

January 29, 1991

MEMORANDUM

TO: Martin Gleason
Carol Hrycaj

FROM: Magda Lynn Seymour

RE: NORTHEAST AFL-CIO COUNCIL MEETING

At the invitation of Northeast AFL-CIO Council President John Olsen, I attended the council's winter meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico January 25-27, 1991. I was accompanied by Bob McIntyre and Ed Meyers from Citizens for Tax Justice. The meeting was an excellent opportunity to meet with AFL-CIO leaders from ten state federations as well as national representatives of the AFL-CIO and introduce them to the fair tax materials.

There were approximately 30 delegates in attendance representing the Northeast region. McIntyre and I were on the agenda Saturday morning following the officers' state-by-state reports. We listened as each state federation leader expressed concern about the budget crises faced in their part of the country. Our presentation followed at precisely the right time and offered a strategic approach to our nation's unfair tax system.

The delegates enjoyed the tax fairness presentation, including the video and the brochures. Many expressed great interest in including similar forums in their upcoming conferences and conventions. Several asked for additional copies of the materials which were presented and discussed the potential for developing tax fairness coalitions in their states. McIntyre then gave a comprehensive presentation on the work of Citizens for Tax Justice and the current deliberations on the tax system taking place in Washington D.C. He cited several examples of CTJ's successes and offered to send the delegates an upcoming CTJ analysis which gives state by state comparisons of excise and other unfair taxes.

The delegates had many questions for McIntyre, mostly centering on how to increase their visibility in the fight for tax fairness. Ed Cleary, New York State AFL-CIO President, said that his state federation already has a tax committee which he would use to build into a CTJ program. His Secretary-Treasurer, Paul Cole, asked me to follow up with him on ways to do this. Ed Gorham, Secretary-Treasurer of the Maine AFL-CIO, detailed the

To P. D. Mohr ✓
cc: D. Dye
J. O'Connor
This copy to
Mrs. Hrycaj
NW. / 30

budget shortfalls facing state employees in Maine and asked for additional information from CTJ. McIntyre did an excellent job and fielded many questions which illustrated the high level of interest among delegates in this area.

It is important to follow up with those attendees in the next few weeks to help them tap into our fair tax program. I plan to send them McIntyre's report, which he said would be completed within a month. We will also keep in touch with these key New England labor leaders to ensure that their interest in this issue continues.

Other delegates at the meeting included:

- Tammy MacFayden, Connecticut AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer
- Hal Alpert, Connecticut AFL-CIO Executive Vice-President
- Ned McCann, Maine AFL-CIO staff
- Bob Haynes, Massachusetts AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer
- Joe Lydon, Massachusetts AFL-CIO Executive Vice President
- Joe Faherty, Massachusetts AFL-CIO President
- Jim Casey, New Hampshire AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer
- George Nee, Rhode Island AFL-CIO Executive Director
- Bill George, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President
- Walter Waddy, AFL-CIO Region III Regional Director
- Mary Crayton, AFL-CIO Region VII Regional Director
- Frank Myers, AFL-CIO Region VIII Director
- Humphrey Donahue, AFL-CIO National Representative

Jim Tiernan also attended the meeting and we both went to dinner Friday night with nine state fed representatives and continued our discussion of our TIILMC programs. During this dinner and on Saturday, I had the opportunity to further discuss the fair tax issue and offer the resources of the Labor Management Committee to Northeast Council members.

Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President Bill George already has put in a early request for his June, 1991 convention but hopes to have another appropriate meeting before that time. Frank Myers has expressed interest in my attending future conferences in his region (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont) and he will be a helpful contact in future endeavors. George Nee of Rhode Island met with me about the huge budget deficits in his state and his fears about state employee layoffs. He asked me to send him additional fair tax information as well as any other materials we produce or have on hand. He has also expressed interest in a similar presentation in his state in the near future, as has Bob Haynes of Massachusetts. All in all, the meeting was fruitful and will prove beneficial in the long run as we continue to build our labor coalition.

cc: Susan Stuntz
TIILMC Representatives