

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

P.O. BOX 843, TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808-0843

FALL, 1994

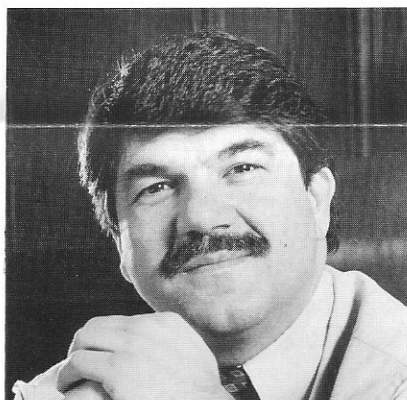
Trumka To Receive 1994 Debs Award

Appropriately referred to as a miner-lawyer, Richard L. Trumka rose through the ranks to become the 14th International president of the United Mine Workers of America in 1982, making him the youngest leader of a major union in North America. He has since been re-elected twice. Prior to becoming president, Trumka had served as a union staff attorney 1974-1977 and again from 1979 to 1980. In this position he participated in negotiating both a national contract and western surface mining agreements. In addition to handling arbitration and safety cases, Trumka litigated antitrust and unfair labor practice law suits. He also drafted important state mine safety laws and worked on the reorganization of the UMW Federal Credit Union.

At the age of 19, Trumka went to work as a general inside laborer in a Pennsylvania mine. During his more than seven years in the mines between 1968 and 1981, he worked the gamut of underground jobs, including shuttle car operator, roof bolter, motorman, track man, loading machine operator, continuous miner operator, cutting machine operator, pipeman and rock duster.

Mr. Trumka earned a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and economics from Pennsylvania State University in 1971, where he was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, scholastic honor society. He was graduated from Villanova University Law School in 1974 with a Juris Doctor degree, with labor law his area of concentration.

In 1984 and again in 1988, under Trumka's leadership, the UMW



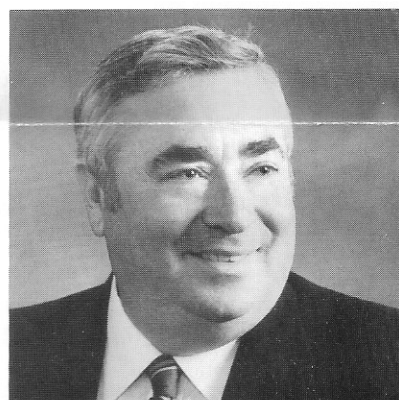
RICHARD L. TRUMKA

Award Recipient

membership ratified national contracts without a strike. These contracts were marked by significant gains for workers in areas of economic security, retirement plans and an innovative training and education fund to assist laid-off UMW members and their families.

When in 1989, the UMW affiliated with the AFL-CIO, Trumka was elected to the federation's Executive Council. He also serves on the executive bodies of the AFL-CIO's IUD and Maritime Trades Department. Trumka provided invaluable leadership to the UMW during the difficult Pittston Company dispute in 1989-1990. This 10-month strike galvanized the entire U.S. labor movement. Trumka currently serves with 10 others on the Coal Commission created in 1990 by then Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole to find long-term solutions to the coal industry's troubled health care funds. The recommendations of the Coal Commission will soon be considered in Congress.

continued on Page 4



ERNIE LaBAFF

Keynote Speaker

Banquet Day Highlights

The date of this year's banquet is one of those fortunate occasions when the event falls on Eugene Debs' birth date, November 5. The award recipient is the current head of the union representing one of the main groups of workers (miners) Debs worked with. The keynote or presentation speaker will be Ernie LaBaff, President of the International Union of Aluminum, Brick and Glass workers.

One special event of the day will be

continued on Page 4

BANQUET DAY
November 5th

Plaque Unveiling at
4:00 p.m.

Schedule & Ticket
Information
page 5

Labor Day March In Pullman City

George Pullman may figuratively have turned in his grave, but the Eugene V. Debs Foundation marchers were group number four in the Labor Day parade of the AFL-CIO Chicago Area Labor Council. In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Pullman Strike, the Labor Day festivities included, not the usual march down Michigan Avenue, but a meaningful march and ceremonies on the grounds of historic old Pullman City. The foundation had been invited to join with Chicago area labor in this event, including display tables near the grandstand for the distribution of literature on the foundation and for selling memorabilia. Curator Mike Bailey made the journey from Terre Haute and was joined in the march by Chicago area friends of the foundation, one of whom was former assistant curator Jim Mischler.

Mike reported that one of the "problems" experienced during the march was the number of persons jumping out to get a better camera angle on the foundation's banner. We call that good publicity, not a problem! Our thanks to Don Turner, Mel Loftus and Greg Leroy, organizers of the event, for having the forethought and historical awareness to invite us to participate in the Pullman City commemorative event. Our thanks also to Mike for making the trip from Terre Haute in order to help spread the word about the Debs Foundation.

More Debs Furniture Received

The last newsletter mentioned some of the original Debs furniture which recently has been donated to the foundation. The remaining pieces in that living room suite have now been received and currently are being refinished or restored as need be. We are deeply grateful for this evidence of generosity on the part of Debs decedents, Peter Sargent in particular, and applaud their commitment to historic preservation. You are aware that dealers in antiques will pay top dollars for Victorian age furniture. How much more beneficial to society it is that now this living room suite can be displayed in its original setting, lending authenticity to an important historical museum.

Dudley Foundation Award

At the beginning of this year the Debs Foundation was the recipient of a \$1,000 award from the Dudley Foundation, Bellingham, Washington. The Dudley Foundation was established with financial resources from the estate of the late Tilford Dudley. Mr. Dudley had been a charter member and moving force in the creation of the Eugene V. Debs Foundation. Active in the foundation's work for three decades, we feel certain that Tilford would have felt gratified to know that the Debs Foundation benefitted from the work of the foundation which his estate made possible.

DEBS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 1994

Published by

The Eugene V. Debs Foundation

Box 843

Terre Haute, IN 47808

Foundation Officers:

Jack Sheinkman, *President*

Noel Beasley, *Executive Vice President*

Charles King, *Secretary*

Woodrow Creason, *Treasurer*

The *Debs Foundation Newsletter* is published twice yearly for distribution to members and friends of the Foundation. The Eugene V. Debs Foundation is a non-profit, private organization which maintains the home of Eugene and Kate Debs as a museum and shrine to labor, and carries on educational and informational programs which aim to honor and promote the goals for which Debs struggled: industrial unionism, social justice, and peace. For those wishing to become members, an application form is provided elsewhere in this issue.

Chris Perry's Death A Loss for the Foundation

Dr. R. Christopher Perry, professor of Political Science at Indiana State University since 1986, died suddenly of a rare illness in April. Chris will be missed for the numerous ways he assisted in the work of the foundation. On several occasions, at banquet time, he provided transportation for banquet guests between Terre Haute and the Indianapolis airport. An articulate and informed young man, Chris provided more than shuttle service, he was gracious host and foundation representative for such guests as Ralph Nadar, Victor Navasky and Ed Asner. Intellectually alert and widely read, he often dropped by the secretary's office with a clipping or an article of goings-on in progressive circles. Chris Perry had a lot to offer the Debs Foundation, and his untimely death is a great loss.

Literary Prize Winner Announced

The 1994 winner of the Bryant Spann Memorial Prize is Gunther Peck's "Padrones and Protest: "Old" Radicals and "New" Immigrants in Bingham, Utah, 1905-1912." The article, originally published in the *Western Historical Quarterly*, concluded that the ethnicity and race of western radicals shaped both the growth and decline of western labor radicalism.

Bingham was the location of a large mining community in turn of the century Utah. The prize selection committee agreed that the scholarly article brings a new perspective to the Debs' era of labor protest.

UTU FOUNDER TO BE ENSHRINED



CHARLES LUNA
1906-1992

President, United Transportation Union 1969-1972
President, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen 1963-1969

Contributing six decades to the rail labor movement, he began working as a yard switchman in 1928 on the AT&SF Railroad, and within a year was elected Local Chairman. He was elected Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (BRT) Vice President in 1954, and President of BRT in 1963 and of the newly formed United Transportation Union (UTU) in 1969. He became a labor spokesman respected both by workers and management.

Elected a Vice President and member of the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO in 1969, he served on Amtrak's Board of Directors under Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan and Bush.

As architect of the merger that created the UTU by uniting the BRT, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (BLF&E), Order of Railway Conductors and Brakemen (ORC&B), and Switchmen's Union of North America (SUNA), Luna created in modern times an industrial union in the mold of Debs' ARU.

Presented by
United Transportation Union
1994

Banquet day usually offers an interesting afternoon event and this year is no exception. At 4:00 p.m., a plaque will be unveiled in special ceremony honoring Charles Luna, architect of the merger that created the United Transportation Union. Luna's work career began as a switchman. He joined the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen in 1928. For six decades he was involved in the rail labor movement, becoming widely respected and admired as a spokesman for labor. In 1969, when a number of craft unions in railroading were united as the UTU, Luna was elected the organization's first president.

The modern UTU is in the lineage of Eugene Debs' American Railway Union. In this centennial year of the Pullman Strike, it is good to be reminded that the existence of the UTU is living testimony that Debs' dream of industrial unionism was not buried with the demise of the ARU.

Also appropriate would be the reminder that the Memorial Gardens at the Debs Home have space for any number of important historical figures of the labor movement deserving of this special recognition. The purpose of the memorial is as much educational as honorific. Each plaque tells a bit of the story of a hero in the labor movement and the union he or she helped found. Visitors learn not only about Eugene Debs, but also about other labor movement pioneers. The plaque honoring Charles Luna brings to thirteen the number of pioneers, mainly founders of particular labor organizations, who are enshrined in the foundation's Memorial Gardens. If your union founder is not included and you think he or she ought to be, you may wish to contact the foundation secretary for information on procedures. The initiative has to come from the union, but sometimes we are able to help the process along.

PIONEERS OF LABOR ENSHRINED PRIOR TO 1994

JOSEPH A. BEINE

Communications Workers of America

SAMUEL GOMPERS

AFL-CIO

PATRICK GORMAN

United Food & Commercial Workers

International Union

SIDNEY HILLMAN

Amalgamated Clothing and

Textile Workers Union

MOTHER JONES

United Mine Workers of America

PETER J. McGUIRE

*United Brotherhood of
Carpenters and Joiners of America*

PHILIP MURRAY

United Steel Workers of America

MICHAEL J. QUILL

Transport Workers Union of America

PATRICK J. QUINLAN

*United Association of
Plumbers and Pipe Fitters*

WALTER PHILIP REUTHER

United Auto Workers

WILLIAM H. SYLVIS

International Molders & Allied Workers Union

JERRY WURF

*American Federation of State, County, and
Municipal Employees*

Please use this form for new memberships, or for paying 1994 dues. Dues notices for 1995 will be mailed after the fall business meeting.

Membership Dues: The Eugene V. Debs Foundation

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

_____ \$ 5.00 Student Member _____ \$100.00 Sustaining Member
_____ \$10.00 Regular Member _____ \$250.00 Life Members
_____ \$25.00 Supporting Member _____ Other

Enclose remittance. Make checks payable to the Debs Foundation.

The Debs Foundation

P.O. Box 843

Terre Haute, IN 47808-0843

Your dues and contributions are tax deductible. The Foundation owns and maintains the Debs Home and offers several educational and cultural programs. We are a voluntary organization with no paid staff.

The Cairo Conference

President Clinton Got This One Right

Between 1990 and the year 2025 world population is expected to grow by 3.2 billion, to a total population of 8.5 billion. Highly varying growth rates regionally will produce this unprecedented addition to the human population. Ninety-five percent of the growth will occur in the less developed nations, the very countries where increasingly Western owned corporations are seeking out and exploiting cheap labor. The American worker increasingly concerned with the sense of unfair competition with workers in countries with excessively high unemployment and hence low wage scales, and little or no concern for occupational safety and environmental pollution, should be concerned that, based on these different rates of population growth, you haven't seen anything yet!

These projections are likely outcomes but not unavoidable. Indeed some less developed countries are slowing their rates of population growth a bit. They need help, encouragement, technical assistance and money, and this is part of what the Cairo Conference was all about. The role the Clinton Administration defined for the United States in the Cairo conference was, fortunately, a reversal of the policies of our government the past 12 years. The Clinton government is committed to renew contributions to the U.N. Fund for Population Activities, and to support full reproductive choice including legal access to safe abortion. In preparation for this important international conference it is clear that for the U.S. government population growth no longer is seen as a "neutral phenomenon," but as a major contributor to overcrowding, unemployment, poverty, and resource depletion, not to forget its negative impact on the status of women.

The Cairo conference on population and development inevitably excited lively discussion and debate. Protest demonstrations were organized recently in the Philippines over the U.S. (Clinton's) delegation's plan to strongly advocate more family planning and birth control. Population and development issues breed divisiveness between rich and poor countries. Concerning the threat to the world's finite base of natural resources, for instance, the Northern (industrialized) nations want to blame the

burgeoning populations of the Southern (developing) nations, while the South tends to blame the unbridled consumption in the North. West Europeans and North Americans complain of being overwhelmed by a huge influx of immigrants from nations of the South, while those in the South insist that their people are merely fleeing the chaos imposed by an exploitative economic world order.

Despite these differences they all came to Cairo to hopefully formulate an international plan of action, and this conference presented many fresh opportunities for agreement and for decisive action. And chances for meaningful outcomes were enhanced because the U.S. government is reinstating its leadership role in these fundamental population issues which will impact your lives and those of your children. Hopefully the U.S. press has freed itself sufficiently from its preoccupation with the O.J. Simpson trial, Whitewater, and the latest stock market reports to inform the American public of what has gone on in Cairo.



HIGHLIGHTS continued from page 4

the 4:00 p.m. unveiling ceremony of a plaque honoring Charles Luna (see page 3 for details).

Ernie LaBaff will make the after dinner keynote address and present the award to Trumka. LaBaff is well known and respected in the international labor arena as an aggressive champion of worker rights. He is in especially great demand as a member of the AFL-CIO Speakers Bureau, known as a dynamic and spirited orator. His union is credited by the AFL-CIO for spearheading efforts to prevent the permanent replacement of workers who exercise their legal right to strike, and he recently has worked tirelessly to rally support in Congress for legislation to provide for meaningful reform of the nation's labor laws.

With prospects for good food and fine company, music again by Louie Popejoy, and such dynamic speakers as Trumka and LaBaff, how could you think of missing this one!

Trumka continued from page 1

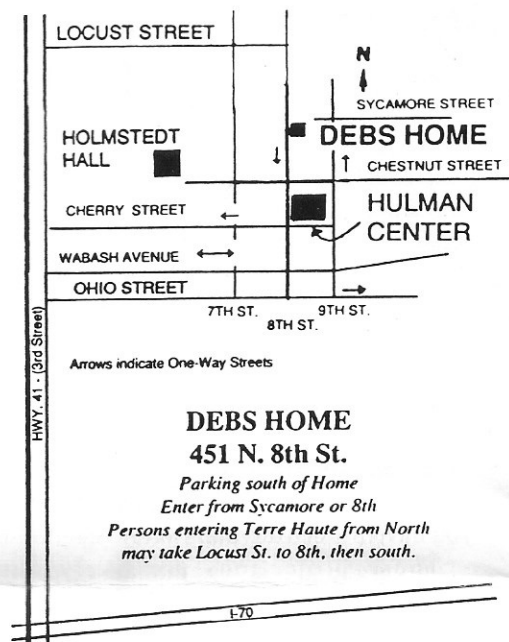
In 1990, Trumka was awarded the Labor Social Responsibility award by the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc.

Eugene Debs worked as a railroader and became a highly successful union leader, but to the causes of no group of workers did Debs devote more time and energy than to miners, whether in the eastern coal fields – sometimes alongside the legendary Mother Jones – inspiring and encouraging mine workers in their organizing efforts and their disputes with management, or traveling many a mile to appear at rallies of western miners. Trumka is not the first

UMWA leader to be honored by the foundation. That distinction went to John L. Lewis, Eugene V. Debs Award recipient in 1965, the first year the award was given. And Mother Jones is enshrined in the memorial gardens behind the Debs Home. This year's banquet honoring Richard Trumka will in a way be a re-affirmation of the connections between the life-work of Eugene Debs and the workers in one of this nation's basic industries.

| | |
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| ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET TERRE HAUTE November 5 1994 Honoring Richard Trumka | |
| SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Afternoon 4:00 p.m.: Debs Home: Unveiling Ceremony for plaque honoring UTU founder, Charles Luna Evening 6:00 p.m.: Social Hour and Reception (cash bar), Hulman Center (park west of Hulman Center and enter west doors) 7:00 p.m.: Banquet Honoring Richard Trumka | |
| On Saturday the Debs Home will be open from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. | |
| The fall business meeting will be Sunday, November 6, at 9:00 a.m. at the Debs Home | |

Hulman Center Parking is free.



NOTE

We offer a choice of entrees. Please indicate your choice of prime rib or fish when you order tickets. If you **prefer fish, indicate this also at the door the evening of the banquet**

Dinner Ticket Order

(\$25 per ticket)

Name _____

_____ X \$25 = \$ _____
 number of tickets amount enclosed

Prime Rib Dinner(s) _____

Fish Dinner(s) _____

Tickets must be paid in advance.
 Please check one of the following options.

☐ Hold tickets at the door, in the name of _____

☐ Mail my tickets to the following address:

Make checks payable to the Debs Foundation.
 Mail to the Debs Foundation, Box 843, Terre Haute, IN 47808.
 Inquiries may be directed to Charles King, 812-237-3443.

Socially Relevant Citings

America's Social Contract

It's getting harder to believe that we're all in this thing together when top executives keep paying themselves more and more, export millions of our jobs to pitifully low-wage countries, and convert most jobs remaining here to part-time, low-pay, no benefit temporary status....

—Jim Hightower,
Indiana AFL-CIO News

The Last Commodity: Child Prostitution in the Developing World

Once considered a universal crime, the trade in children's bodies is increasingly regarded simply as a business — with plenty of support from tour agencies, affluent travelers, and even governments... Child prostitution is not new. But sex has become a multibillion-dollar industry, and today children are being bought, sold and traded like any other mass-produced good. In the ever-expanding free market, child prostitutes are among the hottest commodities.

—World Watch

"Improving girls' access to education is probably the single most effective anti-poverty policy in the world today."

—Finance & Development

"Women seduced by cynical advertisements using feminism and slimness as lures, have smoked themselves into a rising lung cancer death rate surpassing that for breast cancer."

—Dr. William G. Cahan
in a letter to the editor
published in *The New York Times*

Building For the Future

In Western Europe, buildings consume about 33 percent, and in the United States, with its climate-controlled, high-tech office space, buildings eat up 36 percent of the U.S. energy budget— which is the largest in the world. Cutting building energy use by 75 percent in the United States would reduce annual energy bills by more than \$130 billion, and eliminate the release of millions of tons of pollutants into the atmosphere.

Such a dramatic reduction is technically achievable, as demonstrated by builders and engineers around the world.

—World Watch

According to the Tyndall Report, the nightly news broadcasts of ABC, CBS, and NBC have devoted 220 minutes to covering Whitewater since January 1 — roughly *three times* the coverage they've given to the health-care wars. The personal has not only become the political, it has all but supplanted it. No wonder a recent poll

showed that Americans rank seventh out of eight Western nations in their knowledge of current affairs.

—Democratic Left,
May-June Issue, 1994

More than half the water used for all purposes in this country goes to livestock production. It takes 2,500 gallons of water to produce a pound of meat. If water costs were not tax-subsidized, hamburgers would cost \$35 a pound.

Production of the current American meat-centered diet uses 33% of consumed raw materials. A fully vegetarian diet would demand less than 5%

—North American
Vegetarian Society

"I saw children playing in green slime from chemical plants. I thought I had seen everything, but I have never seen anything like this."

—Shirley Reinhardt, a former worker in a GE plant that relocated to Mexico, describing in *Southern Exposure* magazine the conditions she observed in maquiladoras, the assembly plants along the border from Brownsville, Texas to Tijuana, Mexico

EUGENE V. DEBS FOUNDATION

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