out of work lists today. The fact is that there are not equal numbers of unemployed members on each list also creates a problem. As you can see, the job of dovetailing the out of work lists into one must be thought out carefully and done equitably for all.

One of the most compelling reasons for the merger of the two local unions was the free movement of manpower in Southern California where cities blend together easier than water in a rain barrel and, the cost of services and goods are virtually identical regardless what side of the Imperial Highway you are standing on, it did not make any sense that a contractor on one side of Imperial Highway would be restricted by the number of employees he

could send across the street to a jobsite. It seems it should be an easy task to open the borders and let everyone go where the contractors need the manpower.

However, keeping in mind we still have two different collective bargaining agreements with distinct differences in wages and benefits, would it be practical or equitable to allow the contractors the ability to hire anyone they choose at will? Should we allow contractors to send members to jobsites without regard to differences in wages and fringe benefits? Should contractors be allowed to have freedom of movement without regard to wage differences and taking responsibility for their actions? If we did, how many sheet metal workers at the higher wage rate would be employed? Before we allow carte blanche freedom of movement, doesn't it make more sense to go back to the table and negotiate a reasonable, equitable wage and fringe benefits package for everyone? We need to establish some form of parity for manpower costs for our contractors, level the playing field and eliminate the obstacles that took so many years to build which drove our local unions and contractors apart.

Once we achieve a level playing field, we will be able to enjoy the fruits of our labor. Then and only then will we be able to open our jurisdictional boundaries allowing the free movement of manpower so desperately needed and wanted by both management and labor.

In closing, I would like to answer the

question I posed at the beginning of this article. How are we doing with the merger? I think we can all see that there are some unresolved issues still ahead of us. In my humble opinion, mergers at best can be difficult. The International Association believes that a merger was in the best interest of the membership and the two local unions. And, despite the time it may take or the amount of work that is involved in making sure of the merger's success, your officers will do what ever is necessary to make it happen for the future of our union, our industry and for our membership.

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MINUTES OF THE LA/OC BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL'S DELEGATES' MEETING DECEMBER 5, 2003

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND QUORUM: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. by President Alan Lewis, at the Building Trades Council Auditorium, and called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

CREDENTIALS: No new credentials were received for this month.

MINUTES: President Alan Lewis requested a motion to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2002 meeting minutes.

Moved, seconded and concurred to approve the November 14, 2002 Delegate meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES: It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Executive Board Minutes of December 04, 2002. Bricklayers' Local #5 Business Manager and Delegate Phil Morris asked that the attendance announcement in the Executive Board Minutes be corrected. With no objections the minutes were corrected.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following communications were received by the Council:

* Letter from Jay Hansen, State Building Trades Council Legislative Director, regarding Senate Bill 972, modifying the

application of SB 975 in regard to certain low income housing developments.

* Letter from State Treasurer Philip Angelides, thanking the Building Trades Council and the Crafts for their support and endorsement in the November election.

* Letter from Debra Holmes, Secretary of "Friends of the Centrailia District Schools, Committee for Measure H, thanking the Council and the Crafts for their endorsement and support of the Bond measure to build new school facilities.

* Letter from Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Roy Romer thanking the Council and the Crafts for their overwhelming support for Measure K, the \$3.3 billion School Construction Bond measure that passed on November 5th.

* Letter from California Governor Gray Davis, thanking the Council and the Crafts for their friendship and support during the very difficult campaign he waged for re-election. He stated that now that the election is over it's time to look to the future of our great State and hope to continue to work with the Crafts on many issues.

* Letter from LA United, signed by Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn, thanking the Council and the Crafts for their support in keeping LA together and defeating the secession movement.

* Letter from LA City Councilman Tom LaBonge asking for our support in the March 2003 City Council election where he is

seeking re-election.

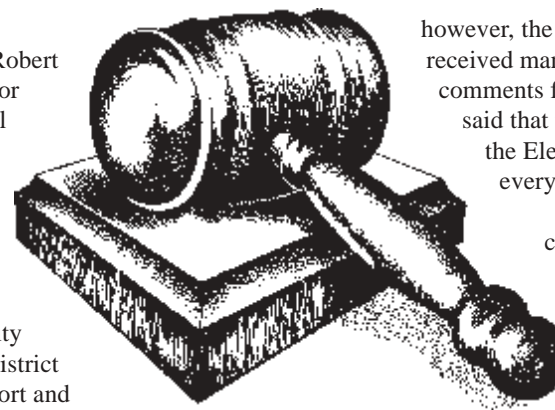
* Letter from Robert Vinson, candidate for the LA City Council in the 12th District asking for our support and endorsement.

* Letter from Tony Cardenas, candidate for LA City Council in the 6th District asking for our support and endorsement.

* Update from the State Federation of Labor AFL-CIO reviewing the legislative agenda and successes that were gained in working with the legislature and the governor over the past year.

* A Memoriam from the State Building Trades Council informing that Roger Hamilton, the former Heat & Frost International Local #5 Business Manager and International Representative, had passed away on December 2nd and provided the funeral services information.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE REPORTS: Executive Secretary Slawson reported that the Demonstration at the LA Times' Building was successful, with about 35 Craft workers, Representatives and other Union members participating. He said that the Times' management hadn't responded,



however, the demonstrators had received many supportive comments from passers by. He said that the Iron Workers and the Electricians had thanked everyone for assisting.

Slawson also commented that the inflatable rats should be he within about 4 weeks. He said that he would send a notice to the Crafts when they are received.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RICHARD SLAWSON: Executive Secretary Richard Slawson began his report by informing the Delegates about a **proposed "Liquified Natural Gas" Terminal**, which would handle 160 thousand cubic meters of natural gas in a liquid form per day, in Los Angeles Harbor by the Mitsubishi Corporation. He said that he had been contacted by Butterfield Communications earlier this year and their representatives informed him that Mitsubishi had wanted to build the plant. They had also committed to build the project Union, Slawson said.

The Executive Secretary talked about the process that the project will have to go through. He said that it is expected to take a


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Minutes

(continued from page 17)

year, and will require a full Environmental Impact Report, approvals from the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the Coastal Commission, the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the City of Los Angeles. The company filed a request for an application with the Port of Los Angeles yesterday, he said, and asked for our support during the process. Slawson said that the project is expected to cost between \$350 and \$390 million and would employ approximately 500 Craft workers. He said that he will be informing the Crafts about upcoming meetings or hearings that the Building Trades Council is notified of through the permit process and asked that the Crafts participate by attending the meetings.

The Executive Secretary next reported that the Painters' District Council, with the assistance of the Van Borg Law Firm, was successful in getting a Prevailing Wage determination from the Chuck Cake, the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, on **Santa Clarita Shopping Center/Library Project**. He said that the City of Santa Clarita had assisted the developer, TCP Management, by entering into an agreement where the City provided over \$3.5 million for the construction of a Library and offsite improvements in and around the Library and the Shopping Center.

The City eventually purchased the Library Building and improvements for \$5.1 million, he said, when the developer had completed the project. During the project the Painters' Apprenticeship Compliance Trust

and the Department of Industrial Relations had requested compliance documents for both apprenticeship requirements and Prevailing Wages, Slawson said, and the Trust requested the Public Works determination.

Slawson said that the lawyers handling the case had advised the Building Trades Council that since the determination had covered the entire project all of the Craft Unions should review the contractors certified payroll records for their work on the job. He said that the lawyers are now involved in defending an appeal of the public works determination by the City of Santa Clarita, however, it is expected that the original determination should be upheld since the appeal is to Chuck Cake, who made the original determination. He commented that the Painters' compliance department and representatives had done an excellent job in pulling the information together on the project.

The **Los Angeles County USC/Medical Center Project** has been bid, the Executive Secretary next reported and the low and only bidder is a joint venture of McCarty Construction, Clark Construction and Hunt Construction. He said that the IBEW Local #11 Business Manager, Marvin Kropke and the Local's representatives had met with the County Supervisors' office at the same time as the Building Trades Council had spoken to Supervisor Molina's office to request that a Project Labor Agreement and/or a Labor Law enforcement program be utilized for the Medical Center Project.

After meeting with staff of the Supervi-

tor, and because of President Bush's Executive Order banning the fed's funding of projects that an agency requires a Project Labor Agreement, Slawson said that the discussion revolved around ways to implement the goals that each side brought to the table without affecting the federal funding that the County needs to build the Project.

He said that it was decided to simply place the goals in the bid specifications and leave it up to the bidders to adopt a mechanism to accomplish the goals. The language placed in the bid specification, titled a Memorandum of Common Interest; required the enforcement of Prevailing Wages, the full utilization of Apprenticeship, payment of benefits for all Craft employees and the hiring of local residents, he said.

The Executive Secretary continued, saying that now that the joint venture has submitted its bid, and if they have responded properly, the contract award should be made within a few weeks and we will begin a discussion about a Project Labor Agreement. McCarthy, as the lead contractor, he said, has labor agreements with some of the Craft Unions and has worked with Project Labor Agreements on large projects before. He said that all of the Crafts covering the project area will be notified to attend any negotiations that are held with McCarthy.

Slawson then told the Delegates about the **new Labor Law enforcement requirements** that have been approved in Assembly Bill 1506 that was signed by Governor Davis.

He said that when the voters in California passed Proposition 47, the School Construction Bond, on November 5th there was a requirement that had been adopted by

the State Legislature that demands that any public school district requesting an allocation of Prop 47 bond funds must show that they had established an approved Labor Compliance Program.

Each of the districts, he said, have the option of creating their own Labor Compliance Program, however, it's expected that because so many school districts throughout the State had not previously invested in enforcement they will need assistance. He commented that the various Labor/Management funded compliance groups have an opportunity to not only educate school districts' personnel about their options, but as well to create a program that will fulfill the AB 1506 requirements.

The Executive Secretary said that two school districts had already asked for information from the Crafts on their options in establishing the required Labor Compliance Program and with Business Representatives from the IBEW with one district and the Laborers' Business Representatives with another district.

He commented that he had met with the districts and one of them had asked how the Crafts could provide a Labor Compliance Program and we had suggested that a Program be made a part of a Project Labor Agreement to cover the projects funded with the Proposition 47 Bond funds or other projects. He said that the Building Trades Council will be providing a sample project labor agreement to school districts that would like assistance and he asked that the Crafts who know school board members anywhere in Los Angeles or Orange County ask them to meet with us to discuss the Prop 47 require-

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ments. This is an opportunity to assist workers, fair contractors, students and taxpayers if we take advantage of it, he said.

The Executive Secretary provided information about recent proposed design **changes for the completion of the 710 Freeway** through South Pasadena and the other cities along the route.

He said that at a meeting last month with elected officials, Metropolitan Transportation Agency representatives, Caltrans management and other interested parties, including Operating Engineers' Local #12 and Laborers' D.C. and Local #300 representatives, it was suggested that the best option that would possibly two massive 50' diameter tunnels taking the freeway roadbed and traffic under South Pasadena. He commented that each tunnel would contain three lanes and have entrance and exit access lanes along the underground route.

He said that after 30 years of battling with the City of South Pasadena, various elected Assembly members, State Senators and U.S. Congressmen over the completion of this vital connection, he is concerned that if everyone who has supported the freeway changes direction to this radical design it could undermine the Record of Decision that had been approved by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation in 2000. He commented that any decision on a change of design will still take review by all of the agencies in our area and the federal government.

The 710 Freeway Coalition has been a driving force behind the project for over 8 years and the Crafts should continue to support the group, he said, since this completion of the freeway will not only create jobs but will reduce gridlock and air pollution for every citizen. He said that as information comes out he would keep the Crafts informed.

The Executive Secretary's last item was an update of the **LAUSD's Belmont Learning Center Project**. He said that the LAUSD Superintendent, Roy Romer, had announced that the latest finding of an earthquake fault has assured that the school cannot be completed. Romer, he said, has met with

Union representatives, and every other interest group about the findings that were announced last month explaining the process that the District had gone through in trying to determine if the site was safe. Romer had said that when they were running tests to see if the old old wells on the site would repressurize the geologist observed that there was a possible fault that showed up on the soundings that were taken, he said. After

6,000 feet of trenching was done, Slawson said, it was indicated that the fault ran directly under the buildings that had already been constructed and they would have to be torn down and only 12 acres of the almost 50 acre site was usable for school construction.

He said at this point the District will be trying to find a buyer for the entire site to recoup some of the \$150 million that had been expended to date. He said that this project was not funded with Prop BB funds and this will allow the District to continue to build other proposed new schools in the surrounding area - at least 5 new schools are projected to be built.

Executive Secretary Slawson thanked the Delegates for attending the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

DELEGATES' REPORTS:

Delegate Matthew Isrel, Laborers' Local 802, reported on a Babcock & Wilcox Construction project at the ARCO Refinery. He said that B&W had begun work and he would like to have a pre-job conference with them.

REPORT OF COUNCIL BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

Skip Henke:

L.A.U.S.D.: Negotiations have been completed and a tentative agreement has been reached. Ratification vote by the affiliates is scheduled for today, December 4, 2002.

The tentative agreement provides for a three year term with a 5% wage increase in the first year and wage re-opener in the second and third years.

There are also several language changes as well as the creation of a "Workplace Concerns Committee" to meet quarterly to discuss work related problems.

The negotiating team did a great job and is unanimously recommending the agreement be accepted.

L.A. County: Several County departments are planning to implement some work assignment changes as cost saving measures in light of severe budget shortfalls.

The LAC-USC Medical Center is proposing to curtail the 9/80 alternate work schedule and go back to a 5/40 work schedule.

The Internal Services Department is proposing to discontinue stand-by assignments for specific craft classifications that have been in place.

County wide a hard hiring freeze is in

place and no new hiring is allowed unless approved by the C.A.O. Also, there are still considerations of possible layoffs.

L.A. City: Errors made in dues and agency fee deductions earlier this year will be corrected in the payroll period ending December 14.

Retroactive pay for bargaining Unit employees is still scheduled for payment in January 2003.

L.A. Housing Authority: Negotiations will begin shortly on a Successor Agreement.

Sun Valley Re-Powering Project: Progress meeting followed by a "mark-up" meeting for jurisdiction of work on the steam turbine generator will be held at 10:00 A.M. - December 10, 2002 - Tuesday - at the jobsite. Keiwit Construction is the General Contractor.

Antelope Valley Area Meeting: To be held on Friday the 13th of December 2002 in Lancaster.

Jim Adams:

Santa Ana Unified School District: As mentioned last month a pre job for the first major project under the Project Stabilization Agreement with the District was held since our last Delegates' meeting. The project came in under original estimates by approximately \$4 million with Swinerton Builders being the lowest bid at \$24.3 million. This is the first pre job that we have had with the District, and with the SAUSD it is made very clear the Agreement is in place and will be adhered to. The political aspect of the District continues to be a battle...

Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD): Since Measure E was approved by the voters in November, I have met several times with the Chancellor of the District and have had conversations with some of the Trustees regarding the upcoming work to be accomplished.

County of Orange: Unlike Santa Ana Unified, the County of Orange continues to be at least a challenge. We have had two meetings during the month regarding soil testing and building inspecting included in the agreement. Additionally, the Union Security Clause has recently become or continues to be an issue. There is a meeting scheduled next week with the County and John Wayne Representatives to discuss their interpretation of "the seven day provision."

WELFARE OF THE COUNCIL:

(Raffle winners):

Tony Olea, Laborers' #300
John Spalding, Operating Engineers' #12
Rick Rogers, IBEW #45
John Ibarra, Operating Engineers' #12
Hart Keeble, Iron Workers' #416
Joe Solis, Bricklayers' #4

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Delegates, it was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned in the memory of Roger Hamilton. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard N. Slawson
Executive Secretary

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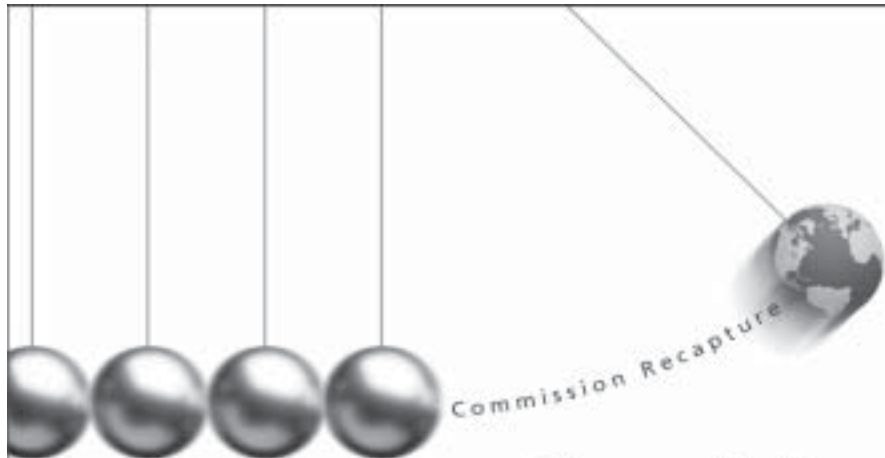
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- Q: What exactly is my estate?**
A: Simply put, your estate is *everything* you own – your home, other real estate, bank accounts, investments, retirement benefits, insurance policies, collectibles, and personal belongings. Go ahead, add it up – chances are, you own more than you thought!
- Q: Who needs estate planning?**
A: Whatever the size of your estate, you should consider the benefits of designating a person who, in the event of your incapacity, will be responsible for the management of your assets and have the authority to make health care decisions on your behalf. If your estate is small in value, you may focus on who will receive your assets and who should manage and distribute them. If your estate is larger, you will also want to explore the various ways to preserve your assets for your beneficiaries and reduce or postpone the amount of estate tax that would otherwise be payable at your death.



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