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USWA LOCAL 831

The Informer

Representing Workers of Goodyear Tire and Rubber/Servitex/Goodyear Service Store/URW 831 Credit Union

PAC Efforts Rewarded

On Thursday, July 29th, Local 831 COPE Committee was rewarded for their efforts in the 2003 Political Action Committee check-off drive. Our local signed up 1,000+ members in the \$1 per week deduction and several others for more than \$1 per week. COPE member Ted Fitz educated the membership during our strike authorization vote last year. Mike Scarver had visited our local and gave a compelling talk that energized our committee to get busy. He had told them that Yokohama in Salem had signed over 300 and they accepted the challenge to surpass them. Well it didn't take but a couple of weeks to do that and everyday and even at times, every hour the goal was increased. To reward the committee for their efforts, District 8 Director, Ernest "Billy" Thompson, Mike Scarver, PAC Coordinator, Eddie Lowery, Virginia Sub-District director and Field Representative Eddie Robitson came to town and hosted them to an award dinner.

"I appreciate everything this local does. Local 831 has set the standard for District 8. We use your performance to challenge all other locals," stated Director Thompson. One of the big items facing us now is getting our full membership and their families registered to vote. Our COPE Committee is in the process of registering everyone and every member will receive a chance at another Harley Davidson for doing so. Two will be given away. Even if you think you are registered, you can still complete the registration form and be entered in the registration drive give-away. "PAC allows us to put our money where our mouth is, supporting legislators who support working men and women. Your local (831) has now set the standard for the international union. Local 831 is the second highest

local in PAC in the entire Steelworker organization," added Thompson.

After Director Thompson finished his remarks, President Barber and Vice President Trull recognized Ted Fitz as the top card signer and rewarded him with an eagle plaque inscribed with comments with comments about his achievement. "I'll accept this, but not without commenting on the team effort of the COPE Committee and many others who contributed time and efforts toward this endeavor. For everyone I accept this plaque and extend by sincere thanks to them," stated Fitz.

"As I travel the country, I can count on my two hands, the local union leaders like Danny



L to R, USWA Field Representative, Eddie Robitson, Plant Safety Coordinator, Ron Knight, District 8 Director Billy Thompson and Vice President Terry Trull look at Super Single truck tire during a recent plant tour. Ron Knight explains the bar code system and the information contained within the bar code.

Barber. Danny has the ability to accept a challenge, assign a team to implement it and the confidence in those working with him that the job will not only be done, but done timely and efficiently,' stated Mike Scarver, PAC

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Help is still needed!

A couple of months ago, we urged our members to buy Breast Cancer stamps the next time they needed stamps. Help is still needed to fight breast cancer. By purchasing the \$.45 stamps, you give \$.08 to help fund research for breast cancer. A normal book of stamps is \$7.40. The Breast Cancer book of stamps cost \$9.00. This is a small sacrifice to help with such an issue.

Also, on the issue of breast cancer. We informed members about being able to visit a web site that would help donate mammograms, www.thecancersite.com.

Your click on the "Fund Free Mammograms" button helps fund free mammograms, paid for by site sponsors whose ads appear after you click and provided to women in need through the efforts of the National Breast Cancer Foundation to low-income, inner-city and minority women, whose awareness of breast cancer and opportunity for help is often limited.

Local 831 Secretary, Brenda Miles is a regular "clicker" when it comes to the cancer site. You can do as she does and get the site to send you a reminder so that you do not forget to help the cause. Last week, she received an email note from the site, it stated: "Thank you for supporting the Breast Cancer Site! Your daily clicks and shopping support the important work of The National Breast Cancer Foundation, which provides free mammograms to uninsured women while raising awareness about the importance of early detection. Together we are saving lives!"



Strike Called off for Now!

The Steelworkers union, representing more than 3,000 Michelin tireworkers have called off a strike against the company for now. Workers were scheduled to walk off their jobs at three Michelin tire plant in the U.S. at 12:01am Thursday, August 12, 2004. The strike was avoided because of some progress in the talks between the company and the union.

The French tire maker has said it must cut cost to be competitive. "While far from an agreement, we've made some progress and this has encouraged both parties to continue the process at least for now," USWA Executive Vice President John Sellers said in a statement. "We are prepared to continue these discussions for a short additional period as long as we believe progress is being made."

Michelin makes Uniroyal and BF Goodrich tires for passenger vehicles and light trucks at the plants. The contract covers about 2,260 workers at two plants in Alabama and another 1,130 workers at a plant near Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The union has said the proposed cuts the company is proposing would equal to about 18 percent and include a two-tiered wage system, reduced vacation time and pay, and no retiree health benefits for new hires.

About 1,000 steelworkers at a Michelin BF Goodrich plant in Ontario, Canada, have been on strike since June 1. That plant has been using salary employees to run a reduced operation.

New Folks Joining the Team!

Under the Tentative Agreement that was negotiated with Goodyear Tire & Rubber the union can go into unorganized Goodyear facilities and communicate to unrepresented employees about becoming members of the union. This is the first company in the tire and rubber industry to agree to neutrality and card check recognition with respect to its non-union operations.

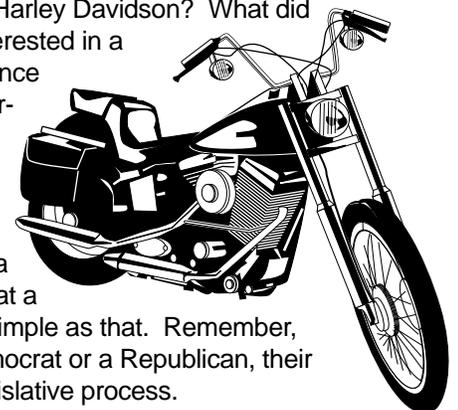
Should a verified majority of the workforce sign cards designating the union as their bargaining representative, the company must recognize the union as the bargaining representative of the employees at the location in question.

The provision and the amendments to letters 1 and 5 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement now provide our members with unprecedented rights to hire into Goodyear's non-union facilities and certain classifications that are not represented by the union that now can be represented.

Since this provision has been implemented the USWA has organized in three Goodyear plants, they are: Statesville N.C., Asheboro N.C. and Utica N.Y. Additionally, they have gone into the Fayetteville N.C. plant (union plant) where they organized a classification of approximately 90 workers that were previously non-bargaining unit jobs. A campaign is now going on to organize a Goodyear retread plant in Spartanburg S.C. Over 19,000 USWA members work at Goodyear facilities across the United States and Canada.

Win a Harley Davidson

Have you ever bought a raffle ticket to win Harley Davidson? What did you pay, \$10, \$20 or more? Would you be interested in a free chance at a Harley? You can get that chance by simply registering to vote or even re-registering to vote. While you may think that you are registered, if you have changed your name or moved, you may no longer be registered. So, when someone from our Rapid Response approaches you about voter registration, take a few minutes, fill out the form and your chance at a Harley Davidson goes in the drawing. It's as simple as that. Remember, Rapid Response doesn't care if you are a Democrat or a Republican, their main concern is getting you involved in the legislative process.



August Membership Meeting Minutes

USWA Local 831 held its' regular membership meeting on August 12, 2004 with President Danny Barber presiding. These are the highlights of the meeting:

- Sylvester Mayo opened the meeting with Prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll call of officers, all officers were present except for Gloria Gravely who was excused.
- Recording Secretary, Brenda Miles read the meeting minutes from the July meeting. They were approved as read.
- Executive Board report for August was approved as read and contained the following items:
 - "Thank You" received from Project Access for our donation.
 - Motion to send three COPE committee members to the Rapid Response Conference to be held Sept. 26 - 28, 2004 in Charleston W.V.
 - Motion made to purchase 200 union bags for shop stewards and committee members for approximately \$2,400.00
 - Motion to sponsor the Fifth Annual Golf Classic Tournament which

- benefits the Danville Life Saving Crew for \$1,000.00.
 - Recommendation by President Danny Barber to appoint Rhonda Walker to the COPE Committee.
- Financial Secretary, William "Stick" McLaughlin presented the financial report for July and it was approved as read. Motion by "Stick" to accept 2 rejoining members. Motion carried.
- Pension & Insurance: Benny Toller addressed the following:
 - Workman's Comp. is being denied in the plant.
 - New Address for Express Scripts. (See P&I on page 7)
- By-Laws Committee: Benny Toller read second reading of By-Laws proposal.
- COPE report given by Byron Taylor
 - Overtime Legislation, voter registration and health care reform.
- Education Committee report given by Dana Dixon.
 - PAC recognition dinner with District 8 Director, Billy Thompson.
 - Local 831 being featured in the new publication - "The Insider"
- President Danny Barber gave these points of information:
 - Utica plant in New York being

- organized
 - Michelin contract strike deadline being postponed
 - Danville plant management changes
 - Absenteeism in the plant and the problem we are having with no reports
 - Problems retaining new hires
 - Discussion on Lean Manufacturing and training
- Vice President Terry Trull gave these points of information.
 - Reported on benefits for union members through American Income Life
 - Conversation with Ron Knight about filling out accident reports for all accidents
 - Thank You received from Billy Thompson for the recent plant tour in Danville
- Scott Davis and Mike Baker won the 50/50 drawings.
- L.E. Coleman, Dept. 2541, clock card 5653 name was drawn for the attendance award. He was not present. The September attendance prize will be \$175.00.
- Motion to adjourn, motion carried.

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PAC Efforts Rewarded

Coordinator. Brother Scarver also talked about how our local uses its newsletter to cover the events so well. "The utilization of your newsletter is second to none. Your coverage of the PAC drive, the way your president signed up first, the manner in how you explained the signup process was superior," added Scarver.

Scarver went on to say that when we win for the union members, we also win for all workers. Approximately 45% of union members are not registered to vote. Our local is much better than that; we stand at 73% registered. Both Director Thompson and PAC Coordinator Scarver agreed

that communication is the key. When we arm our members with the facts and figures, they will go to the polls and make the right choices.

As the meeting drew to a close, Sub-District Director, Eddie Lowery echoed comments he has made previously. "Local 831 runs so smoothly it rarely ever ask for anything, if you need anything at all, just give us a call."

Director Thompson and Field Representative Eddie Robitson also went on a plant tour with Ron Knight, Plant safety Coordinator, VP Trull and



Communications Coordinator Dana Dixon. Both had great comments on our members, our plant and our knowledge of the products we build.

In closing, our COPE Committee was recognized, however, it is the membership that deserves the real "pat on the back". It is you that make Local 831 what it is today.

Bush Tax Cut Hits Middle Class

As many predicted when the Republican Congress enacted President Bush's tax cuts in 2001, the burden of paying the nation's tax bill has shifted from the richest Americans to middle-class families.

A study by the nonpartisan and respected Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released Aug. 14 showed that the wealthiest 20 percent of Americans, whose incomes average around \$183,000 annually, saw their share of federal taxes drop from 65.3 percent of total tax payments in 2001 to 63.5 percent this year.

Since 2001 taxpayers with incomes around \$51,000 to around \$75,600 saw their share of the tax bill increase from 18.7 percent to 19.5 percent, the CBO said.

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former senior economist in the Bush White House, heads the CBO.

The top 1 percent of Americans earning \$1.1 million annually saw their share of the tax burden fall to 20.1 percent of the total from 22.2 percent.

USWA Local 831 CREDENTIALS

285 Shady Grove Road
Providence, NC 27315-9477
(336) 388-5537 • FAX: (336) 388-5009
USWA District 8 • www.uswa831.org

Danny Barber
President and Editor

Dana Dixon
Managing Editor

Gloria Gravely & Danny Travis
Associate Editors



EDITOR'S COLUMN..

In the Editors Opinion

(The editorial this week comes from our friend Ucinda Sims, who is the USPA President and editor of Local 286 Union newspaper, "The Spotlight," in Lincoln Nebraska.)

Just for the fun of it, lets assume you can believe everything you read in the newspaper. At different times, in the last few weeks, newspapers from around the country have reported the following. "Officials in China Attempt to Slow Economic Growth" (NY Times), "Productivity Blamed for Job Losses" (LJS), "Goodyear is a Poster Child for the Nation's Loss of Manufacturing Jobs" (LJS), "Congressional Election Highlights Economic Uncertainty, Job Cuts" (LJS)

The economy is growing too fast in China, showing no growth here in the United States, and American job losses are being blamed on you and I because we work too hard and are too productive. Companies nation wide are closing facilities in hurried frenzy as though they are grasping at straws with total disregard for human lives, families and communities destroyed in the wake. Production is being outsourced, over hill and over dale... etc. etc. etc.

Confused? The dictionary describes the word confusion a (state of disorder, (bewilderment... In the Webster's New World College Dictionary it also lists synonyms and their definitions. Listed for synonyms for confusion are disorder, disarray, chaos, jumble and muddle. "Muddle implies a snarled confusion resulting from mismanagement or incompetence. A little clearer now? Interesting enough, the phrase to "muddle through" means to succeed in spite of the confusion, the snarled confusion result from mismanagement or incompetence.

Get it? We must stand together, be strong, give each other support, tolerance and help when needed. Together is the only way we can win these battles. Together we will raise our voices loud enough to be heard. Together we will muddle through.

Ucinda works for Goodyear, at the Lincoln Nebraska Hose plant. This plant has gone through several lay-off's and is currently facing a warehouse closure.

The study found that the effective tax rate for the top 1 percent of taxpayers decreased from 33 percent in 2001 to 26.7 percent this year, a drop of nearly 20 percent. The middle 20 percent of taxpayers saw a decrease of only 4 percent, the CBO said.

"George W. Bush keeps trying to mislead Americans into thinking were turning the corner, but truth is he is turning his back on middle-class families," Phil Singer, spokesperson for Democratic Presidential Nominee John Kerry, said.

Looked at another way, for the bottom 20 percent of households, the combined Bush tax cuts averaged \$250 each and the middle 20 percent received \$1,090. But the top 1 percent garnered more than \$78,000 in tax savings, the CBO added.

Support Your Local Union, Attend A Union Meeting - Be Involved

Questions Answers

If anyone has a question for *The Informer*, please submit it to Dana Dixon, Gloria Gravely, Danny Travis or your Division Chairman.

If I have an accident and Goodyear or Liberty Mutual denies my claim, what course of action do I have?

If your accident is denied, Goodyear or Liberty Mutual will notify you that your accident has been reviewed and it is being denied. Once you have received a letter stating your claim is denied, you should see Benny Toller, our Pension & Insurance Representative. Benny will inform you how you can appeal your case at a hearing to the Workers Compensation Board. About 80% of the cases taken, usually get overturned. If you truly have an accident and you can prove it, don't let a denial stop you from what you're due.

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"These days it's just hard to tell. No one really knows what the market will do.

When asked what I look for when saving money, I look for a higher rate of return but with a shorter lock in period. I don't want to have to lock in my savings for five years when the rates might get better."

—Lyn Farley, Member Services Manager



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FLASHBACK

February 1981

WHAT IS A UNION ?

The definition of a Union in the Encyclopedia reads as follows:

Trade Union - An association of workers established to improve their economic and social conditions. Trade Union activity is usually conducted at the workplace, where the Union seeks to represent its members, and obtain a voice in determining wages and working conditions, through the process of collective bargaining with the Employer. When agreement cannot be reached, a Union may conduct a strike or a boycott against the Employer. A Trade Union also engages in suggesting and promoting pending Legislation and in political activities to improve the lives of its members.

True, but not comprehensive enough. I only have to think of the benefits the Union has won for it's workers, including: SUB, Pensions, Insurance Benefits, Major Medical, Funeral Leave, Millitary Service Leave, Jury Pay, Vacations, Holidays, Uniformity of Job Classes through industry, Seniority Rights, Safety and Health Administrators, Grievance Procedure, COLA, Shift Differential Pay Raises, Standard Hourly Wage Rates, Rate of Pay Information, Overtime Pay, Reporting Pay, Pay for Day of Injury, etc.

These are just some of the things we might not have if it were not for the Union.

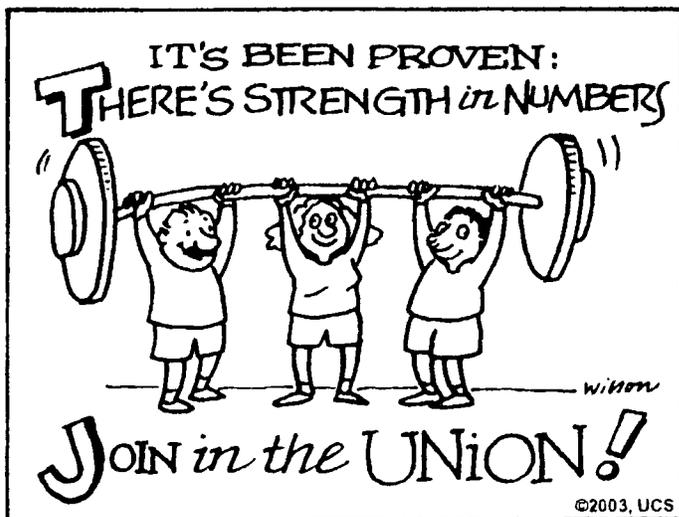
Down through the ages it has been proven, that the only way the worker can get and maintain adequate wages and benefits is by banding together within a Union, in order to present a strong bargaining position.

It has also been proven, that each employee who refuses to join his Brothers and Sisters in their quest for improved conditions weakens the the bargaining power of the very organization that is doing everything it can to improve his or her position in life. Looking at the benefits we now enjoy, we can only wonder about the non-members whose favorite song is "the Union hasn't done anything for me". For those people we suggest a NON UNION MEMBERSHIP CARD stating:

"I am opposed to the Union, and hereby refuse to accept any benefits won by the Union. I authorize and direct the Company to withhold the amount of Union won benefits from my paycheck each week and donate it to charity".

ATTENTION: Payroll

Signed: John Doe Non-Union Member



U. S. Trade Deficit Sets Record in June

The biggest decline in exports in nearly four years led to a record trade deficit of \$55.8 billion in June, the Commerce Department said.

The department said exports dropped to \$92.8 billion in June as foreign businesses bought \$26.2 billion worth of capital goods from the United States, a 9 percent decline from the previous month. Imports rose to a record \$148.6 billion, led by demand for industrial supplies and materials, according to the Commerce Department.

The nation's exports had the biggest decline since September 2000. The gap in goods and services trade followed a \$46.9 billion shortfall in May, the department said.

In other discouraging economic news, consumer confidence fell in July, the University of Michigan said. The university's survey showed confidence fell to 94 from 96.7 in July. The expectations index, which measures optimism about the next one to five years also fell, declining to 84.7 from 91.2.

Real Earnings Continue to Fall

Real earnings for the majority of American workers keep falling, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports.

Over the year ending in July, average weekly earnings were eroded by inflation, which left the real earnings 0.7 percent lower than in July 2003, according to the BLS.

For the year, earnings have increased overall by only 1.9 percent, while the inflation rate is cooking along at 3.0 percent, leaving most Americans losing ground in the struggle to make ends meet.

Real earnings in construction fell 1.2 percent. Among service-providing

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Ed Steffey Memorial Education Open

USWA Local 831 will join local businesses who support the Ed Steffey Memorial Education Open golf tournament. This is our fourth year sponsoring a hole. Each year we provide the golfers with a free gift from Local 831. This year, each golfer will receive a hard plastic name tag for their golf bag as well as having an opportunity to enter their name into a drawing for a golf bag, two sets of golf balls and a golfer money clip. The tournament will be held at the Goodyear Golf Club on September 24, 2004. The golf bag was sold to Local 831 at cost by Ray's Golf Shop in Riverside Center and the embroidery work was done by Custom Embroidery on Wooding Ave. Thanks to both of these local businesses for working with Local 831.



TIRES & WHEELS

On Sale!

All tires and wheels are on sale!
Wheel rep's will be on site all week.

August 30 - September 10, 2004

During this sale only, Goodyear Plant Employees will be given an "instant rebate" using their current coupons. The rebate is as described on these coupons, except the rebate will be instant (no need to mail it in).

Payroll deductions allowed for this sale.

Come in and register for a free set of tires.



Refreshments served the first week, sale prices and instant rebates for both weeks (Closed labor Day)

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Continued from page 6

Real Earnings Continue to Fall

industries, the biggest declines were in financial activities (2.1 percent), retail trade (1.8 percent), information (1.8 percent) and "other" services (3.1 percent), BLS reported.

The real earnings data are derived from BLS's monthly payroll survey of around 400,000 non-farm business establishments and cover around 80 percent of production and non-supervisory workers.

PENSION & INSURANCE

- Benefit Plan Open Enrollment is approaching. The Company is exploring the idea of mailing personalized enrollment materials to the employee's home in October. Please keep your home address current to avoid delays. Per the agreement, it is YOUR responsibility to keep your phone number and address current with the company.
- The mailing address for the Express Scripts mail order service has changed. The new address is:
 Express Scripts
 P.O. Box 66915
 St. Louis, MO. 63166-9578
- Beginning August 1, 2004, the Benefits Help-line changed to the "Goodyear Benefits Solution Center" and the toll-free number is still the same, 1-800-334-9395. The new solution center is located in Phoenix, AZ. An immediate reduction in response time should be noticed.
- If you have a workers compensation claim denied, please contact Benny Toller. He will guide you through the appeal process.

RETIREES

Congratulations to the following retirees. We wish them much success in their future endeavors and hope they can fully enjoy their union negotiated retirement benefits.

Linda Patterson
 Sammie Robinson
 Stephen Hastings
 Donald Priddy
 Earnest Jones
 Thomas Hall
 Louis E. Moorman
 Danny Land
 Jerry Harris
 Berkley "Rudy" McDuffie



We Send Our Sincere Condolences To

John Bowe, Harold Debrou, Erick Ferguson, Larry Hook, Richard Hook, Buddy Hudson, Kevin McNeil, Penny Walters, Anthony Tunstall
 The Families of Retirees
 Roy Foster, Doug Moore and Alvis White, Jr.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SEPTEMBER 2004 CALENDAR						
August BD 29	AC 30	AC 31	September BD 1	BD 2	AC 3	AC 4
AC 5	BD 6 Labor Day Plant Holiday	BD 7 Executive Board Meeting 7:30 AM	AC 8 SOAR Meeting 11:00 AM	AC 9 Union Meeting 7:30 AM/PM	BD 10	BD 11
				— Arbitration —		
BD 12	AC 13	AC 14	BD 15	BD 16	AC 17	AC 18
				— Workers Compensation Seminar —		
AC 19	BD 20	BD 21	AC 22	AC 23	BD 24 Ed Steffey Education Memorial Open	BD 25
						— Interim Meeting —
BD 26	AC 27	AC 28	BD 29	BD 30	October AC 1	AC 2 Union Picnic
			— Rapid Response Conference —			

Informer Election Extra



John Kerry



George W. Bush

Health Care—Health Care—Health Care—Health Care

John Kerry on health care

- Extend health care coverage for 27 million uninsured Americans.
- Provide a plan that will save workers up to \$1,000 in health care premium relief.
- Provide tax credits to make health care plans more affordable for individuals and small businesses.
- Will support legislation that will allow the reimportation of prescription drugs from Canada, so seniors can buy them at affordable prices.

George Bush's 4 years on health care

- Since President Bush took office, health care costs have skyrocketed. Health care spending rose 8.5% in 2001, 9.3% in 2002. It's estimated that households will spend on average \$15,000 on health care cost in 2004, nearly 20% of the average household personal income. [NY Times, 1/9/04; Urban Institute, Tax Analysts, 9/29/03]
- Under President Bush's 2003 Medicare law, businesses will be forced to reduce or eliminate prescription drug benefits for as many as 3.8 million retirees. [NY Times, 7/14/04]

Kerry on second amendment rights

John Kerry is a gun owner and he believes in the right to bear arms. Kerry emphasized his strong belief in the Second amendment. "I'm a hunter and believe the Second Amendment. I will defend hunting rights" states Kerry.

[Kerry remarks at Mt. Pleasant, SC 9/2/03; ABC News, This week with George Stephanopoulos 11/10/02]

Interested in moving to Iraq?

President Bush's bill for the Iraq war is over \$151 billion. What could \$151 billion pay for?

- Health care for 27 million uninsured Americans.
- Housing vouchers for 23 million Americans.
- Salaries for 3 million elementary school teachers.
- 20 million Head Start Programs.
- 678,200 new fire engines

[Institute of Policy Studies, June 2004]

Broken Promises.....

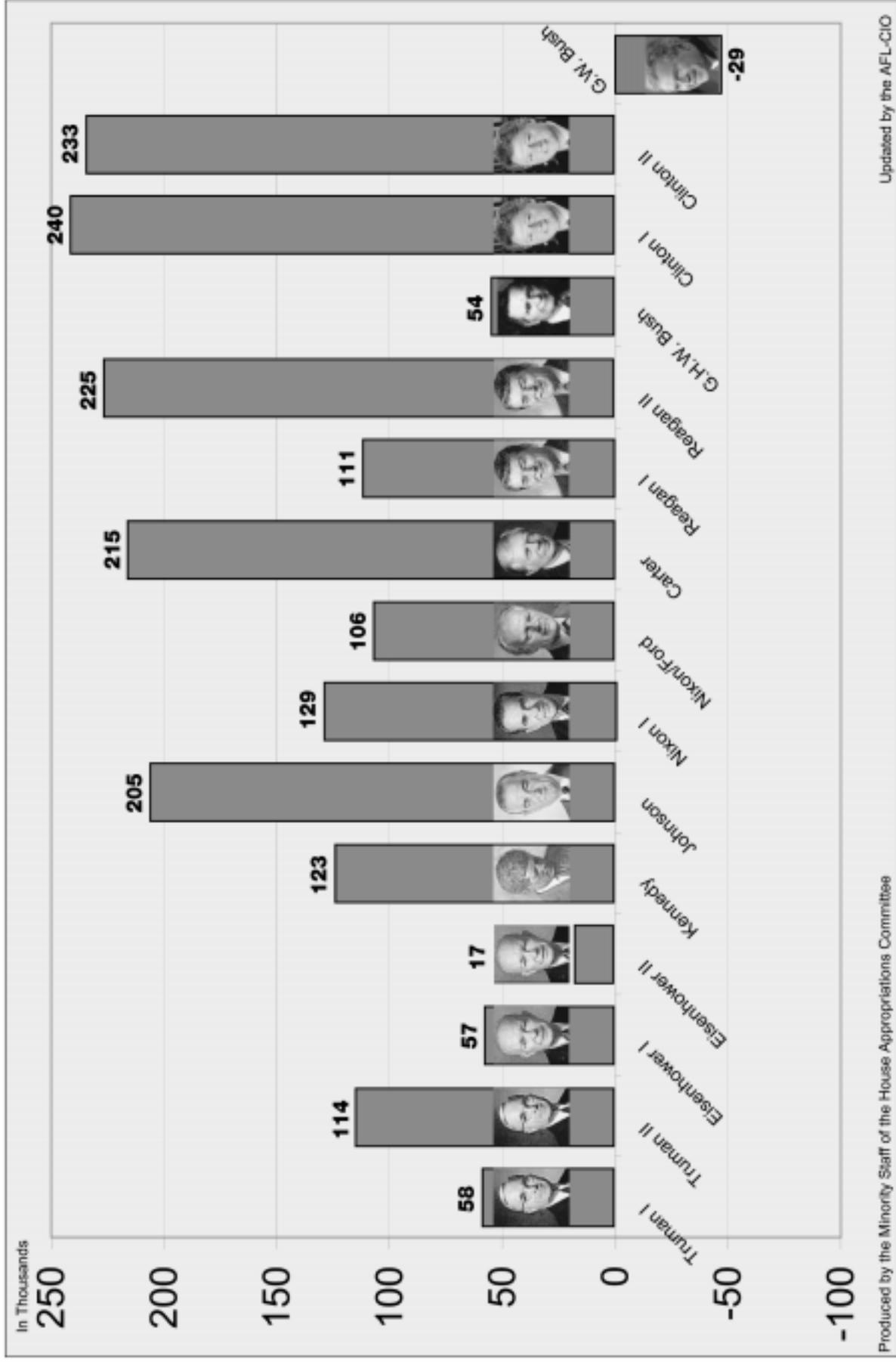
"What I think the President ought to do when gas prices spike is get on the phone with OPEC cartel and say open your spigots.....and the President of the United States must jawbone OPEC members to lower prices."

[Then Gov. Bush, 1/26/00 (Center for American Progress. Available at www.americanprogress.org)

Last month our election extra featured a snapshot of the President's job, however, the web site it was taken from had not been updated to reflect the pay raise that George Bush received. We listed the President's pay at \$200,000 and it has been raised to \$400,000. Sorry for the mis-information.

Job Growth Under Bush Set to Be Worst in 70 Years

Bush on track to be first president since Herbert Hoover to end his term with fewer jobs than when he started



SINCE PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH TOOK OFFICE, AMERICA HAS LOST 1.9 MILLION PRIVATE-SECTOR JOBS. Bush is on his way to the worst record for job growth for any president in more than half a century.

