

HYSTERIA, DISSENT, HEROES AND RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AS WORKERS

**Firefighters
Pasco, Washington
April 6, 2004**

INTRODUCTION

Thanks for the invitation (time to think)

Congratulations on video and now your own history book

Talk: 45 minutes. (15 minutes in Group). Half hour of questions and comments)

LAST TWO TALKS (How many heard before?)

1. 1999.

100 years of Labor history – when political economy changes, workers respond with new goals and organizational forms to enforce those goals.

KOL Cooperative Commonwealth

IWW Industrial Democracy

AFL Association Democracy

CIO Industrial unions/Social Welfare State

Public Union Recognition/Social Equality

2. 2nd Talk: (9/2002).

Establishment of a New World Order (after fall of USSR) which consisted of taking US capital's victories over labor in the 1980s

- a. Acceptance of unions as part of definition
- b. Eliminating corporate regulation & public interest
- c. Eliminating the right to a social welfare state

d. Dismantling the manufacturing sector (5 m)

And then extending those victories overseas by enforcing same economic model on countries via:

a. Trade Agreements: NAFTA, WTO, FTAA, etc.

b. Unilateral resource wars: Iraq (I&II), Afghanistan

c. Elimination of a public education systems that allow children to imagine a different and better world than the one they are faced with.

d. Concluded – showing results in terms of wealth concentration and speed up of work and families. (could read statistics again).

THIS TALK:

HYSTERIA, DISSENT, HEROES AND RIGHT TO ORGANIZE AS WORKERS

I think we live in a time in which:

a. Government promoted hysteria is clouding our judgment about what is happening to us and how we should act. (Facts to counter)

b. The definition of “enemies” and “heroes” is being manipulated to support policies dangerous to our nation and to the future of our young people. (Fear to positive energy)

c. Our right to dissent and object to governmental policies is being suppressed and called un-patriotic, e.g. “Miami Model”. (Patriotism = exercise objection)

d. The right of those of us in the public sector to organize, express our views and maintain our integrity as public sector workers and union members is being challenged.

HOWEVER,

THIS IS NOT AN UNFAMILIAR SITUATION FOR LABOR OR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

MY THESIS IS TWO FOLD:

20th Century history demonstrates a consistent pattern.

1. After and (perhaps during) each US war there is an expansion of state power, an economic reorganization and the use of state power to suppress those who object to that reorganization.

2. After each effort to repress organized labor and its allies, there is a strong social movement that challenges that repression and secures significant victories for the American working class

INTRODUCE THE CHART

The purpose of my chart is to show you the shape and the flow of that historical repression and to offer an analysis of what is going on in this time period.

4 POST WAR Periods

4 SCARES

Government Hysteria	Undefined Danger
Actual Targets	Race/Allies/Unions
Attack Leaders	Govt Leaders: AGs
Legal Attack	Immigrants.Speech. Deportations, Unions
Extra Legal Terror	KKK. Lynching Named in Media or Hearings Infiltration
Purpose of it all	Enforce Change in Ruling order.

SCARE ONE: REDS

During and after the WWI

People who opposed the War were in fact

Russian Revolutions -- Bolsheviks and Reds.

And by Foreigners with philosophies alien to the United States.

The Answer to all this: The American Plan: Open Shop

Restructure the benefits of War and its aftermath

POINT HERE: THE AFL THAT SUPPORTED THE WAR AND ATTACK ON “REDS” WAS ALMOST ELIMINATED AFTER WWI.

REORGANIZATION AFTER WWI

After 1927 – 1934 CIO grew through WWII

Cross color and gender lines

Share the wealth/Robert Townsend

Right to organize unions

Regulation of capital

Social welfare state

Tax on Wealth

Distribution of Income

Minimum Wage Laws

Collective Bargaining (private sector)

The New Deal

SCARE TWO: UN-AMERICANS

During and After WWII:

Worldwide communist conspiracy (permanent)

Infiltrating the US – un-Americans.

Subversives

How could you tell who these people were:

CIO Organizing Drives

Cross “race” organizing in the south

Nationalize reform: Servicemen Readjt. Act

PEACE with USSR

Plan for national social reform

Peace, education, housing, employment, pensions
Belonged to organizations with these ideas

Legal Attack/Extra Legal Attack

Results

National reforms stopped
CIO unions kicked out (1.7 m)
Racism solidified.
AFL-CIO incorporated
Permanent Arms Race
High point of private sector unions

REORGANIZATION AFTER WW II

After 1955 Civil Rights movement (55-65)

Cross color line

Led by unions (A. Philip) (1963)

Joined public sector (1968) AFSMCE

Womens movement in 70s (NEA)

GAINS

Destroyed legal segregation

Civil Rights and Voting rights

Established War on Poverty

Established public sector and unions

Stopped the Vietnam war

SCARE THREE: RADICALS

During and after Vietnam War.

The Hysteria was about “Radicals.”

Hippies, Anarchists, Dope Smoking Counter-Culture --

Targets: CRM.AA, Students: Trades

Legal Attack: Conspiracy Trials

Extra Legal: Cointelpro;Red Squad
Business Roundtable

Results Period of quiet

Attack on Labor –Construction Trades First
Reorganization of Capitl in the world in 80s
Reagan.

Came after the “hard hat” worst after they
Eliminated their allies:

Construction trades: '68 – 80% / 88 – 20%

REORGANIZATION AFTER VIETNAM WAR (74)

Global Justice movement born: late-1980s

NAFTA (93) (Labor and Allies)

FAST Track (96)

WTO (99) in Seattle.

World Social Forum (2000): Brazil

Showed Economic model a disaster

Argentina collapse. Brazil and Venezuela
Elections.

New Model:

Internationalism

Raising of standards world wide

Acceptance of other peoples and cultures

Food Sovereignty

Trade with the purpose of uplift

4TH SCARE: TERRORIST

POST SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

THE PROBLEM: TERRORISTS

A NEW WAR: WAR ON TERROR

TARGET: PEOPLE WHO DO NOT
AGREE WITH GOVERNMENT
ACTION

Legal Attack PATRIOT ACT (OCTOBER)
FISA EXTENSION
DEPORTATIONS
HOMELAND SECURITY
NO COLLECTIVE BARGAIN
FOR PUBLIC SECTOR
DRAFT (MARCH 2005)

Extra Legal TERROR ALERTS
NO PROTEST ZONES
MIAMI MODEL (8.7)
EXTENSION OF RESERVES
(40% OF ARMY/30 Pds disorder)

SHAPE OF NEW MOBILIZATION

An alternative to Bush/Saudi, privatize public and US global military rule.

Apollo Alliance
Public Sector to public service
US as partner in International Diplomacy
Stop occupation of Iraq and Palestine
Bring All troops home out of Iraq immediately

An Alliance across race and gender lines.

Offer protection to all Arab and Muslims in US
Help organize all immigrants into unions: educate
Show solidarity with private sector labor (ILWU)
Build inter-union public sector alliances at local
Build community alliances with peace/youth groups.

Conscious Education about US actions overseas

Learn about history of Middle East
Sons and daughters are dying there
Draft is coming up soon.
Focus on Saudi Arabia (religious/oil)

Support Heroes –

People who turn fear into positive energy
People who challenge Hysteria and are attacked.
People who state facts not provided by Media