



Don't Believe Conservative Spin: The Recovery Act IS Working

Despite conservative claims that President Obama's policies have failed because unemployment remains high, the Stimulus Bill (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) has actually slowed job loss. As the following chart from the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) makes clear, the job losses that were accelerating before the Recovery Act was passed have been virtually eliminated.

Also according to EPI, "From December 2007 to March 2009, one out of every 20 private sector jobs was eliminated, a rate of destruction 50 percent greater than even the severe recession in the early 1980s. With unemployment at 9.7 percent today, it's hard to appreciate how much more damage the stimulus investments prevented. Without the more than two million jobs generated by the Recovery Act, the unemployment rate would now exceed 11 percent rather than the 9.7 percent rate in January."

For more information and statistics about how the stimulus bill is working, visit <http://www.epi.org>. **OP**



National Action Summit for Latino Worker Health and Safety

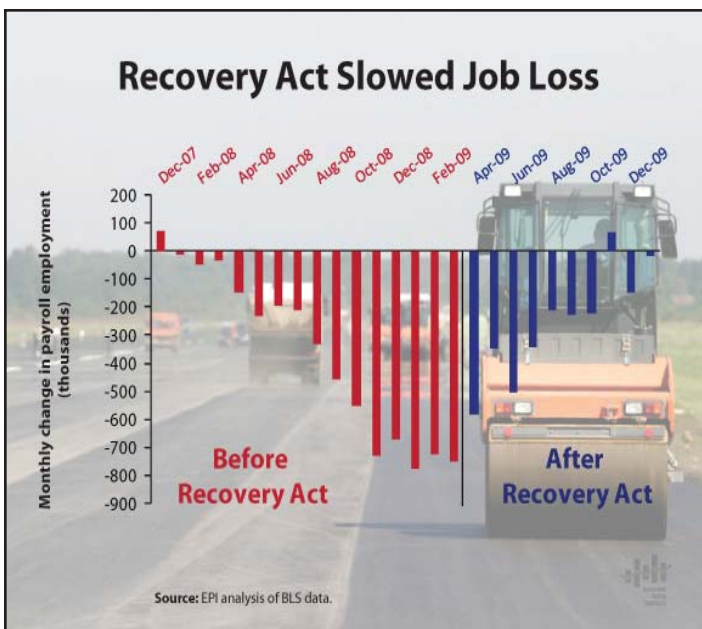
Secretary Solis, the Department of Labor, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will convene a National Action Summit for Latino Worker Health and Safety on April 14 and 15, 2010 at the Hilton Americas Hotel in Houston, Texas. Registration forms are available on line at www.osha.gov.

Please contact Occupational Safety and Health Office Director Jackie Nowell if you are planning to attend or have questions about the Summit. **OP**

Safety & Health Resource Available to UFCW Locals from NIOSH

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is a federal agency that is the part of the Centers for Disease Control that conducts research into safer workplaces across America. As part of this mission, they provide free Health Hazard Evaluations to workplaces where people are concerned about their safety and health. Workers or their union representatives can request an evaluation of their workplace by trained professionals - which can occur by writing, phone, or by an in-person worksite visit.

This is a valuable resource that workers in our key industries can take advantage of, whether they are members or involved in new organizing. To learn more about the program or to request an evaluation visit <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/>. **OP**





Arbitrator OKs Talking to Workers on Work Time and Handbilling Customers About Disputes

An arbitrator has ruled that Local 1776 did not violate a no-strike clause that prohibits “interference” with company operations when union representatives spoke with members about a scheduling dispute while they worked on the sales floor. Handbilling customers outside the store and informing them of the dispute also did not violate the clause.

This award is particularly useful for those Kroger contracts whose no-strike clauses prohibit strikes and “any other interference with or interruption of the normal conditions of the company’s business.”

In an expedited arbitration, Acme claimed that the union’s actions violated the no-strike clause that prohibited “strikes, stoppages of work, slowdowns or any other interferences of whatever nature.” The arbitrator rejected the company’s contention.

The arbitrator explained first, that the company’s broad interpretation of the term “interference of whatever nature” rendered the clause unwieldy and could have possibly led to absurd results. Second, the company’s interpretation was contrary to the past practice of the union talking to members during work time and handbilling customers about labor and political issues.

A no-strike clause that prohibits interference with the company’s operations does not restrict the right of unions and members to talk to each other during work time, nor the right to communicate with the general public about workplace disputes, as long as members continue to work.

This is similar to other arbitration awards ruling that the same type of no-strike clause does not waive the right of members to wear buttons or stickers while working, including those intended to trigger dialogue with consumers.

The decision shows that no-strike clauses that prohibit interference with the company’s operations are intended to apply to actions like strikes, slowdowns and workplace sabotage, not free speech rights like handbilling, wearing stickers and buttons, and talking to customers.

Acme Markets, Inc. Case No. 14 300 E 02214 09 EGV (Dec. 7, 2009) is available at www.ufcwlegal.org. **OP**

Local 75 Gives Union Valentines to Dayton Walmart Workers

Sixty activists from UFCW Local 75 participated in a Valentine’s Day action at a Dayton, OH Walmart last Thursday. Local 75 members blanketed the local Walmart, handing out Valentine’s Day cards to all the associates that let them know that union workers stood with them in their fight for better wages, affordable health care, and a voice at work. Although managers quickly began collecting the cards from employees, most workers were receptive to the Valentines. **OP**



Each year, the UFCW awards several scholarships of up to \$8,000 each to UFCW members or their dependents. The UFCW is pleased to announce that the 2010 UFCW scholarship is now available.

Visit <http://www.ufcw.org/scholarship/> to learn about the scholarship rules and the application process. The direct link to the scholarship application page is http://www.ufcw.org/scholarship/app10/en_application.asp. **OP**