CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT

The purpose of this conference is to disseminate information on contemporary problems and possible solutions to those problems within the American labor movement; aimed at both students and non-students, with an additional emphasis on the relevance of these issues to non-laborers and to religious persons. We hope to put participants into contact with resources on these issues, as well as make them aware of possible actions in which they can participate.

format

A combination of workshops and speakers will provide the opportunity for an in-depth understanding of some of the problems facing the labor movement, and for an overview of the whole. We will also take the opportunity provided by the diversity of people present to break into small discussion groups and get to know one another on a more personal basis. There will be times to think and explore, to develop our understanding of the status of the American labor movements today, but there will also be times to eat meals together, to relax, to meet new people, to sit back and enjoy some good music.

schedule

FRIDAY

*5:30-8:00 REGISTRATION

*8:00 OPENING ADDRESS: "Overview: Problems Faced by Workers"

*10-11:00 GROUP DISCUSSION

SATURDAY

*9-10:15 A Case Study of Problems Faced by Workers: Forum on J.P. Stevens Labor History, Runaway Shops, The Current Situation, and Organizing the South (John McDonough boycott coordinator in New England, and Joe Coyne, president, Central Labor Council, Roanoke Rapids, NJ)

*10:30-11:30 WORKSHOPS: Further Problems Faced by Workers

a) Unemployment (Henry Sheldon, Worker's Association for Guaranteed Employment)

b) Women in the Workforce and Labor Unions (Naomi Baden, Coalition of Labor Union Women)

c) Minorities in the Workforce and Labor Unions

d) Occupational Safety and Health (Rhode Island Coalition on Occupational Safety Hazards)

*11:45-12:30 SPEAKER: "How the Current Economy is Affecting Labor"

*12:30-2:00 LUNCH

*2-3:15 WORKSHOPS: Possible Solutions

a) The Youngstown Coalition (Dick Fernandez)

b) Union Control of Pension Funds (Randy Barber and Jeremy Rivkin)

c) Local Organizing:Clerical and Service Workers (Jean Tepperman, author of Not Servants; Not Machines)

d) Local Organizing: Professionals (Peter Laarman, American Federation of Teachers)

*3:15-4:00 BREAK

*4:00-5:15 WORKSHOPS: Possible Solutions

a) Organizing the South (Jim Sessions, Southerners for Economic Justice)

b) Local Organizing Blue Collar Organizing

c) The Church and Labor

d) On Campus: The Stevens Boycott

*5:15-7:00 DINNER

*7-8:30 SPEAKER: "The Union as Progressive Political Force"

*8:30-11:00 ENTERTAINMENT: Turnout

SUNDAY

*9:30-11:30 BREAKFAST, UCM DISCUSSION

*11:30-12:30 UNIVERSITY CHURCH

accommodations & meals

Sleeping bag space for Friday and Saturday nights will be made available. We will provide Saturday lunch and Sunday breakfast for a small fee. For other meals, a list of restaurants and grocery stores in the immediate area will be available at the registration.

fees $$

The registration fee will be $5.00. This fee may be waived in cases of financial hardship (please include a note of explanation with your registration form). A minimal fee will also be charged at the door for lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. You should plan to bring extra money for your other meals.

how to get there

Coming north or south to Providence on I-95, take I-195 East one mile to the Wickendon Street Exit. Take a left on Wickendon Street to the second light (Brook Street). Turn left on Brook Street and follow it to George Street. Turn left on George. Registration will be at St. Stepen's Church, which will be on your right.

questions?

Contact Paul Cromwell or Laurie Marks at the Brown University Chaplain's Office (401-863-2345) or Chris Blackburn at the UCM Office (617-354-6583)

jewish services

The schedule permits those who observe the Jewish Sabbath to attend services on the Brown campus. They begin at 6:15 p.m. and are followed by dinner. If you wish to reserve a meal or need other information, let us know.

sponsors

THE UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT: We are people who take seriously the Christian faith and tradition. We are a community seeking new ways of expressing faith in the midst of commitment to the struggle for social justice and liberation. We are also a movement open to people from various backgrounds and with differing beliefs.

THE J.P. STEVENS BOYCOTT SUPPORT COMMITTEE: Our goal, in conjunction with a coalition of groups in Rhode Island, has been to educate the Brown University and Rhode Island Community about the J.P. Stevens issue and to further the objectives of the J.P. Stevens Boycott. Members of the committee are currently engaged in a Group Independent Study Project for academic credit, entitled "Perspectives on Labor in America".

registration

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

SCHOOL _____

I will stay _____ (1 or 2) nights _____ I will attend Hillel Jewish Services and _____ I wish to reserve dinner after the services.

Enclosed is ($5.00/person) $_____ registration fees.

Please mail to
UCM AT BROWN
c/o The Chaplain's Office
P.O. Box 1931
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912