



insight

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“Steal of the Century”



Pratt and Whitney is the largest foreign investor in Polish aviation, employing more than 6,000 people. In March 2002, Pratt purchased 85% of the stock in the PZL Rzeszow factory for \$70 million. They promised to invest another \$70 million in the company over five years. Poland's Treasury Minister stated that

“Rzeszow is gaining a partner that will expand the company's range of products, build up its capital and GUARANTEE to double the company's exports in several years time”.

There are many Polish companies poised to take advantage of a U.S. offset program linked with the purchase of the F-16's by the Polish Air Force. Companies such as General Motors, Motorola, Lockheed and Pratt will modernize and expand plants with state-of-the-art technology. The total value of the “offset projects” is estimated to be \$12.5 BILLION. The Polish Minister of Economy said, “Owing to the offsets, thousands of new jobs will appear in Polish industry”.

This U.S. subsidy raises legal and ethical questions. Pratt had initially signed a privatization contract (as a foreign company) for PZL Rzeszow

in Sept. '01, and finalized the contract in March '02. In Nov. 2002, Lockheed selected Pratt to power the F-16s being offered to Poland by the U.S. Government. In Dec. 2002, Lockheed “won” the competition to supply the Polish Air Force with 48 advanced multi-role aircraft. Pratt had committed to Lockheed to build the engines in Poland *before* they won the contract. Perhaps, this is why Pratt bought the Rzeszow factory in 2001 for \$70 million, with a promise of \$70 million more over five years. I call it greasing the skids (palms) at our expense: using US tax dollars, technologies, and taking our jobs, with the blessing of our Government.

Did this negotiated “offset agreement” pave the way for “winning” the fighter aircraft competition, or did we steal it? Better yet, did Poland extort it? Perhaps it was already “in the bag” because Poland is a member of NATO *and* a NEW member of European Union.

This “subsidized deal” will open the door for Pratt and Whitney to compete with European Union countries by doing the work in Polish factories. And don't forget: Poland is one of the few European countries to commit troops to Iraq. Who says you can't buy your friends?

The Polish news media hails this “offset” as the “Deal of the Century”...and who could blame them? As usual, UTC & Pratt will profit from this deal, but it won't save or create any new jobs in Connecticut. Perhaps we should call it the;

“Steal of the Century”.





The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) consists of members of all races from fifty different labor unions. There are sixty-four chapters across the US and Canada, including an active Connecticut Chapter. The basic objectives of the CBTU are reflected in its activities and projects, including:

- efforts to improve the image of labor throughout the community
- working within the framework of the union movement to provide a voice and vehicle for greater Black and minority participation in unions
- extensive involvement in voter registration, voter education and "Get Out The Vote" projects on election day
- organizing unorganized workers into labor unions
- support of civil rights and civic groups to improve living and working conditions in the Black community
- job training and full employment for all

The CBTU held its Thirty-Third International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, May 26th through 31st. The theme of the convention was, "On the Road to the Ballot Box: Building a Coalition for Victory." There were workshops on effective voter registration and mobilization to *Get Out The Vote* (GOTV) on election day. There was also much discussion on the Million Worker March (MWM) planned for October 16, 2004, in Washington, DC.

Local 10 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union has asked that you join them in Washington on October 16th to demand that politicians and the Bush Administration listen to the people who pay their salaries, rather than the voices of big business and the rich. Since the "Son of a Bush" has taken office, over 3 million American workers have lost their jobs. These weren't only union jobs – cutbacks and outsourcing have occurred from the *mail rooms* to the *board rooms*. White-collar and government workers are also being targeted.

The Connecticut Chapter of CBTU will host this year's Region 1 Convention, August 11-15, 2004, at Hartford's Crown Plaza Hotel. Region 1 consists of CT, NJ, NY, Mass, and Ontario, Canada. You are invited to step by the convention and learn more about CBTU, and what is going on in Region 1. *Please contact (email) cbtuct@aol.com or James Bullock, IAM Local 1746, at 868-3000 for more information.*

"Miss Ellie"

Don't let this happen to you!

Over the course of the last six years some of you have met our family dog, Miss Ellie. She was an American Staffordshire Terrier or "Pitbull", and was a member of our family since my son brought her home as a puppy in 1998. She wasn't "perfect", but she was a great dog with a great personality, and she got along well with children.

Miss Ellie was the first female dog that we ever had, and the Vet said we should get her spayed if we weren't going to breed her. My family and I thought that we'd like one of her puppies, and attempted to have her mated, without success. For one reason or another, we never took the important step of having her spayed. The Vet also mentioned something called "PYOMETRA", a serious infection of the uterus. Being ignorant of this, we just assumed that a serious infection would get treated by antibi-



"District 26 Business Rep Steve Merrick and Miss Ellie"

otics. WRONG!

Miss Ellie wasn't quite herself the week before Easter. On Good Friday, after enduring great pain and despite emergency surgery, she died at the age of six.

If you have a pet, you may understand the trauma involved in this, especially knowing that this could have been prevented. Since her death several people have told me they either lost a dog to this or know someone that did. Up until now, I had no idea what pyometra was or the severity of it. Apparently if you have a female dog that has not been spayed, this is common and is quite frequently fatal. If this information can prevent one family from going

through this pain, it was worthwhile sharing it. If you want to learn more about *pyometra* I'd recommend the following sites on the internet:

- <http://www.thepetcenter.com/sur/pyo.html>
- http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body_pyometra.html
- http://www.marvistavet.com/html/body_the_canine_spay.html



Legislative Update

Local 1746 has many committees to conduct our business and promote our interests, but none may be as important as the **Legislative Committee**. Juan Gelabert, a Cuban-born immigrant, has served as the chairman for this committee for the past three years. This month, *insight* sits down with Brother Juan to find out what the Legislative Committee is all about:

1. Juan, What made you get involved in the Legislative Committee?

You don't know what you have until you lose it. I learned this at a young age when my native country lost democracy to a dictatorship that is still in power. I emigrated from Cuba in search of democracy and freedom, a search that ultimately led to my naturalization as U.S. citizen in 1976. Since then I have exercised my right to vote in every election at every level. During the last presidential election a large percentage of registered voters didn't vote. Voting gives you a say in your government - **and one vote does make a difference.**

2. Why should machinists be concerned about politics?

Every benefit, wage increase, pension, and workplace safety provision that we win at the bargaining table can be swept away with the stroke of a pen if the congress passes laws that modify or eliminate gains at the table. Would you elect a candidate that stands for everything you are against, knowing that person could promote legislation that adversely affects you?

3. What are some of the things the Legislative Committee gets involved in?

Voter registration, phone banks, lobbying elected representatives about specific issues that affect our membership, as well as our community. Also, leafleting, and door-to-door canvassing during elections. And most importantly, bringing to the membership enough facts about the candidates, so they can make a logical and informed choice when they go to vote on election day.

4. What are the main issues facing us as working people and union members, in the upcoming elections this fall?

The very survival of organized labor, as well as laws that have been on the books since the last century to protect working people. Our standard of living, the middle class as a whole, and in some cases our national security is at stake in this election. The Bush administration continues to eliminate, outlaw, and outsource everything we do as long as

there is a benefit for the rich. Some examples include the airport security workers' loss of rights to organize or belong to a union, the assault on the 40-hour workweek by limiting who is entitled to overtime pay, and the loss of **three million good paying manufacturing jobs** "offset" by 300,000 low paying jobs. Even the manufacturing of our troops' munitions has been outsourced to other countries such as South Vietnam.

4. Many people think politicians are all the same—that they vote for special interests groups, and that they're primarily concerned about fund-raising. Can we get Big Money out of politics, and get our leaders to support their constituents instead?

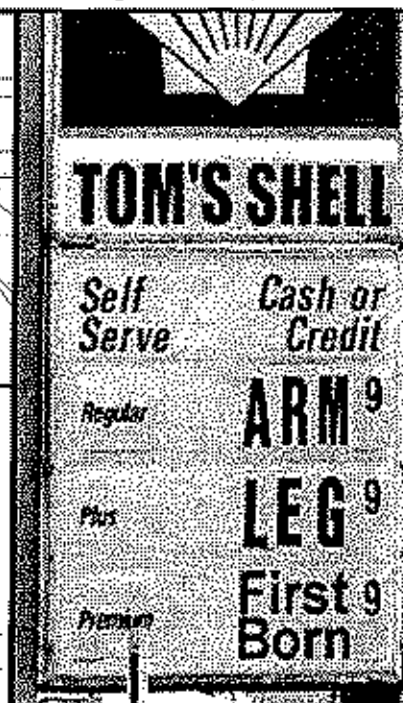
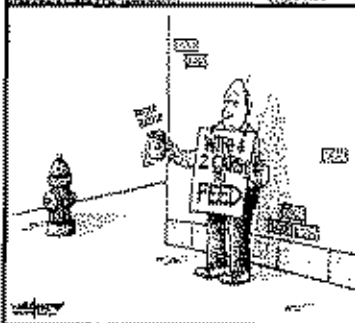
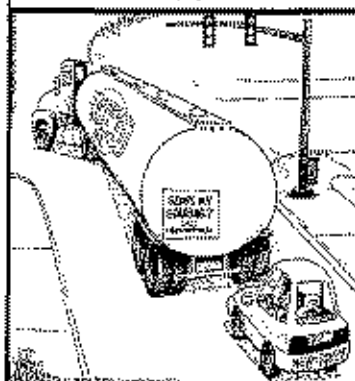
First, if you believe that all politicians are the same, get involved! Run for office in your town, attend town meetings, or write to your representative and ask where they stand on issues that are important to you and your family. Then hold them accountable for their actions by voting against them if they fail to deliver. Every vote counts!

Meaningful election campaign reform is one way to try to get big money out of politics. Advertising on radio and TV is very expensive and whoever gets his or her name on the airwaves the majority of the time has a better chance of getting elected, if only by name recognition. Naturally, big business, special interests and the politicians who feed off their trough don't want to see reform. But it's an issue that cannot and should not go away, if we want to improve the health of the political system here in America.

Next issue: Fighting fire with fire:

"MNPL"- The Machinists' Non-Partisan Political League

**Gas Prices are really no joke!
Boycott Gas from Middle East!
Buy from American Companies only!**





Next Monthly Meeting

Sunday, June 13th, 2004@11:00 AM



FINANCIAL HELP

This being a contract year, it is important to ensure that the union membership is in a positive financial situation should a strike situation arise in December.

Your Union EAP representatives have established a relationship with the *American Consumer Credit Counseling Agency (ACCC)*.

Their debt management program can help you to:

- Consolidate your credit card debts.
- Lower your monthly payments.
- Stop late or over limit fees.
- Lower or eliminate interest fees.
- Provide budget skills to get out of and stay out of debt for good.

As a non-profit organization, ACCC works with individuals to provide financial education and debt management services.

If you are experiencing any financial difficulties, now is the time to take corrective action! Working through your union EAP program, the \$39.00 enrollment fee is waived. The monthly maintenance cost is only \$3.00 a month per account.

Contact your local lodge, or District EAP Coordinator today for further information. All services are handled with confidentiality and sincerity.

Earl Schofield,
District 26
(860) 568-3000
Or Leonard Ward,
Local 1746,
(860) 708-4186



June 2004

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Note: The calendar includes large, stylized text for 'Contract' (June 10-12), 'Contract' (June 13-15), and 'Contract' (June 16-18).

Local Lodge 1746 Picnic

Local Lodge 1746 will hold its membership picnic on Sunday, August 15, 2004, at the Elk's Pavilion, located at 148 Roberts Street in East Hartford.



Save the date, and

plan to join us
AUGUST 15th!

OFFICERS OF IAM LOCAL LODGE 1746

President— Mike Stone; **Vice President** — Frank Lamagna;
Recording Secretary— Bill Coney; **Secretary Treasurer** — Nancy Flagg;
Sentinel— Dave Batchelder; **Trustees**— Warren Occhialini; Ron Ouellette; John Tronier
Shop Committee— Jeff Baglin; John Cloutier; Ted Durkin; Andy Santini
Shop Committee (UTCFC) — Carl Hervieux; Mark Perrone

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