

The following actions, compiled by the Inspector General's Office as of August 1998, are testament to the ongoing success of LIUNA's innovative reform process:

Removed 189 individuals for criminal or ethical violations, or ties to criminal elements, through convictions, terminations or suspensions.

Filed charges and complaints against 132 individuals for alleged wrongdoing. Some focus on individual members or officers. Others are aimed at broader patterns of misconduct committed by LIUNA District Councils or Local Unions.

Prompted the resignations of 47 individuals who were targets of investigations.

Suspended eight individuals pending resolution of criminal charges.

Referred 25 criminal matters to federal or local law enforcement authorities.

In addition to these activities, we should note that the Laborers' have succeeded in using trusteeships and suspensions to rid our most problem district councils and local unions of all vestiges of corruption.

For example, the Mason Tenders District Council of Greater New York this year concluded its first officers' election since a trusteeship was imposed in 1994. The trusteeship has recovered \$12 million of the \$15 million in assets lost by the membership because of malfeasance.

The Mason Tenders Investigations Officer, Michael Chertoff, who also served as Majority Counsel to the Senate Whitewater Committee, has expressed his confidence in our aggressive efforts to prevent organized crime from ever regaining influence there.

Our Independent Officers have also imposed trusteeships over Local 210 in Buffalo and the Chicago District Council, which had historically been controlled by organized crime. Law enforcement authorities pursued both locals for many years with minimal success, but our internal reform process got results expeditiously and fairly.

In all, 19 trusteeships have been imposed, 17 in the U.S. and two in Canada, where all officers were removed and 10 supervisions have been established where the majority of officers were removed.

#### LIUNA'S ANTI-CORRUPTION TEAM

Our Inspector General, W. Douglas Gow, is the former Associate Deputy Director for Investigations at the FBI. He is charged with investigating and resolving disciplinary matters arising under LIUNA's Constitution or Ethical Practices Code, and supervising the union's compliance program that is designed to prevent and detect wrongdoing. He has assembled a first-class team of high-ranking, former FBI agents and law enforcement officers. This team is charged with pursuing every credible lead of possible wrongdoing.

We have taken extra steps to make it easier for union members to raise their complaints, questions or concerns through a toll-free 800 telephone number that goes directly into the Inspector General's Office. All calls are treated in the strictest of confidence.

Our General Executive Board Attorney, Robert Luskin, is the former Special Counsel for the Justice Department's Organized Crime and Racketeering Section. He serves, in effect, as the union's chief disciplinary official.

All internal hearings are held before the Independent Hearing Officer, Peter F. Vaira, a former director of the President's Commission on Organized Crime and a former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. W. Neil Eggleston, a former Chief Appellate Attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, serves as the Independent Appeals Officer.

#### A FINAL NOTE

As we stated earlier, our reform process is not perfect, but it has made more progress in

the last 41 months in ferreting out corruption and identifying wrongdoings than any other union. We are proud of what we have accomplished, and we will continue to work hard to make our union the strongest, cleanest and most democratic for our members.

□ 2010

#### GREEDY PLAYERS, GREEDY OWNERS, AND PUTTING AMERICA FIRST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, we are all reading the reports about economic troubles all over the world. We are also being told that these problems are already starting to affect the economy here in this country. Yet at the same time a small group of people who are averaging over \$2½ million a year are getting ready to go on strike. I am talking of course about the NBA.

Today professional sports has become filled with greedy players and greedy owners, and nowhere is this more obvious than in pro basketball. Last year one of my sons told me that one little-known player had signed a 6-year, \$123 million contract, 20½ million dollars a year. I told my son that the sports world has simply gone berserk.

I hope the NBA players and owners cannot work out their differences. I hope the whole season is lost. If they do play, I wish people would just refuse to watch and instead go to college or high school games.

I remember a couple of years ago hearing about a major league baseball player signing for 3 years for \$6 million a year. The average person in this country today makes less than \$25,000 a year. If a person worked for 40 years at 25,000 a year, he would make \$1 million for his whole career. If he was way above average, making 50,000 a year, he would make \$2 million over a 40 year career. A person would have to average \$150,000 a year for 40 years to make \$6 million.

These pro sports salaries are simply out of whack. I do not support giving government more money because so much of it is wasted, and turning money over to government is the least efficient way to spend money and the least efficient way to create jobs that you could find. But with these ridiculous salaries as high as they are now and especially if they continue to escalate, then we should lower the taxes on middle-income people and make it up by raising the taxes on these athletes and movie stars who are making millions of dollars a year.

Mr. Speaker, if we are about to hit some hard economic times, then we need to try even harder to see that we use our money and spend our money in the wisest ways possible. We need to give people more incentives to save and more incentives to invest especially in companies that create manufacturing and industrial jobs, good paying jobs.

We need to stop giving tax breaks and spending huge sums of public money for pro sports companies so they can raise the salaries of athletes who are already being paid obscene amounts already.

While I am discussing inefficient, unfair ways of spending public money, I should mention that unfortunately we are about to give many billions more to the International Monetary Fund in this end-of-the-year omnibus appropriations bill. We will be doing this against the advice of people like George Schultz, the former Treasury Secretary; Jack Kemp, a former leader in this body; James K. Glassman, the Washington Post financial columnist and many others. Mr. Glassman wrote this past Tuesday that:

The IMF bears responsibility for Asia's troubles. With the U.S. Treasury in 1995, it delivered unprecedented sums to bail out banks and investors who made reckless loans to Mexico. That rescue then encouraged investors to make riskier extensions of credit to Asia, Russia and Latin America. That led to over capacity and to the current crisis.

In other words, we are taking billions from lower and middle income Americans to send to foreign countries to bail out rich investors, banks and multinational companies for bad investments overseas and in some cases to help keep factories going in other nations which are taking jobs from American workers. Our Founding Fathers never would have believed this. We are told we have to do this because if we do not, other countries will not be able to buy as many American products, and some American workers will lose their jobs. What we would really be doing though is sending billions of American tax dollars to other countries so that we can get a portion of it back.

Already our balance of payments deficit, our trade deficit is at record levels. We will lose about 3 million jobs to other countries because of a trade imbalance this year alone. If we kept all of these billions here instead of giving it to the IMF, some multi-national companies and international bankers and investors might be hurt. But this money would not disappear if we simply kept it here. More of it would then go to the benefit of American workers and small American businesses that do not do much or any business overseas.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said on this floor before, we need to start putting our own workers and our own businesses first once again. We need to start putting America first once again, even if it is not politically correct or fashionable with liberal elitists to do so.

#### SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO THE CUBAN DEMOCRACY ACT OF 1992—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) laid before the House the following message from the President of