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CLUW*

November 15, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: Walter Woodson
FROM: Gail Dratch
RE: Coalition of Labor Union Women Convention

The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) held its Seventh Biennial Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada on November 4-7, 1993. Approximately 1,200 CLUW activists from across the country attended the convention. Most major unions were represented including: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers; United Auto Workers; Communication Workers of America; United Food and Commercial Workers Union; American Federation of Teachers; Service Employees International Union; International Ladies Garment Workers Union; United Steel Workers of America; United Mine Workers of America; Office and Professional Employees International Union; International Brotherhood of Teamsters; and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers International Union.

OA&R was extremely successful in attracting media to cover the convention and in reinforcing our strong working relationship with CLUW leaders.

Health Care Reform

Although the convention focused on the election of officers and broadly defining issues of importance to women in labor, OA&R worked closely with CLUW President Gloria Johnson to ensure that progressive financing of health care reform was effectively communicated to the assembled group and the local media.

In her President's address, Johnson reiterated CLUW's position that women's health care needs must be addressed in any reform package. Of equal importance, she called for broad-based public financing based on ability to pay. Johnson stressed that income and payroll taxes are the most equitable means of funding health care reform and, therefore, most fair to women, minorities and average working Americans. She urged all CLUW chapters and individual members to continue to lobby the Congress on CLUW's principles for health care reform.

In the press release OA&R prepared for the convention, CLUW's position was restated, "CLUW does have some concerns about the Clinton plan's reliance on regressive flat premiums and consumer excise taxes as financing mechanisms. 'In order for health care reform to be truly fair to all Americans, we must

address both the benefits and the financing of the package,' Johnson declared."

In addition, CLUW's position that progressive public financing is an essential requirement of a good health care reform bill was cited in the CLUW brochure "Women Care About Health Care" distributed to everyone attending the convention; at the Health Care Reform workshop which drew the largest attendance of all the convention workshops; and finally, in the policy resolution passed on the floor of the convention.

Media Coverage

OA&R was able to secure coverage from the following media outlets:

- Las Vegas Sun news reporter Bob Shemelagian conducted a 90 minute interview with Gloria Johnson the day before the convention. CLUW's priorities including health care were discussed. (Story w/photo attached);
- Las Vegas Review-Journal reporter Jeff Burbank conducted a telephone interview with Gloria Johnson the day before the convention and attended part of the convention. (Story w/photo attached);
- ABC
CNN Headline News and evening news coverage of CLUW's resolution urging Barbra Streisand to not to perform at the MGM Grand Hotel due to unfair labor practices;
- KTNV-TV Coverage of the CLUW rally in support of the Frontier Hotel strikers on the local ABC news;
- KNEWS-AM Five minute recorded interview with Gloria Johnson on the objectives of CLUW and the Las Vegas Convention to be used periodically over the weekend in news broadcasts;
- KCEP-FM Interview with Gloria Johnson covering women in labor, health care reform and minority women's rights;
- LIPA The Labor Institute of Public Affairs conducted interviews with several CLUW members for a documentary on CLUW and women in labor.

In addition, several reporters from labor newsletters covered the event.

Among the labor leaders who spoke to the convention were Thomas Donahue, secretary-treasurer, AFL-CIO; William Bywater, president, International Union of Electronic, Electrical, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers; Moe Biller, president, American Postal Workers Union; Arthur Coia, president, Laborers International Union; and Arturo Rodriguez, president, United Farm Workers. Public officials included: Karen Nussbaum, director, Women's Bureau U.S. Department of Labor; Bob Miller, Governor of Nevada and Frankie Sue Delpapa, Attorney General of Nevada.

Gloria Johnson was extremely appreciative of our assistance throughout the planning of the convention and at the event itself.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

cc: Karen Fernicola Suhr
Jane Danowitz
Leslie Dawson