

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
March 23, 1978

TO LOCAL AND BRANCH ORGANIZERS AND TRADE UNION DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed are additional materials put out by the "All Unions' Committee to Shorten the Work Week." (See March 10 mailing for background.) These may be useful in winning further local union support and participation in the April 11 conference.

Comradely,

*Joel Britton* (JB)

Joel Britton  
SWP National Office

## **To Presidents, Recording Secretaries, Financial Secretaries, Plant Chairmen, and Executive Boards of all Local Unions**

### **GREETINGS:**

On October 25, 1977, Local Union Leaders representing a quarter million members founded the All Unions' Committee to Shorten the Work Week and decided to call the First National All Unions' Conference to Shorten the Work Week.

We cannot over-stress the importance of your Local Union being represented at this Conference because a shorter work week with no cut in pay is not an idle dream. New technology has changed it into an idea whose time has come, as across the country, in shop after shop and in union after union, a mighty demand for shorter hours is developing. Because a new rash of plant and business closings, coupled with cutbacks in public employment, have added to the alarming loss of jobs and declines in membership that affect local union after local union in industry after industry. No worker's job is safe, as even the strongest unions have been unable to fully protect their members from the massive slaughter of jobs.

Despite thirty years of collective bargaining and legislative effort, nearly 10 million workers are unemployed or underemployed while our nation suffers from inadequate housing, poor schools and deteriorating health. Long-term unemployment, falling most heavily on those whose living standards are already the lowest, places an intolerable burden on our nation's economy and an unnecessary load on working taxpayers. It is destroying the moral fabric of our nation, the mental and physical health of millions and eroding the base of both private and public retirement programs.

These jobs cannot be found elsewhere, as the continued introduction of new machinery and new processes perpetuates the stagnation that has marked the job market for a quarter of a century.

Thus the labor movement faces a new challenge: To create and preserve jobs for all who need and want them.

Historically, organized labor has fought for shorter hours as the best means of creating jobs and reducing unemployment. Our labor movement was born in the battle for shorter hours. It grew to maturity in the campaigns that reduced the work week by thirty-five percent in the first forty years of the twentieth century. But for all intent and purpose, the movement for shorter hours has lain dormant. There has been no significant decrease in the hours of labor for forty years and, worse yet, the companies have increased the eight hour day, forty hour standard through a concerted campaign of compulsory overtime.

Many International Unions — AFL-CIO and independent — have taken convention action in support of a reduction in hours. All of this activity must be continued. It must be multiplied and re-enforced at every opportunity.

But something more is necessary if the desire and demand of millions of workers is to be transformed into legislative and collective bargaining campaigns to reduce the hours of labor. New ways must be found and new movements must be built to fire the imagination and unleash the strength of the entire labor movement.

The Founders of the All Unions' Committee to Shorten the Work Week has accepted that challenge. We have begun to build a national movement to carry on the educational, economic, legislative and electoral activities necessary to reduce the hours of labor. We have committed ourselves and the resources of our local unions to building that movement.

We call upon every local union — upon leaders of labor and union members without regard to craft, industry or affiliation, to pick up the torch. We call upon all of organized labor to join us on April 11, 1978 at the First National All Unions' Conference to Shorten the Work Week. We invite your local union to join this campaign.

Fraternally,  
**FRANK RUNNELS, President**  
For the Officers, Steering Committee and Founders  
of the All Unions' Committee to Shorten the Work Week

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# A CALL TO THE FIRST NATIONAL ALL UNIONS' CONFERENCE TO SHORTEN THE WORK WEEK

APRIL 11, 1978 - 10:00 A.M.

HYATT-REGENCY HOTEL-DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

Initiated by the All Unions' Committee to Shorten the Work Week.

FOUNDED, Detroit, Michigan, October 25, 1977 by those listed below:

William Andrews, President  
Local 1010, USWA  
E. Chicago, Indiana

Lou Antal, President  
District 5, UMW  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

James Balanoff, Director  
District 31, USWA; AFL-CIO  
E. Chicago, Indiana

Charles W. Barton, Pres.  
Local P-509, AMC & BW of N.A.  
AFL-CIO  
Chicago, Illinois

C. Bradford Belchers, Pres.  
Local 1201  
U.E.R. & MWA (UE)  
Tampa, Florida

Dave Benjamin, President  
Local 659, UAW  
Flint, Michigan

Harvey Billmaier, Director  
AFSCME, Dist. Council 97  
Jacksonville, Fla.

John Brennan, President  
Local 1361, Retail Clerks Union  
AFL-CIO  
Allentown, Pa.

Enio Carrion, President  
Bedding Local 140, UFWA  
New York, NY

Del Castle, Secretary-Treas.  
Local 19, ILWU  
Seattle, Washington

John Chico, President  
Local 65, USWA  
Chicago, Ill.

Alice Coleman, Rec. Secretary  
Local 1258, U.P.W.  
Flockingham, N.C.

Donald J. Cooksey, Pres.  
Local 503, UAW  
Sandusky, Ohio

Edwin Cooney, President  
Local 506, U.E.R. & MWA (UE)  
Frie, Pennsylvania

Jim Cox, President  
Local 154, Meatcutters  
Willow Grove, Pa.

Bob Cross, President  
Local 652, UAW  
Lansing, Michigan

Bobby Demby, Vice-President  
Local 1014, USWA  
Gary, Indiana

Paul Domeny, Gen. Secretary  
Local 1064, United Catering  
Restaurant Bar & Hotel  
Dearborn, Michigan

Keith Eickman, President  
Local 6, ILWU  
San Francisco, Calif.

Larry Espenosa, President  
Local 719 UAW  
Countryside, Ill.

Woodrow Ferguson, President  
Local 174, UAW  
Detroit, Michigan

Robert Flanigan, President  
Local 736, UAW  
Clark, N.J.

Henry Foner, President  
Joint Board Fur, Leather  
& Machine Workers Union  
AFL-CIO  
New York, N.Y.

Phil Frailey, President  
Indiana Porter County AFL-CIO  
Central Labor Council  
Valparaiso, Indiana

Reuben Gadsden, President  
Local 1202, U.E.R. & MWA (UE)  
Charleston, S. Carolina

Denis J. Glavin  
Business Representative  
Local 107, U.E.R. & MWA (UE)  
Essington, Pa.

Leonard Green, President  
Local 78, UAW  
Detroit, Michigan

John Havens, President  
Local 1005, UAW  
Parma, Ohio

Charles Hayes, Director  
District 12, AMC & BW of N.A.  
AFL-CIO  
Chicago, Illinois

Harry Ibsen, President  
Local 9415, Comm. Workers  
of America, AFL-CIO  
San Francisco, Calif.

Anthony Jannette, Pres.  
Local 51, UAW  
Detroit, Michigan

Paul Kaczochá, President  
Local 6787, USWA  
Chesterton, Indiana

Frank Keane, President  
Local 169, Food Council of  
Philadelphia and Vicinity  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dan Kelley, President  
AFSCME Council #61  
Des Moines, Iowa

Erwin T. Kirkwood, President  
Local 651, UAW  
Flint, Michigan

Ralph LaFlora, President  
Local 26, AMC & BW of N.A.  
Detroit, Michigan

William Lawrence, President  
Local 1744, UAW  
Detroit, Michigan

Normal Loudenslager, Bus. Manager  
Machinists District Council  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Ray Ludwig, President  
Local 1639, UAW  
Tiffin, Ohio

William Madetros, Secretary-Treas.  
Local 1687, Pennsylvania State  
Council of Retail Clerks  
Wyoming, Pa.

Matt McLelland, President  
Local 412, UAW  
Detroit, Michigan

William L. Milano, Sr.  
Financial Secretary  
Local 1440, USWA  
Pittsburgh, California

Henry Nicholas, President  
District 1199c, Hospital Workers  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Ken Nickles, President  
Local 138, UAW  
Peutou, Missouri

Henry Oginsky, Fin. Sec'y.  
Local 599, UAW  
Flint, Michigan

Myron Paris, President  
Local 93, UAW  
Kansas City, Mo.

Mel Perez, President  
Local 595, UAW  
Linden, New Jersey

Norman Purdue, President  
Local 1011, USWA  
E. Chicago, Ind.

Mike Rinaldi, President  
Local 600, UAW  
Dearborn, Michigan

John Ring, President  
Local 250, Hospital &  
Institutional Workers Union  
SEIU, AFL-CIO  
San Francisco, Cal.

Joe Romano, President  
Local 15271, USWA  
Cicero, Ill.

Frank Rosen, President  
District Council 11  
U.E.R. & MWA (UE)  
Chicago, Ill.

Frank Runnels, President  
Cadillac Local 22, UAW  
Detroit, Michigan

John Russell, President  
Local 525, AMC & BW of N.A.  
AFL-CIO  
Asheville, N.C.

Joseph Samargia, President  
Local 1938, USWA  
Virginia, Minn.

John Smith, President  
Local 3, UAW  
Hamtramck, Michigan

Jack D. Spiegel, Director  
District 4, United Shoe  
Workers of America, AFL-CIO  
Chicago, Illinois

Mark A. Yelovich, President  
Local 2644, Lower Cambria, USWA  
Johnstown, Pa.

Sue Stone, Financial Sec'y  
Local 551, S.E.I.U.  
Indianapolis, Ind.

William E. Stebbins, Pres.  
Local 1393, Retail Store  
Employees Union  
Reading, Pa.

Joe Takacs, President  
Local 45, UAW  
Cleveland, Ohio

Robert J. Tenerow, Pres.  
Local 626, UAW  
Bristol, Connecticut

Larry Wahl, President  
Local 1111 U.E.R. & MWA (UE)  
Milwaukee, Wis.

Clifford M. Walsh, President  
Amal, Local #274  
U.E.R. & MWA (UE)  
Greenfield, Mass.

Floyd J. Watson, President  
Local 1066, USWA  
Gary, Indiana

Willard E. Watson, Pres.  
Local 57, UAW  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Bob Weissman, President  
Local 122, UAW  
Twinsburg, Ohio

Richard Whitwam, Pres.  
Local 2659, USWA  
Southgate, Mich.

Dennis S. Wisniewski, Pres.  
Local 522, UAW  
Saginaw, Mich.

Russell Woodrick  
Business Agent  
District #13 IA of M  
Waterloo, Iowa

Louis Yandrisevits, Pres.  
Local 677, UAW  
Allentown, Pa.

Wendell W. Young, III, Pres.  
Local 1357, Retail Clerks  
Union AFL-CIO  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Charles G. Young, Jr.,  
Director, Dist. #29 UAW  
Allen Park, Mich.

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# UNEMPLOYMENT and JOBS

## The Problem

The following statistics reflect the great challenge that each of us face in helping create jobs for the millions of people who desperately need them. (Figures taken from U.S. Government Sources):

At the end of World War II, the "official" rate of unemployment stood at somewhere around 2%. The rate has gone up and down but, since 1970, it has never dropped below 5%. In November 1977, the official rate of unemployment stood at 6.9%.

An official 6.9 rate means that approximately 7 million people were out of work. Of those nearly 7 million workers, 5,226,000 were white and 1,599,000 were "black and others"; 3,459,000 were men and 3,359,000 of them were women.

Although census shows that the number of men and women in this country is roughly equal, the RATE of unemployment for women was 8.2% and for men it was 5.9%. This disproportionate rate of unemployment is reflected in other categories also. The official unemployment rate for white workers last November was 6.0% and for "blacks and others" it was 13.8%. The same holds true for young workers. Although there are three times as many white youth between the ages of 16 and 19 out of work, the unemployment rate for white youth is "only" 14.5% while the rate of unemployment is 39.0% for "blacks and other" youth.

## The Answer

### AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME - HOW SHORTER HOURS CREATE JOBS

As of August 1977, there were 34,500,000 full-time workers who worked 40 hours and 20,500,000 workers on longer work weeks for a total of 55,000,000. (U.S. BLS, Employment and Earnings, September 1977.)

If the work week of the 55,000,000 working 40 hours or more was cut by one hour, 1,400,000 new jobs would be added.

If the work week of these 55,000,000 workers was reduced by 5 hours, 7,850,000 new jobs would be created.

If the work week was reduced by 8 hours, then 13,700,000 new jobs would be created.

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## Who may attend the April Conference

Voting delegates to the First National Conference to Shorten the Work Week shall be Local Union Presidents and others (to a maximum of five) selected by their Local Union.

This same right of representation shall be extended to Regional, District or National Bodies of International Unions and to State and City Central Labor Bodies.

Although voting rights shall be limited to five delegates, there shall be no limit placed upon the number of representatives who may attend, provided, however, that they must be certified by their Local Union or Central Body and pay the requisite \$25 registration fee.