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Let's Get Moving! Organizing for the '90's

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The MCLR Reporter

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The MCLR Reporter

Abstract

Contains "Salute to Jack Metzgar," "Conference Puts Forth New Vision," "MCLR Research Dept. News".

Keywords

Jack Metzgar, New Visions of Community Economic Development, MCLR

The MCLR Reporter

SALUTE TO JACK METZGAR

LRR's retiring editor Jack Metzgar was pronounced "well-done" by the end of his June 8th roast, an incredibly hilarious evening which assembled *LRR* history from all nine years of Jack's tenure. Tart words were delivered by *LRR* friends Ron Carver, Ray Pasnick, Mike Stout, David Bensman, Randy Barber, Kim Fellner, John Russo, Christine Boardman, Dan Swinney, Susan Kellock,



Robera Lynch, Mark Crouch, Mike Matuszak, Teresa Conrow, Mark Erlich, Don Mahoney, Joe Uehlein, Lynn Feekin, Andy Banks, Sandy Sutton, and Pat Broughton, with miscellaneous barbs from emcee Greg LeRoy. Amidst the heaping abuse, there was much praise for Jack's editorial and diplomatic skills and his vision of how this publication can play a role in strengthening the labor movement. Jack will still be involved as an active member of both the *LRR* and MCLR boards. Thanks to everyone who attended and/or supported the adbook; the event made a small but vital contribution to *LRR's* revenue.

CONFERENCE PUTS FORTH NEW VISION

Does one measure the success of a conference by the number of people who attend, the diverse regions and organizations they represent or by the amount of follow-up discussion and projects? By all counts the "New Visions of Community Economic Development" conference held May 16-17 was a resounding success.

A paper co-written by Dan Swinney of MCLR, Miquel Vasquez of the Center for Community Change (Washington, D.C.), and Howard Engelskirchen of Western State University (Fullerton, California) served as the theoretical centerpiece of the conference. The writers advocated a community-controlled, manufacturing-centered strategy for eradicating poverty. Community-labor coalitions would form the basis for economic decision-making.

Two hundred people from most every region in the United States participated in the conference. They represented grassroots organizations, the business and finance sector, religious communities, academia, local government, policy circles, labor unions, and foundations. Nearly 20 organizations co-sponsored the conference along with MCLR, and four foundations provided financial support.

Several projects have been initiated as a result of the conference. Working groups are: exploring ways to apply New Vision models in several cities; creating a video that links Mondragon to the U.S., planning a second national conference, discussing how to make the international corrections and integrate a gender analysis.

Proceedings from the New Visions Conference will be available in late 1991. The original paper is now translated into Spanish and may be obtained, along with the English version, from MCLR.

MCLR RESEARCH DEPT. NEWS

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers are challenging American Home Products shutdown of its Elkhart, Indiana Anacin-producing plant in order to take advantages of tax loopholes in Puerto Rico. This summer, a federal district judge in San Juan ruled that the union's \$100 million RICO lawsuit against AHP has merits and launched pre-trial proceedings. In addition, U.S. Representative Pete Starks (D-California) introduced legislation to amend I.R.S. Code 936 and ban the tax loophole for runaways to U.S. possessions. MCLR continues with research and publicity support.

Proctor-Silex workers whom MCLR has been assisting appeared in a five-minute segment on the CBS Evening News in July. The story detailed the workers' protest against NACCO Industries relocation to Juarez, Mexico. In its wake the Cleveland-based owner of Proctor-Silex has left the workers with no severance pay, extended medical benefits, or job retraining programs. They did leave the town of Southern Pines, North Carolina with a toxic waste dump, however. On the "positive" side, workers have received a federal dislocated-worker grant, the shutdown has been delayed for at least four months, and Cleveland labor showed their support for the North Carolina workers by picketing NACCO's annual meeting in May. Articles have appeared in *Business Week* and *The Nation*. It appears that the plight of the Proctor-Silex workers is the classic Free Trade Agreement horror story.

—Greg LeRoy
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