



The ~~FTWP NEWS~~ welcomes letters from members on any issue raised in the magazine or on any other aspect of the FTWP. However, the Executive Board reserves the right to review all letters and to reject those it considers detrimental to the Union. Letters must be signed, although a member can request that his name be withheld.

Address letters to FTWP NEWS, 1410 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

William Wallace:

I want to thank you for continuing to send me FTWP News during my retirement from AFL-CIO staff.

I was indeed impressed with your recent column, "Enough Already, Mr. Reagan!" You pointed out specific concerns of your members and other workers—health insurance, social security, minimum wage—which Reagan's policies reflect his anti-labor philosophy.

Unfortunately, many union members voted for Reagan in 1980. Despite the 12 million workers who are unemployed, there is the beginning of acceptance of economic recovery in our nation, based on minor improvements.

We cannot permit a psychology that if we reach nine percent or eight percent or even six percent unemployment, that we have prosperity and "full employment." We must continue to inform union members, as you have done in your column, of the basic issues and of the implications of Reaganomics. Union members should not repeat their mistakes of 1980 in the 1984 presidential election.

Best wishes for continued success in your new office.

Fraternally,
Ben Stahl

Dear Mr. Wallace:

Thank you for contacting my office on the natural gas deregulation issue. After carefully weighing the issue and laboriously reviewing the multitude of

ills that have been introduced, I decided to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 2154. This bill was introduced by Richard Gephardt of Missouri.

I believe H.R. 2154 is a comprehensive effort to address the issue of high natural gas prices. It will provide necessary protection from unreasonably high prices while ensuring that we will have adequate supplies of natural gas. It will also guarantee that natural gas prices are sensitive to market conditions, thus putting in place mechanisms to allow a traditional free market to exist.

Briefly, the bill calls for a roll back of allowable ceiling prices to January 1, 1982 levels. This provision is of utmost importance to the unemployed and senior citizens who must contend with high gas costs. The bill would also improve pipeline purchasing practices by ensuring that rate designs will be sensitive to end-use market conditions. Lastly, the bill would extend controls for an additional two years so that we can create a traditional free market that functions properly.

Over 100 of my colleagues have joined me in co-sponsoring H.R. 2154. Although this issue is extremely complex, we must address it before next winter. I want to support a bill that is fair to everyone, and I believe the basic concepts outlined in this bill go a long way toward meeting the goal.

Once again, thank you for contacting me. I take your views seriously and appreciate hearing from you. If ever I may be of service, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely yours,
Joe Kolter
Representative
4th District, Pa.

Dear Marcy,

I received the two sample copies of the June NEWS today. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would see my caricature of the front page. Bless you for that and for the very fine reworking of the facts I sent to you several months ago. You are a real credit to your profession. If only I could write half as well.

In addition to my thanks, I also enclose the thanks of my family who enjoyed the cover and the article. The wife and kids have been watching me draw them since 1967 and that's a good part of their young lives.

The "Editor's note" was particularly heartwarming in that it appears I served some useful purpose all those years even though I was never a union officer. That made me feel great also. Needless to say I immediately received an urge to start submitting cartoons again, but then I thought better of it. I

know there are a multitude of good (really good) cartoonists in our union because I've known some of them. I hope one or more step forward.

Lastly, the back page illustrates the beautiful work area I never had. Perhaps I'll try for one now that I am retired although, strangely enough, I yearn to own a ten-inch Sears radial saw so that I can start making all those cabinets and bird houses I've never gotten around to. I just love carpentry work.

Well, back to the job at hand. We are in the midst of tearing out and replacing a railroad tie wall about 50 feet long and six feet high. I think every bone and muscle is hurting at the moment but it feels real, real good. As usual it rained today and has set us back another day but I can well use the time to send this "thank you" letter to yourself (you're wonderful) and to Bill (he's very kind).

Good luck to the FTWP in their negotiations and I hope the associate editor gets a raise also.

Take care now and God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Joe Lynch

COVER:

Your 1983 Bargaining Team

Standing:

CHARLES H. STACKHOUSE
Eastern
MARTIN S. GRIGLAK
Western
EDWIN J. MAHER
Philadelphia
D. INEZ MORABITO
Accounting

Sitting:

ROBERT J. POWELL
Central
FRANK S. WENTZEL
Pittsburgh
VINCENT J. MAISANO
Chief Negotiator
WILLIAM E. WALLACE
President