

JAMES SAVARESE
700 Thirteenth St., NW, Suite 1000 Washington, DC 20005 202-434-8316 Fax 202-347-8713
AND ASSOCIATES

February 25, 1997

TO: Walter Woodson
FROM: Jim Savarese
RE: Update on LMC Activity

This memorandum attempts to lay out the most recent state-based activities of the LMC and its consultants. It provides specific instances of requests for LMC assistance and the impediments to delivering the maximum level of support.

In the few short weeks since the state legislatures have been back in session, the LMC and our consultants have been asked by the Institute to provide assistance in a number of states on a range of issues.

Some of the issues are ones on which the Committee has taken formal positions and traditionally been involved in. Others do not have a direct impact on the jobs of industry workers; issues that are at best tangentially related to employment.

These requests, and our efforts to be helpful, have brought to the surface once again the significant impediments to maximum Committee effectiveness created by budget actions four years ago.

Essentially, there have been no LMC resources available for progressive organizations and causes backed by key unions and/or state labor federations during this period. Cutbacks also have minimized the number of states in which the Committee has labor consultants.

It has become clear that this lack of resources has hampered Committee efforts and impeded our ability to strengthen ties with the labor movement in many states.

The following recent experiences exemplify some of the problems we face as a result of diminished resources:

TNWL 0051908

- **Indiana** - Recently, TI requested some very late assistance on sale/promotion legislation. We were able to reach out to state AFL-CIO President Chuck Deppert because of personal relationships.

However, prior to budget cutbacks four years ago, the Committee had an ongoing relationship with the state AFL-CIO through an in-state LMC labor consultant and support for an organization aligned with the state federation.

- **Florida** - Over the past several weeks, the Committee has been asked to provide assistance on a number of issues. Some of the issues are ones the Committee traditionally works on, others are not.

While our state labor consultant has consistently done an extraordinary job in generating labor support on issues, the Committee's abilities in the state have been hampered since it eliminated support for several progressive organizations in the state; groups very important to the state AFL-CIO.

- **Iowa** - Over the past several months, the state labor consultant and Committee unions worked hard to reach out to Iowa Citizen Action Network which was considering working to eliminate the state's preemption law. ICAN is a formidable grassroots organization. The unions prevailed and ICAN decided, at least at this point, not to get involved in this issue

Prior to the budget cuts, the Committee provided support for ICAN, which is closely aligned with the state AFL-CIO and has a number of labor leaders on its board. ICAN in the past had been very helpful on a range of issues, particularly taxes.

Though our state labor consultant is extremely effective, a stronger working relationship with ICAN would enhance our capabilities there.

- **Maryland** - For the past several months the Committee has been working with the BC&T and CTJ on the tax issue. The issue is now front and center in the legislature.

This is a very difficult state on our issues and the success that has been achieved to date in promoting the progressive tax message has been remarkable.

However, the Committee does not have a person on the ground in the state and is not supporting progressive organizations that are aligned with the state's labor movement. Our capabilities in the state would be greatly enhanced if we were able to provide this support.

TNWL 0051909

- **Massachusetts** - In the last several weeks, the Committee has been asked to provide assistance on ingredients labeling legislation. Through the RC&T International, we were able to generate important communications on the issues.

However, our capabilities in the state have been limited because the Committee does not have a state consultant on the ground. Additionally, prior to budget cutbacks, the Committee had built ties in the state through its support for progressive causes important to the labor movement.

- **Washington State** - Last week, our state labor consultant was asked to assist on workplace smoking legislation. He has been with the Committee for a number of years and is very effective. He was able to help on this legislation.

The leadership of the Washington AFL-CIO has sometimes been opposed to our positions on certain issues. However, in the past, the Committee supported a number of causes and organizations of importance to the state federation. This helped the Committee's relationship with the labor movement.

- **Minnesota** - In the past several weeks, we have been asked for assistance on a tax issue. Through our state labor consultant and our ongoing support for Minnesota CTJ, we have been and continue to be very effective in the state. Our support for Minnesota CTJ is very important to the state AFL-CIO.

Minnesota is the best example of just how effective the Committee can be when it has an in-state labor consultant and is supportive of causes and organizations aligned with the state's labor movement. Minnesota CTJ is one of the very few organizations that has continued to receive support subsequent to budget activities four years ago.

- **Utah** - Earlier this month, we were asked for assistance on a tax issue. Our regional consultant was very effective in conveying to state Democrats the importance of opposing regressive tax bills (i.e. tobacco tax increases). Although the bill was amended, the majority of Democrats voting did vote against the proposed tax increase.

Our capabilities within this state would be greatly enhanced with the Committee's willingness to strengthen our relationship with the state federation by supporting organizations affiliated with the state AFL-CIO.

I hope this report is useful to you in the ongoing budget deliberations.

cc: Bob Curtis
Frank Hirt

TNWL 0051910