The American Right and U.S. Labor: Politics, Ideology and Imagination

A conference sponsored by
The Center for the Study of Work, Labor and Democracy
University of California, Santa Barbara

January 16-17, 2009
McCune Conference Room
Humanities and Social Science Building, 6020

January 16, 2009

8:30AM-9:00AM: Coffee and Registration (HSSB 6020)

9:00AM-9:15AM
Introduction:
David Marshall, Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, University of California, Los Angeles
Chris Tilly, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, University of California, Los Angeles
Nelson Lichtenstein, University of California, Santa Barbara

9:15AM-11:00AM
Anti-Unionism in Progressive-Era America (HSSB 6020)
Anthony DeStefanis, Otterbein College
“Guarding the Empire: Soldier Strikebreakers, Anti-Unionism, and the Ludlow Massacre”
Jonathan Rees, Colorado State University
“John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and the Failure of ‘Liberal’ Anti-Unionism”
Dolores Janwiski, Victoria University of Wellington
“Rocked in the Cradle of Reaction: The Godfathers of the ‘New’ Right and their Anti-Labor Crusade”
Kyle Bruce, Aston Business School
“Democracy or Seduction?: The Demonization of Scientific Management and the Deification of Human Relations”
Chair: Mary Furner, University of California, Santa Barbara

11:15AM-1:00PM
The Fate of the New Deal (HSSB 6020)

Kim Phillips-Fein, New York University
“Anti-Unionism and the Idea of a Liberal Consensus”
Jefferson Cowie, Cornell University

“The Long Exception: Rethinking the Place of the New Deal in American History”
Christopher Nehls, Providence College

“A Question of Loyalty: The American Legion and Striking Workers during the Interwar Period”
Andrew Cohen, Syracuse University

“Unions, Modernity, and the Decline of American Economic Nationalism”
Chair: Melvin Dubofsky, State University of New York, Binghamton

LUNCH: 1:00PM-2:00PM

2:00PM-3:30PM
Southern Crusade Against Labor (HSSB 6020)

Jennifer Brooks, Auburn University
“Anti-Unionism Among Returning Veterans in the South”
Michael Pierce, University of Arkansas
“Orval Faubus and Arkansas’s Labor Movement, 1954-1966”
Michael Honey, University of Washington
“The Deadly Embrace: Racism, Anti-Communism and Anti-Unionism”
Chair: Clyde Woods, University of California, Santa Barbara

3:45PM-5:30PM
Race, Fair Employment, and the Union Idea (HSSB 6020)

Reuel Schiller, University of California, Hastings College of Law
“The Right-to-Work Committee Courts the NAACP”
Patricia Cooper, University of Kentucky
“Race, Rule and Republicans: Sun Ship and Unionization during World War II”
Alex Gourse, Northwestern University
Lisa Phillips, Indiana State University
“‘Like a Scab Over An Infected Sore’: The Campaigns Against Full and Fair Employment Legislation, 1945-48”
Chair: Alice O’Connor, University of California, Santa Barbara

6:00PM-9:00PM Dinner at the UCSB Faculty Club
Keynote Speaker, Fred Feinstein, University of Maryland, “Embattled for Thirty Years”

If you plan to attend, please contact ellie@umail.ucsb.edu

Panels for January 17

8:30AM-10:15AM
At Labor’s Organizing Frontier: Resistance and Resentment (HSSB 6020)

Shannon Clark, Montclair State University

Todd Holmes, Yale University

Eduardo Canedo, Jr., Princeton University
“‘Stop OSHA’: The American Conservative Union’s Challenge to Workplace Health and Safety Regulation, 1975-1980”

Lizzie Lamoree, University of California, Santa Barbara
“Agribusiness Against the State: California Growers Challenge Agricultural Labor Relations Legislation”

Chair: John Borsos, United Healthcare Workers West, SEIU

10:30AM-12:15PM
Racketeering as Idea and Reality (HSSB 6020)

David Witwer, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisonburg
“Pattern for Partnership: Putting Labor Racketeering on the Nation’s Agenda in the Late 1950s”

Joe McCartin, Georgetown University, and Jean-Christian Vinel, Université Paris-Diderot
“From Theory to Practice and Memory: Sylvester Petro and the Post-war Career of the Anti-Union Idea”

Sophia Z. Lee, Yale University

Larry Richards, Miami University of Ohio
“America’s Anti-Union Culture since 1945”

Chair: Jennifer Luff, University of California, Irvine

12:15PM-1:15PM: LUNCH

1:15PM-3:00PM
Politics, Capital Mobility, and the Creation of a ‘Business Climate’ (HSSB 6020)

Judith Stein, Graduate Center, City University of New York
“The Failure of Labor Reform 1978”

Elizabeth Tandy Shermer, University of California, Santa Barbara
“The Labor Question and the Business Climate: Anti-Unionism in Mid-Century Industrial Recruitment Campaigns”

Tami Friedman, Brock University
“Capital Flight, ‘States Rights,’ and the Anti-Labor Offensive after World War II”

Jeffrey T. Manuel, University of Minnesota
“Taxing Labor: Tax Incentives and Economic Development Policy in the Post-World War II Lake Superior Iron Mining District”
Chair: Sanford Jacoby, University of California, Los Angeles

3:15PM-5:00PM
How to Think About the Employee Free Choice Act

John Logan, Labor Center, University of California, Berkeley
“Exporting the US Model of Union Avoidance”

Catherine Fisk, University of California, Irvine
“How the Bush Administration Has Reshaped the NLRB”

Susan Orr, State University of New York -- Brockport
“Authorizing the Union: Secret Ballots and Worker Choice as a Contemporary Problem for Democratic Theory”

Gordon Lafer, University of Oregon
"Democracy Denied: Corporate Lobbies' Campaign to Snuff Out Democracy in the Workplace"

Chair: David Brody, University of California, Davis

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