



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR



NEWS

DECEMBER 2020 • VOLUME 10, ISSUE 13 PAGE 1

DISTRICT 2 CONTACT INFORMATION

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(920) 722-7630

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Northern MI Sub-District Office
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Bay City, MI 48706
(989) 667-0660

Southern MI Sub-District Office
20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300
Taylor, MI 48180
(734) 285-0367

USW District 2 Council Steering Committee

The District 2 Council By-Laws established a District 2 Council Steering Committee comprised of a rank and file structure. It was set up to assist in the following:

- Development of agenda for Council Conference.
- Planning of the District Council Conference Educational Conferences.
- District 2 strategic planning.
- Determining and assessing educational needs within the District.
- Generating and leading activism and other purposes consistent with the mission and directives of District 2 and the USW.

The elected members of the Steering Committee are listed below by manufacturing sector. If you need to contact a Steering Committee Member, please do so by using the email provided below.

Name	LUF#	Sector	Email Address
Ron Fancsal	1299	Steel and Related	rfancsal@yahoo.com
Don Carlson	59	Paper	dcarlson@g2a.net
Robert Desmond	11702	Amalgamated	rdesmond@aol.com
Jesse Edwards	2-232	Automotive Related	Jesse_edwards21919@yahoo.com
Kent Holzing	12975	Chemical & Energy Related	kentholzing@gmail.com
Jackie Anklam	9899	Health Care	jackieanklam_uswlocal2999@yahoo.com
Michael Orvosk	12934	Public	m.orvosk@uswlocal12934.com
Eric Hennrich	4227	AI Large	Eric.hennrich@aifanccs.com
Matthew Gibbons	3965	AI Large	usw3965@gmail.com
Jim Whit	2-145	Allied Industrial	whitjim@yahoo.com



United Steelworkers District 2 AFL-CIO-CLC

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Contributors to this issue include:

Lori Gudalun's Tammy Duran; Jerry VanSnyder's Jay McMullan; Thomas Conway, USW President; USW New Media; Union Review; History.com; Justine Coyne, Commodity Metals

Articles and photos are welcome and should be sent:

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1244A Midway Rd., Menasha, WI 54952
d2@usw.org • (920) 722-7630

January 18, 2021, is the deadline for submissions for the next issue.

Wishing You and Your Family the Happiest of Holidays

A Message from Michael Bolton



I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the District 2 servicing and support staff, to wish Wisconsin and Michigan Steelworkers and their families a very happy and healthy holiday season. While the Christmas holiday always has a special meaning, this year it has taken on a bit more as we wait out the arrival of the covid-19 vaccine; and hopefully an end to the coronavirus pandemic. With that in mind, I would also like to wish each of you a very healthy, safe and happy New Year.

While we're on the subject of the coronavirus, covid-19 has been the most serious health crisis the U.S. has seen in over 100 years. While it has taken over 300,000 American lives and has overwhelmed the country's health care system, its economic destruction has been as equally devastating. Thousands of small businesses are on the brink of failure. With Americans stuck at home, demand for goods and services has dried up leaving millions of Americans unemployed. Many of these workers have exhausted their unemployment benefits and are struggling to pay the rent. As they worry about where their next meal will come from, Mitch McConnell refuses to act on providing much needed economic relief during the Christmas season. McConnell believes expanded unemployment benefits will cause Americans to refuse work to take advantage of higher benefits. He also feels that stimulus money would be used to bailout poorly managed blue states; so, he continues to deny support to Americans during their greatest time of need.

In May of this year, the House passed a second stimulus package to help workers and businesses alike. The \$2 trillion plan provided continued unemployment benefits, extended the eviction moratorium, offered financial relief for businesses large and small, and financial assistance for hospitals, cities and states hit hard by the virus. It was not a plan for Blue or Red States. It was a plan to help the United States and its workers. I have to say that I do not recall another time in my life when receiving badly needed help was based on the party we belonged to. Unfortunately, that is what our politics have come to.

Currently, the House and Senate are working on a compromise to the plan passed by the House. Simply put, it is not enough. With a \$900 billion price tag, the legislation falls short of a \$1.2 trillion package called for by Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and Congressional Democrats. All of a sudden, a Democrat was elected president and Senate Republicans have become budget

conscious again. After giving tax cuts to their wealthy contributors, all of a sudden, the U.S. has to bring its spending in line. Everyone knows that in economically troubled times, the government has to spend money to get the economy moving again. We saw it in 2008 during the Great Recession. The same type of help is needed now. Our Union is currently holding a Rapid Response Action to convince Congress that it is time to act. America simply cannot wait until January. Times are desperate, requiring many politicians to act quickly. Please call your U.S. Senators and urge them to support the HEROES Act (HR-6800). Many of our Steelworker brothers and sisters are suffering. HR-6800 provides the help they need when they need it - NOW!

That leads us to the next point I would like to make. There is an important battle taking shape in Georgia that will have a major impact on our country and the way President-Elect Joe Biden will govern over the next years. Truthfully, the stakes in Georgia could not be any higher. Of course, I am talking about the Senate run-off elections taking place in that state on January 5th. The two seats being voted on during this special election will decide which party controls the U.S. Senate. If Democrats take both seats, the Senate will stand at 50/50; and Vice President Kamala Harris would become the tie breaker, which means Democrats will be the majority party and Biden can pursue a pro-worker agenda. A split, or loss of both seats, means McConnell is in line to lead four more years of gridlock. America needs action, not more foot dragging.

Currently, Trump and other Republicans are spewing rhetoric, painting Democrats as the "Radical Left". If you know Joe Biden, you know nothing is further from the truth. Biden has always been a centrist Democrat with a firm grasp of working class issues. It's the agenda he has laid out since the beginning of his campaign. The center pieces of his election included pledging to pass strong infrastructure investment legislation, improving and expanding Obamacare and supporting the passage of the PRO Act to help rebuild the American middle class. These are not radical ideas. They are what we have been fighting to gain for years.

Large investments in repairs and improvements to our roads, bridges, airports, railways and seaports are needed to maintain American leadership in the world's economy. It's also an economic shot in the arm where every business sector we represent (steel, paper, rubber, chemical, and manufacturing) would directly benefit from this type of investment as demand for their products increase. Money earned by workers in these industries will be spent in our communities creating need for more jobs in unrelated industries such as retail, entertainment, travel, healthcare and more. Of course, as the demand for workers increases, wages can start

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"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Did you know?

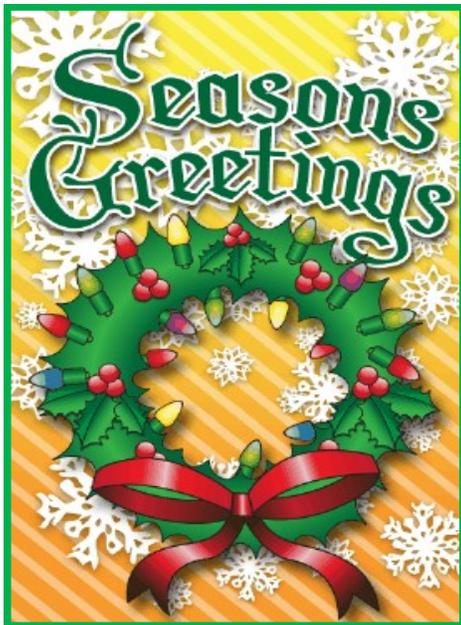
A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 1

UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW
**YOUR UNION
 YOUR VOICE**

#USWVOICES

OUR CORE ISSUES

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SAFETY AND HEALTH
JOB SECURITY/TRADE
DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ISSUES
HEALTH CARE
RETIREMENT SECURITY



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NEWS

United Steelworkers District 2
 AFL-CIO-CLC

MICHAEL H. BOLTON, Director, 1244A Midway Road, Menasha, WI 54952
 (920) 722-7630



**HAVE YOU BEEN TO DISTRICT 2'S
 PAGE ON FACEBOOK?**

www.facebook.com/USWDistrict2

growing again. Sounds like utopia? Maybe! But that is how the economy is supposed to work. We're just not accustomed to politicians who put workers first.

As for passing the PRO (Protect the Right to Organize) Act - IT'S ABOUT DAMN TIME! Unions built the American middle class; and, as Union membership has decreased, so has a worker's ability to achieve the American Dream. It's not radical, it's practical! Unions have been operating under laws that were written and passed in 1935. Since then, the National Labor Relations Act has been challenged, altered and amended so many times that it has become a blueprint for Union busters to use during their "Union Prevention Campaigns". Workers seeking to form a Union need a law that at least gives them a snowball's chance of winning a Union representation election. It's just not happening now.

The PRO Act, for the first time in U.S. history, will provide real consequences for employers who violate labor law. Right now, if an employer breaks the rules, they get a slap on the wrist in the form of hanging a poster in the workplace acknowledging their guilt. If a worker is fired for Union activity, the company is forced to reinstate the worker and make them whole of lost time and benefits. But, for the boss, it's a small price to pay for defeating a Unionizing effort.

The law will also provide new language for card check recognition in place of the outdated election process currently offered by the National Labor Relations Board. The change will reduce the time needed to run an effective campaign from months to weeks. Any Union Organizer will say, during a Unionization effort, time is not on the side of the worker. Employers love to stall and drag out campaigns because it gives them more time to beat up on their employees.

Another issue that is not radical, but very important for workers, is the high cost of health insurance. The rising costs of monthly premiums is putting the squeeze on workers across industry lines. Talk to your Local Union negotiating committee and ask them how much time and energy are spent on negotiating adequate health care benefits without costing our members an arm and a leg on co-pays, deductibles and premium sharing. Then take a look at how much more your employer has to pay for monthly premiums and the amount of the wage increase you got this year. They are intricately related.

It's for that reason one of the Biden Administration's highest priorities is stemming the ever-increasing costs of healthcare and health insurance. If you adhere to a capitalist ideology, then you recognize that real competition is the surest way to contain costs of goods and services. Today's health insurance industry does not have real competition. Sure, there are other companies competing for the same health insurance subscribers. However, all of them are following the same failed business model. None of them are working to lower premiums, they are simply passing the increases to their subscribers. There is no incentive to cut costs to check rising premiums. There are two areas health insurers need to look at to begin reining in premiums. They are administrative costs and the cost of health care.

Biden's plan to expand the Affordable Care Act accomplishes these issues by offering a public option that is the type of competition private insurers need to curb the costs. The public option will be a government-run program, similar to Medicare, offered to millions of Americans on the health care markets. How is that going to work?

Medicare is one of the most successful government programs our country has ever initiated. It provides an important service for millions of American seniors and does it in a cost-effective way. According to Politifact, each year U.S. health insurance companies spend 12% to 16% of their income on administrative costs, equating to about \$500 billion annually. On the flip side, Medicare spends just 2%, or roughly \$10 billion per year, representing a savings of \$490 billion annually.

How does Medicare spend billions of dollars less? First, they don't have the marketing expenses. Medicare does not advertise or offer trinkets or tickets to entertainment and sporting events. It also does not pay the exorbitant salaries of CEO's and officers. The six largest health insurance providers pay their CEO's as follows:

- Centene - \$26.4 million
- Cigna - \$19.1 million
- United Health Group - \$18.9 million
- Milina Healthcare - \$18 million
- Humana - \$16.7 million
- Anthem - \$15.5 million

It's astonishing to realize these numbers are just the wages of the person at the top of the chain!

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"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



2021 District 2 Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- 1 **LM Review Virtual Workshop - Wisconsin (12:00 noon CST)**
LM training will be offered via Zoom. Information will be mailed in January.
- 2 **LM Review Virtual Workshop - Michigan (1:00 p.m. EST)**
LM training will be offered via Zoom. Information will be mailed in January.

POSTPONED

USW
Collective Bargaining Training

Due to the pandemic and our priority in the health and safety of our members and staff, we are postponing the tentative January training to be determined later.

UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW
UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS
DISTRICT 2

Season's Greetings

Happy Holidays

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful Holiday and a Happy New Year.

From
MICHAEL BOLTON, DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR
DISTRICT 2 SUPPORT STAFF
AND STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

Homemade GIFTS MADE EASY

The schedule is designed to assist in planning this year's events. However, there is a possibility dates and/or locations could change due to unforeseen circumstances. Changes and corrections will be made ASAP and updated on the USW District 2 website.

A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 2

The real problem with the biggest impact on premiums is the rising cost of health care services. The price for doctor's office visits, tests, medical procedures, prescriptions, and medical devices are constantly growing. To date, health insurance companies have been unmotivated to act to hold the line on costs. Under the Biden plan, the public option program and Medicare will be authorized to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies, saving millions in prescription dollars. The same will be true for providers of other medical services, forcing private insurance companies to take similar actions or watch the government eat their lunch. Think about that. With the cost of insurance going down, your Local Union negotiating committee could begin negotiating more lucrative pay increases again!

This is what's at stake January 5th in Georgia. The choice is worker-friendly policies or four more years of gridlock. If you would like to help make a difference in Georgia, our Union is offering opportunities for you to get involved by making phone calls or writing post cards to voters encouraging them to support the two Democratic candidates in the election. If you are interested in helping, talk to your USW International Staff Representative.

Finally, it seems like an appropriate time to give a shout out to some real "STEELWORKER HEROES". Of course, I am talking about our members in the health care industry. We have nearly 3,000 members in District 2, working in the health care industry. During the height of the covid-19 pandemic, they were the ones walking into the epicenters of this illness to care for our loved ones despite the risk to their own health and safety. Facing overwhelming odds throughout the pandemic, they have performed over and above the call of duty.

To each District 2 healthcare sister and brother, I want to offer a most heartfelt thank you for all you have done and all you have committed to do to help see us through this difficult time. There is a light at the end of the tunnel and your commitment is going to help us reach it.

Thank you, be safe; and Happy Holidays!

Important Notices and Information

December Holiday Office Hours

The District 2 office and all District 2 sub-offices will be closed

December 24, 2020, through January 3, 2021

Please make note of this in your calendar – *Thank You!*

We apologize for any inconvenience, but the USW District 2 offices are temporarily closed. However, the health and safety of our members and staff is our number one priority.

We are committed to doing our part to prevent the further spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) while still representing our members. If you need assistance, you can still call each office; or, call your Staff Representative.

POSTPONED

USW Collective Bargaining Training

Due to the pandemic and our priority in the health and safety of our members and staff, we are postponing the tentative January training to be determined later.

FACE MASKS AVAILABLE

If your local is looking to purchase additional face masks, please consider supporting our brothers and sisters at American Roots. They have been working tirelessly throughout the pandemic to produce crucial PPE and masks for essential workers, and are now offering a discount on their remaining masks.

To place an order for face masks with one logo, please contact Ben Waxman at Ben@americanrootswear.com. With the boxes on the right, you will find the current special pricing being offered to USW locals.

General Prices

AR Mask with one logo:
Regular Price: \$7.75

Discounted Price with one logo: \$6.00



Example of Unit Orders: \$6.00

2,500 Units: \$15,000/Savings \$4,375
5,000 Units: \$30,000/Savings \$8,750
7,500 Units: \$45,000/Savings \$13,125
10,000 Units: \$60,000/Savings \$17,500



<https://americanrootswear.com>



For Immediate Release:
December 15, 2020

Contact: Jess Kamm Broomell,
412-562-2444, jkamm@usw.org

USW Commends Independent Mexico Labor Expert Board, Echoes Call to Strengthen Mexican Labor Rights

PITTSBURGH – The United Steelworkers union (USW) today commended the Independent Mexico Labor Expert Board for its thoughtful and thorough investigation into the progress of Mexican labor reform and concurred with its recommendations on appropriate steps to further protect Mexican workers.

The board, an advisory group established by Congress to monitor labor rights in Mexico under the U.S. - Mexico - Canada trade agreement (USMCA), released an interim report on Dec. 15 assessing the current state of Mexican labor reform and endorsing further U.S. support.

While noting significant progress on labor law reform, the report found that “many of the changes promised to improve the lives of workers, in terms of union democracy, freedom of association and collective bargaining, remain to be implemented.” The board also determined that Mexico’s system of employer-controlled “protection unions” remains intact.

The board recommended that the United States carefully monitor Mexico’s actions to end violence against worker rights advocates, increase transparency and focus enforcement on priority sectors, which include manufacturing and mining.

The U.S. government should accelerate the delivery of aid to strengthen Mexican workers’ ability to exercise their rights to organize and bargain under the new law, the board also found. Advancing workers’ rights in Mexico will promote a rising standard of living for its people and reduce downward pressure on wages for U.S. workers.

The board’s members were appointed by the leadership of the U. S. House and Senate as well as the Labor Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations and Trade Policy, chaired by USW International President Tom Conway.

See the full text of the report here:

- <https://www.usw.org/news/media-center/releases/2020/2020/IMLEB-Interim-Report-December-2020-Final-as-approved-12-14.pdf>

The USW represents 850,000 workers employed in metals, mining, pulp and paper, rubber, chemicals, glass, auto supply and the energy-producing industries, along with a growing number of workers in health care, public sector, higher education, tech and service occupations.

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Locals Reach Agreements with Dow DuPont - USW Media Center • December 9, 2020

This past fall, several USW locals within the Dow DuPont North American Labor Council (DNALC) negotiated and ratified deals.

Local 10-88G at Dow’s Bristol, Pennsylvania, plant had a contract set to expire October 24, 2020, but the local negotiated a one-year extension that included two \$750 lump sum payments.

Local 10-88G President Walter Epp said the local negotiated the extension to avoid in-person bargaining and wait until the Covid-19 recession subsided.

DuPont approached its Midland, Michigan, unit, Local 12075-24, about negotiating a one-year extension for the unit’s contract that will expire in February 2021.

“We worked with the DuPont union committee, and it was a good move for everybody,” said Local 12075 President Kent Holsing.

The one-year extension for Local 12075-24 included a 2.1 percent wage increase.

The Local 12075-25 bargaining committee at Corteva’s Midland, Michigan, plant reached a three-year agreement for the 262-member unit, and the members ratified it the week of October 12.

This Month in History • Pearl Harbor Bombed - December 7, 1941 - *By History.com*

At 7:55 a.m. Hawaii time, a Japanese dive bomber bearing the red symbol of the Rising Sun of Japan on its wings appears out of the clouds above the island of Oahu. A swarm of 360 Japanese warplanes followed, descending on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in a ferocious assault. The surprise attack struck a critical blow against the U.S. Pacific fleet and drew the United States irrevocably into World War II.

With diplomatic negotiations with Japan breaking down, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his advisers knew that an imminent Japanese attack was probable, but nothing had been done to increase security at the important naval base at Pearl Harbor. It was Sunday morning, and many military personnel had been given passes to attend religious services off base. At 7:02 a.m., two radar operators spotted large groups of aircraft in flight toward the island from the north, but, with a flight of B-17s expected from the United States at the time, they were told to sound no alarm. Thus, the Japanese air assault came as a devastating surprise to the naval base.

Much of the Pacific fleet was rendered useless: Five of eight battleships, three destroyers, and seven other ships were sunk or severely damaged, and more than 200 aircraft were destroyed. A total of 2,400



Americans were killed and 1,200 were wounded, many while valiantly attempting to repulse the attack. Japan's losses were some 30 planes, five midget submarines, and fewer than 100 men. Fortunately for the United States, all three Pacific fleet carriers were out at sea on training maneuvers. These giant aircraft carriers would have their revenge against Japan six months later at the Battle of Midway, reversing the tide against the previously invincible Japanese navy in a spectacular victory.

The day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, President Roosevelt appeared before a joint session of Congress and declared, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." After a brief and forceful speech, he asked Congress to approve a resolution recognizing the state of war between the United States and Japan. The Senate voted for war against Japan by 82 to 0, and the House of Representatives approved the resolution by a vote of 388 to 1.

The sole dissenter was Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana, a devout pacifist who had also cast a dissenting vote against the U.S. entrance into World War I. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war against the United States, and the U.S. government responded in kind.



The American contribution to the successful Allied war effort spanned four long years and cost more than 400,000 American lives.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH



Thomas M. Conway, International President

Posted: December 4, 2020 • page 1 of 2

Never Again

Brian Banks and his colleagues at Nipro Glass log 60- or 70-hour weeks right now in a grueling race to produce the glass tubing and vials essential to distributing millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

Banks, a maintenance mechanic for nearly three decades, often feared over the years that the Millville, N.J., complex would close like so many other glass-making facilities around the country. If it had, America would struggle all the more to turn the corner on a pandemic that's already claimed 275,000 U.S. lives.

COVID-19 laid bare the decades-long decline of manufacturing that left the nation straining to produce the face masks, ventilators, glass and other items needed to contain the coronavirus. Now, with vaccines nearly ready for distribution, America has an opportunity to defeat the virus and revive a manufacturing base crucial for protecting the country from future crises.



Getty Images

Of all the responsibilities that President-elect Joe Biden faces upon taking office Jan. 20, none demands more attention - and requires greater urgency - than ramping up production capacity and rebuilding broken supply chains to keep America safe.

Biden's Build Back Better campaign will make common-sense investments in U.S. manufacturing that put millions to work and ensure a reliable, high-quality supply of critical goods, like the Nipro vials that are used not only to store COVID-19 vaccine but also the other drugs needed to treat hospitalized patients.

"It's comforting for us to know that what we're doing is contributing to something major," explained Banks, president of United Steelworkers (USW) Local 219M, which represents the 200 or so dedicated workers keeping Nipro's two Millville plants operating around the clock.

"There used to be lots of different places where we could get this glass. They've left. If we didn't have this plant, where would we get it from?" asked Banks, who saw his own local shrink by thousands of members as several local glass facilities closed in recent decades.



Brian Banks



In the urgent scramble to build stockpiles of vaccine that can be swiftly released for distribution once federal regulators give approval, multiple drug-makers approached Nipro for help.

The company added production capacity to help meet the flood of orders and relied on workers to put in extra shifts. However, as Banks noted, the nation could have more easily addressed the surging demand if it still had the large number of producers it did in years past and marshaled those collective resources to ramp up glass production.

"The product is still being made, just not in the U.S. It could have stayed here," said Banks, who already wonders whether Nipro will embrace America's long-term need for manufacturing and maintain its recently added capacity once the pandemic ends.

Although there are no quick fixes, Build Back Better will not only arrest the long erosion of the manufacturing base but restore America's power to produce critical goods of all kinds.

Because while the pandemic exposed the nation's struggle to produce personal protective equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer, pharmaceutical ingredients and even the super-cold freezers needed to keep COVID-19 vaccines viable during transport, that's really just the tip of the iceberg.

Over the past 30 years, as greedy corporations closed thousands of U.S. factories and offshored millions of jobs to exploit cheaper labor and lax environmental laws in other countries, America also gave away the capacity to produce appliances, tires, cars, ball bearings and many other items.

Not even the pandemic, which highlighted the nation's urgent need for more manufacturing muscle, slowed the corporate quest for ever-higher profits. In September, FreightCar America announced it will close its Alabama factory, eliminate 500 jobs and

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MESSAGE FROM PITTSBURGH



Thomas M. Conway, International President

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Never Again

move operations to Mexico by the end of the year. And Mondelēz, a company that previously shifted American jobs to Mexico, just threatened to close two of its five remaining U.S. Nabisco bakeries.

America needs thousands of other manufactured products every bit as much as it needs PPE. It relies on trucks, boxes and containers to move commerce every day, textiles to refurbish homes devastated by hurricanes and steel, aluminum and other materials for military vehicles.

Biden understands that rebuilding the manufacturing base is a top priority that transcends politics. He will require government agencies and contractors to spend taxpayer dollars on U.S.-made materials, products and labor, ensuring America invests in itself.

“You’ve got to be able to produce things to survive,” observed Libbi Urban, vice president of USW Local 9231, noting that America’s dependence on foreign suppliers puts the nation at grave risk.



Libbi Urban

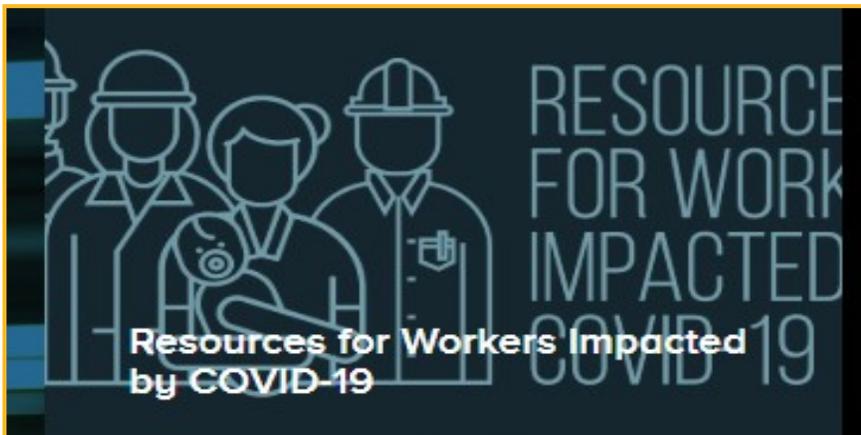
Foreign countries can experience their own production problems, jack up prices during emergencies, deliver inferior products or simply cut off supplies any time they want, noted Urban, who represents workers at two ArcelorMittal steel facilities in New Carlisle, Ind.

“Do you want to rely on steel from China if you want to make battleships, tanks or aircraft carriers? Do you think they’re going to sell you good-quality steel?” said Urban, who chairs her local’s Women of Steel program. “If you go to war with somebody, you can’t rely on them to make your ships or your tanks.”

Even as they put in wearying amounts of overtime, Banks and his colleagues have to maintain constant vigilance and observe numerous safety precautions to protect themselves from COVID-19. With millions of lives riding on their work, Banks said, they cannot risk a spate of infections that could disrupt production.

Banks hopes America remembers the risks essential workers continue to make. But what he really wants is for the nation to learn from its failures and commit to a full-scale revitalization of manufacturing to keep his members employed - and America safe - long after the threat of COVID-19.

“We’re happy to be doing this,” he said. “But we are also worried. At some point, when this pandemic ends, are we still going to thrive?”



The coronavirus pandemic has impacted the lives of millions of working people and our families. Go to the AFL-CIO Website or <https://aflcio.org/covid-19/state-resources>

Select your state to find the resources, programs and benefits available in your area to assist you during this crisis.

Strong Buy American Provisions Critical Under Biden: USW President - *By Justine Coyne, CommodityMetals*

Tariffs seen as short-term relief Buy American in infrastructure key to recovery

Pittsburgh — Establishing and enforcing strong Buy American provisions, particularly related to infrastructure, are going to be critical in allowing the US economy to recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, and could set President-elect Joe Biden apart from his predecessor, Tom Conway, president of the United Steelworkers union said Dec. 3.

"[Biden's] manufacturing plan is just covered with Buy American [provisions] and I think that's what differs from what we've just been through in four years," Conway said in a webinar hosted by the Alliance for American Manufacturing. "Rather than a sort of tariff plan that really didn't solve the problem and alienated a lot of important allies, a Buy American plan really is about making America first."

While the Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum introduced by President Donald Trump's administration in March 2018 provided some benefit in the short term, the overall issue of global overcapacity persists, Conway said.

"I think part of the trade problem with what Trump did was its simplicity," he said. "He just was able to say to the whole world: here's a 25% tariff on steel and a 10% tariff on aluminum and be on my way. It's going to take a very thoughtful approach to sit down with our allies and say we've got to get at the overcapacity – particularly China, but other places while at the same time we're not just going to throw open our gates to you on procurement if you're not going to play fairly with us."

However, the Biden administration should take its time when examining the tariffs on steel and aluminum and should not remove those protections until there is a plan in place, Conway said.

"If you get rid of [the tariffs] and you don't have a plan in place, you're going right back to where you were. There was a genuine problem in the [steel and aluminum industries] and they were struggling," he said.

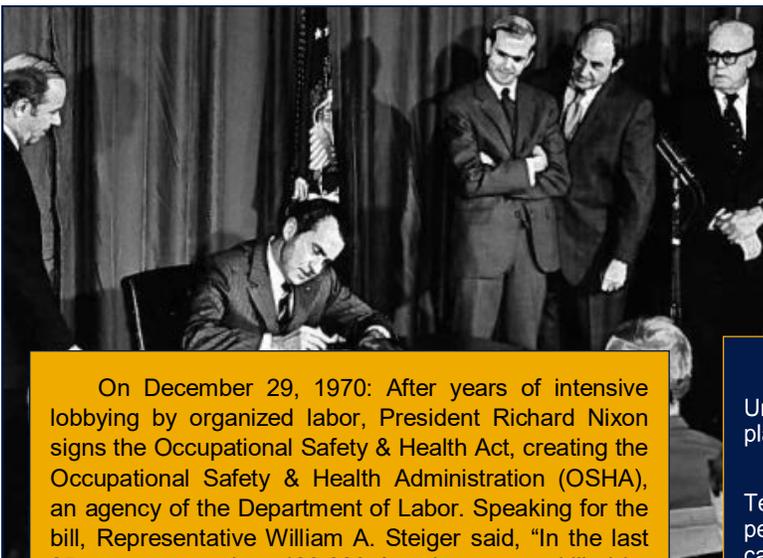
The tariffs should remain in place until an infrastructure plan is in place and the work is done rebuilding the country, ensuring that US jobs and industries are supported, Conway said.

"In some places we've lost those industries," he said. "We have remnants of them, like we found ourselves with PPE. We had almost nothing left and had to quickly find a way to rebuild, that's true for many things and that's why this is going to be a long haul."

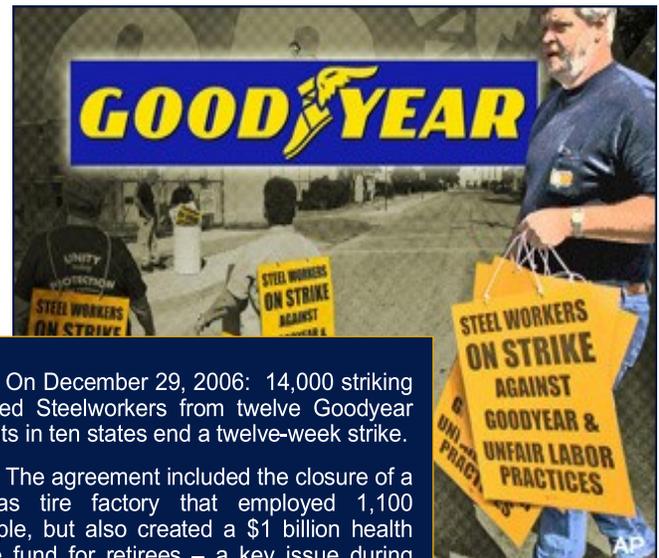
When asked how easy it would be for Democrats to make progress on a robust infrastructure package with a Republican-controlled Senate, Conway said the benefits of an infrastructure bill should rise above politics.

"If you think of Indiana, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Alabama and Texas, nine out of ten of those senators are republicans, and in each of those states this is going to mean a lot of work," he said. "It's going to put people back to work and it's going to keep those mills running so I guess they can play around and try to impede an infrastructure bill, but then have to explain to their own states why they are not allowing those mills to run at full capacity... We have an opportunity to do a lot of good carbon reduction things inside of an infrastructure plan and accomplish a lot of stuff together and the republicans have to realize this really is a way to put the nation on good footing."

This Month in Labor History • 1970 & 2006 - *By Union Review, todayinlaborhistory.tumblr.com*



On December 29, 1970: After years of intensive lobbying by organized labor, President Richard Nixon signs the Occupational Safety & Health Act, creating the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), an agency of the Department of Labor. Speaking for the bill, Representative William A. Steiger said, "In the last 25 years, more than 400,000 Americans were killed by work-related accidents and disease, and close to 50 million more suffered disabling injuries on the job."



On December 29, 2006: 14,000 striking United Steelworkers from twelve Goodyear plants in ten states end a twelve-week strike.

The agreement included the closure of a Texas tire factory that employed 1,100 people, but also created a \$1 billion health care fund for retirees – a key issue during the strike.

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