

Resolutions adopted by MLKCLC in 2001

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Resolution supporting a ban on imports from Burma - Adopted 1/3/01

WHEREAS an ILO commission found that slave labor is pervasive in Burma and that these findings are based on years of documentation, including a fact-finding mission and hundreds of eyewitness reports and hearings; and
WHEREAS the military rulers of Burma profit from the export of goods especially apparel products, into the American market; and
WHEREAS the National Labor Committee has reported that U.S. apparel imports from Burma have increased by 272% since 1995 and increased 143% in the first six months of the year 2000 alone; and

WHEREAS the International Labor Organization (ILO) in November 2000 took the strongest action possible and for the first time in its history has called for the nations of the world to halt any aid, trade or relationship that helps the Burmese military dictatorship remain in power; and

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO and the democratically elected Burmese government in exile have asked President Clinton to sign an Executive Order to bar imports from Burma in accord with the ILO call for multilateral sanctions; and

WHEREAS an important focus of the WTO protests in Seattle was on the issues of labor rights in the global economy; and

WHEREAS January 4th is Burma's Independence Day and is the day Burma democracy activists are calling for a National Day of Action to pressure the Clinton Administration to act; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, endorses the National Day of Action for Burmese Freedom on January 4th; and be it further

RESOLVED KCLC urge affiliates to call the White House Comment Line at 202-456-1111 to tell President Clinton to sign the Executive Order banning imports from Burma; and be it finally

RESOLVED that KCLC urge affiliates to call our Congressional Delegation at 202-224-3121 for the Senate and 202-225-3121 for the House and ask them to co-sponsor House Bill HR5603 and Senate Bill S3246 which support banning imports from Burma.

Resolution supporting International Women's Day - Adopted 2/7/01

WHEREAS, International Women's Day is annually recognized on March 8th, and March is recognized as Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, President Bush's administration has sent a shot against women's rights with the appointment of John Ashcroft as Attorney General, whose nomination the Washington State Labor Council and the AFL-CIO opposed; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that KCLC joins and endorses the call by NOW, NARAL, Home Alive, CARA, LELO, and Planned Parenthood and others for a local rally this spring to advance women's rights to health, safety, and economic justice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KCLC mobilize its membership to attend such a march and rally; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that KCLC support and participate in building the event and issue press releases to the media to alert them of the march and rally.

Resolution supporting criminal justice system reform - Adopted 2/7/01

WHEREAS the resolution passed unanimously by the delegates of the King County Labor Council on August 16, 2000, stated our belief that our societal tendency toward violence must be rejected and non-violent alternatives must be highlighted; and

WHEREAS the resolution also called for increased funding for community mental health services, so people in need can receive therapeutic services rather than being at risk in the community or criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS the King County Labor Council actively endorsed and participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration with the theme of "Reform the Criminal Justice System NOW"; and

WHEREAS since 1976 over 90 innocent people have been released from death row, but one person has been exonerated for every seven executed, and “an accused person may stand virtually defenseless — facing the death penalty, as his lawyer sleeps through the trial, be condemned to die without any adversarial process to determine guilt and punishment; and be denied any post-conviction review, because a lawyer misses a deadline or fails to raise any issues” — Attorney Stephen B. Bright, director, Southern Center for Human Rights; and

WHEREAS there is now available for “entertainment” a figure of a condemned person strapped into an electric chair with a telephone on the wall which, when you push a button, the figure will convulse and cry out “Is that the best you can do, you pansies?” as his eyes flash red. On the box, it states the device is not suitable for children aged 3 or under as there are small parts that a child could choke on; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the members of the King County Labor Council join together with other coalitions in the community to demand that teaching our children that the use of torture and capital punishment as entertainment is unacceptable in our society; and be it further RESOLVED that we demand a moratorium on capital punishment to allow time to determine if the constitutional rights of our brothers and sisters are being fully protected in the courts.

Resolution supporting the defense of domestic partner benefits for state employees - Adopted 2/7/01

WHEREAS equal pay for equal work is a basic labor value; and

WHEREAS a worker’s sexual orientation has nothing to do with his or her qualifications or work performance; and

WHEREAS the recent extension of benefits by the PEBB to the domestic partners of state employees was a labor-sponsored and labor-supported action; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council commits itself to the defense of domestic partner benefits for state employees and will use its lobby influence in the State Legislature to that end.

Resolution supporting Washington-built ferries - Adopted 2/21/01

WHEREAS the Washington State Department of Transportation Marine Division (Ferry System) is considering building between four and six new ferries in the next few years; and

WHEREAS the building of new ferries in Washington State will provide for economic opportunities for businesses and family wage jobs, benefits, and apprenticeship opportunities; and

WHEREAS Washington State tax dollars should be spent in Washington to stimulate the state’s economy and give our citizens the benefit of the multiplier effect; and

WHEREAS Washington State must maintain a viable shipbuilding and ship repair industry to service the important maritime industry; and

WHEREAS Washington State shipyard workers have a deserved reputation as the best in the world; and

WHEREAS Washington State has among the best safety and health standards for shipyard workers in the world; and

WHEREAS Washington State taxpayers and ferry riders deserve reliable, well-built vessels; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council go on record and actively promotes the building of new ferries in the state of Washington and adopt the theme "Build Them in Washington;" and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council forward this resolution to the Washington State Labor Council for consideration, support the Build Them in Washington theme and do everything in its power to promote and urge the legislature to authorize laws to have new ferries built in the state of Washington.

Resolution in support of April 21, 2001 Whatcom Central Labor Council rally - Adopted 3/7/01

WHEREAS last year the AFL-CIO launched an ambitious Campaign for Global Fairness – a multi-year, multi-issue campaign to build international solidarity, educate our members, incorporate workers' rights into international trade and investment agreements and hold corporations accountable for their actions globally and locally; and WHEREAS we will continue and expand our work to build alliances and solidarity with our sisters and brothers in developing countries – both organized and unorganized – to bridge the growing divide in wealth, education, technology, health, services and the protection of workers; and

WHEREAS this year will be a crucial turning point in the ongoing negotiations toward a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and we must make our voices heard in this debate; and

WHEREAS trade ministers and heads of state in the Western Hemisphere will hold a Trade Summit of the Americas in Quebec City in mid-April of this year and they will be continuing negotiations toward a trade and investment agreement that will encompass the entire hemisphere (with the exception of Cuba); and

WHEREAS the FTAA negotiations have been carried out in excessive secrecy, and the negotiators have granted privileged access and consideration to corporate representatives to the exclusion of more representative groups such as labor, environmental and other progressive activists in the hemisphere; and

WHEREAS every indication is that the FTAA is being modeled on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), a model that in our view has utterly failed to deliver the promised benefits to ordinary citizens in any of the three North American countries. NAFTA's main outcome has been to strengthen the clout and bargaining power of multinational corporations, to limit the scope of governments to regulate in the public interest, and forcing workers into competition with each other reinforcing the downward pressure on living standards; and

WHEREAS if the negotiations continue along the current path they will yield an agreement that undermines workers' rights and environmental protections, exacerbates inequality in the hemisphere and constrains the ability of governments to regulate in the interest of public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS the Whatcom County Central Labor Council/AFL-CIO, and the Vancouver and District Labour Council/Canadian Labor Congress are co-sponsoring a rally to oppose the FTAA in its present form; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council endorse and support the efforts of the Whatcom County Central Labor Council in their rally on April 21, 2001 in alliance with our sisters and brothers from the Vancouver and District Labour Council; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will inform affiliates and associated organizations in their jurisdiction of the rally on April 21, 2001 and will help in the mobilization effort; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will assist the Whatcom County Central Labor Council, which is a small rural central labor council, by sending \$500.00, which will be used for the event planning and day of the rally logistics and will have a bus available at the discretion of the Executive Secretary to transport delegates and rank and file members to Blaine on Saturday, April 21, 2001.

Resolution in Support of the Airport Coalition Rally on April 24, 2001 - Adopted 3/7/01

WHEREAS the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is undergoing significant expansion with possible impact upon thousands of jobs; and

WHEREAS the concession agreements between Host and the Port covering food and retail services are expiring in the next few years; and

WHEREAS a component of the airport expansion is a potential change in the way the Port of Seattle at the airport will provide services to the public and that change, if realized, may mean the end of the master concession agreement that has covered in excess of 700 good union jobs at the airport; and

WHEREAS HERE Local 8, Teamsters Local 117, SEIU Local 6 and UFCW Local 1001 have joined together into a coalition to protect good union jobs today and for the future, and are committed to expanding their organizing efforts at the airport; and

WHEREAS the coalition unions have all committed staff, members and resources to build this coalition and advance workers' rights at the airport; and

WHEREAS the KCLC, the Worker Center, the AFL-CIO and SUN (a join AFL-CIO/KCLC project) have also committed time and resources to supporting the union coalition; and

WHEREAS in the next two months the Port of Seattle Commissioners will begin discussing the future arrangement of the concession agreements at Sea-Tac, which will have a major bearing on the future of good union jobs at the airport, further, the commissioners will be determining which restaurant will replace the union-represented Carvery in the terminal with a restaurant that will not support worker rights, seniority and retention; and

WHEREAS this is a major concern for the entire labor community; be it therefore RESOLVED that the KCLC commit to supporting the coalition unions in a major airport demonstration and mobilization scheduled for April 24th and direct the KCLC Mobilization Committee to assist; and be it further

RESOLVED that the KCLC ask its affiliate unions to work with the Mobilization Committee, Jobs With Justice and the AFL-CIO staff to insure maximum turnout for April 24th.

**Resolution in support of March 29, 2001 "Got Equal Pay" rally in Olympia -
Adopted 3/7/01**

WHEREAS April 3rd is AFL-CIO National Pay Equity Day to call attention to issues of equal pay for equal work with the slogan "Got Equal Pay?" as the call to action; and WHEREAS Linda Chavez-Thompson will be joining the Seattle Community Colleges Federation of Teachers for a rally in Olympia at 12 Noon on March 29th; and WHEREAS the umbrella slogan of "Got Equal Pay" can cut across several labor and human service constituencies dependent upon state funding and the SCCFT would like to build coalitions with our sisters and brothers in other labor and human service communities; and

WHEREAS currently, out of the 10,000 community college instructors in Washington state, 7,000 of them are paid from a part-time pay schedule which means they average about \$23,000 per year when they work full-time which puts them barely above the federal poverty level of just under \$18,000 per year for a family of four and this \$23,000 salary is 56% less than full-time faculty make so part-time faculty haven't "Got Equal Pay"; and

WHEREAS more women than men are part-time faculty, and there is a higher proportion of women among the ranks of part-time faculty than among the ranks of full-time faculty, thus duplicating the systemic lack of comparable worth, and reliance on women for underpaid temporary and part-time in the U.S. who haven't "Got Equal Pay"; and

WHEREAS full-time faculty in Washington state's community and technical colleges earn 14% less than their peers in our neighboring states, so they haven't "Got Equal Pay"; and

WHEREAS state employees who work in higher education earn 15% below the prevailing wage in Washington (according to the Dept. Of Personnel) and all state employees earn 13% below prevailing wage so they haven't "Got Equal Pay"; and

WHEREAS the governor's budget proposal calls for only a 2.2% Cost of Living Increase for state employees (who aren't 2-year college teachers or K-12 staff) when the actual Cost of Living has increased by 3.6% so they haven't "Got Equal Pay"; and

WHEREAS at the five technical colleges that moved from the K-12 system into the state system, staff are not being paid at the level of other staff in the civil service system so they haven't "Got Equal Pay"; and

WHEREAS the governor is calling for a tuition increase while the state's portion of funding for the cost of a community college education has fallen from 80% 15 years ago to 60% today, so students haven't "Got Equal Pay"; and

WHEREAS tax exemptions for the state in the last biennium totaled more than the entire state budget and Washington State has the dubious distinction of having one of the most (if not the most by now!) regressive tax structures in the country; and

WHEREAS the current legislative trend has been to try to divide state employees from one another, and from vital human and social service needs by cutting state funding rather than looking at increasing revenue, while tax exemptions for corporations go unchecked, unmonitored, and remain unaccountable; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will endorse the efforts of the Seattle Community Colleges Federation of Teachers in calling for a rally and meetings with legislators in Olympia on March 29th which will united teachers, state employees,

women's organizations, students, the labor community and community organizations in call for "Equal Pay"; and be it further
RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will support the event through the dissemination of materials and information and by encouraging participation by members of the labor community.

Resolution supporting UFCW Local 1105 and Local 81 contract preparations - Adopted 3/21/01

WHEREAS the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1105 and Local 81 are about to enter the most difficult negotiations in over 10 years; and
WHEREAS the United Food and Commercial Workers represents well over 14, 000 women and men working in the Retail Grocery and Meat Industry in King County; and
WHEREAS the employers are attempting to destroy the members' health and welfare and roll back wages; and
WHEREAS this is a major concern for the entire labor community; be it therefore
RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council commit resources and ask and encourage affiliates for the next two months to prepare for a work stoppage; and be it further
RESOLVED that all committees of the King County Labor Council make this a Priority One Campaign and assist the UFCW in this preparation.

Resolution supporting the 1/3 for Choices Campaign - Adopted 4/18/01

WHEREAS Seattle and King County citizens are suffering from some of the most congested streets and roads in the nation; and
WHEREAS the congestion leads to lower air and water quality standards that negatively impact the health of citizens; and
WHEREAS a strategy of just building more roads leads to less livable communities and reduces fish and wildlife habitat; and
WHEREAS adequate funding for public transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, commute trip reduction, and smart growth will improve our communities and environment and reduce congestion; be it therefore
RESOLVED that the KCLC adopt and support the 1/3 for Choices Campaign for increased state support for modes of travel other than automobiles; and be it further
RESOLVED that the KCLC communicate to all legislators representing Seattle and King County residents their support for 1/3 for Choices to be reflected in the state transportation budget.

Resolution supporting open candidate forums - Adopted 4/18/01

WHEREAS elected officials make decisions and policies which affect union members and working families at the city, county, state and national level; and
WHEREAS recognizing this, affiliates, labor councils, and international unions endorse and give campaign contributions to candidates for political office, lobby, and otherwise try to influence candidates, representatives, and the electoral process for the betterment of workers and their families; and
WHEREAS the King County Labor Council interviews candidates for elected office in order to recommend labor-friendly candidates for endorsement; and

WHEREAS these recommendations are distributed to rank and file members so that their voting choices can be better informed; and

WHEREAS the broader the interests represented by those interviewing candidates, the broader will be the information gleaned from them that influences decisions to endorse; and

WHEREAS a major goal of the labor movement and the King County Labor Council in particular is to increase the voice of working people; and

WHEREAS interviews of candidates by the KCLC provide an opportunity both for candidates to learn about labor interests and for KCLC members to learn about candidates; and

WHEREAS most rank and file members of the KCLC work during the daytime hours and are unable to attend COPE interviews that are scheduled between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. and therefore miss the opportunity to participate in the interviews; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the KCLC will conduct open candidate forums when appropriate where delegates and rank and file members may ask questions of those seeking elective office.

Resolution supporting the Steel Revitalization Act of 2001, HR 808 - Adopted 6/6/01

WHEREAS the steel industry is in jeopardy of being eliminated from the United States through imported and illegal dumping of steel in our country; and

WHEREAS foreign countries which sell government subsidized steel at a cheaper rate than steel produced in the United States help their own economies improve by dumping below market-priced steel while putting American steelworkers out of work; and

WHEREAS existing laws regarding steel dumping are not enforced nor strict enough in this country, and thus have forced 18 United States steel makers to file for bankruptcy protection and resulting in the loss of thousands of steelworker jobs; and

WHEREAS the American Steel Industry plays a role in the national defense of our country; and

WHEREAS the total collapse of the American Steel Industry could have a devastating effect on manufacturers, businesses, and communities that depend on steel; be it therefore

RESOLVED that we, the King County Labor Council, fully support Bill HR 808, the Steel Revitalization Act of 2001, our brothers and sisters in the United Steelworkers of America and the emergency measures that need be taken to save the American steel industry; and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all members of the United States Congress representing the citizens of Washington State.

Resolution opposing the proposal to open Fishermen's Terminal - Adopted 6/20/01

WHEREAS the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union of the Pacific, affiliated with the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, is an independent union and the oldest organization of crewmen and skippers in the North Pacific. The union was established in 1912. The union is composed of longliners who fish primarily in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea and

who have a collective bargaining agreement with the Fishing Vessels Owners' Association; and
WHEREAS Fishermen's Terminal was founded in 1913 to serve the North Pacific fishing fleet; and
WHEREAS work at Fishermen's Terminal in 1999 generated over 5300 jobs and 246.5 million dollars in wages and salaries; be it therefore
RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council support the continued dedication of Fishermen's Terminal to the commercial fishing industry and oppose the Port of Seattle's proposal to open Fishermen's Terminal moorage to non-working vessels.

Resolution supporting fair trade certified coffee - Adopted 7/18/01

WHEREAS Fair Trade certification ensures farmers are paid a decent, living wage for their harvest, creates direct trade links to farmers and their cooperatives, provides access to affordable credit, which helps farmers stay out of debt, and promotes sustainable practices, such as organic farming, which helps protect the environment; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council endorses the principles of the Seattle Sustainable Coffee Campaign, gives our permission to have our name included on a public list of supporters, and will help spread the word about Fair Trade, organic and shade-grown coffee; and be it further

RESOLVED that we commit to purchase certified Fair Trade coffee from now on and serve only Fair Trade Certified coffee at our events; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council recommend to its affiliates, the Washington State Labor Council and the National AFL-CIO that they too make the commitment to endorse the Fair Trade Certified coffee campaign and serve only Fair Trade Certified coffee at their events; and be it finally

RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the next national AFL-CIO convention for adoption.

(Visit <http://www.fairtradecertified.org/> for more information on Fair Trade Coffee!)

Resolution opposing Fast Track/Trade Promotion Authority - Adopted 7/18/01

WHEREAS in a democracy one branch of the federal government should not be able to have super-authority over another branch and "trade promotion authority" would give the Executive Branch unfair power over the Legislative Branch, thus disrupting the democratic system of checks and balances; and

WHEREAS "trade promotion authority" would not allow Congress to put reservations on any sections of a treaty; and

WHEREAS "trade promotion authority" would put limitations on the amount of time Congress can debate a trade agreement; and

WHEREAS such limitations would also limit the amount of time constituents would have to submit comments to their congressional delegation; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council opposes HR 2149 and any other similar legislation granting "Fast Track" Authority and urges its affiliated unions and members to join in this opposition; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council recommends to the Washington State Labor Council to pass a resolution in opposition to "Fast Track" at the August 2001 State Federation Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council contact local, state and federal elected officials and ask them to join us in opposing "Fast Track."

Resolution urging reform and improvement of Seattle Police Department practices concerning racial profiling, accountability and training - Adopted 7/18/01

WHEREAS tragic recent events in Seattle's Central District underline the importance of labor's program for living wage jobs, equal opportunity, quality education and jobs training, rehabilitation and treatment and in general the funding of social services that address the problems of impoverished communities; and

WHEREAS organized labor has historically been a leader in developing and supporting public policies that help communities; and

WHEREAS the King County Labor Council has had concerns about the use of force against peaceful demonstrators during the WTO, including labor union members; and WHEREAS at intervals throughout its history, labor itself has faced harsh police actions in the midst of union picketing, such as the Charleston, South Carolina Longshore Five; the Los Angeles SEIU janitors' strike, and the Detroit, Michigan Newspaper Guild Strike; and

WHEREAS labor's power has always depended upon its unity across all lines of race, creed, color and sexual orientation; be it therefore

RESOLVED that to preserve and strengthen that unity, we support the city's investigation into racial profiling and we call on the City Council to pass a city ordinance outlawing that practice; and be it further

RESOLVED that each patrol car be equipped with video cameras to record every stop and/or interaction with the public; and be it further

RESOLVED that we reaffirm the King County Labor Council's strong support for Crisis Intervention Training for all police officers; and be it further

RESOLVED that we call for mandatory, fully-funded training in, and the maximum use of, non-lethal methods of control; and be it further

RESOLVED that we support an elected civilian review board with subpoena power through the City Council to ensure public confidence in the conduct of all police officers; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council forward this to its affiliates with a request that they adopt similar resolutions.

Resolution endorsing the boycott of Mt. Olive Pickle Company products - Adopted 7/18/01

WHEREAS the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, affirms the rights of all workers to be treated with justice, dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS farm workers are among the lowest paid workers in the U.S. with a median family income of \$8,000, endure the highest rate of toxic chemical injuries of any group of U.S. workers, and have a life expectancy 25 years below the national average; and

WHEREAS the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) is organizing the farm workers who harvest the crop for the Mt. Olive Pickle Company of Mt. Olive, North Carolina, and over 3,000 of these workers have signed union authorization cards; and WHEREAS the Mt. Olive Pickle Company, as a leader in this industry in the Southwest, has the ability to recognize FLOC and bargain a contract to improve the lives of the workers who harvest the crops for growers contracting with the Mt. Olive Pickle Company, but has steadfastly refused to do so; and WHEREAS farm workers in North Carolina are subject to firing without recourse, are excluded from laws protecting their right to organize, and frequently labor under a climate of fear and intimidation; and WHEREAS FLOC has determined that the only option left for these workers is to appeal to the American people's sense of justice and urge them to boycott Mt. Olive Pickle Company products until a contract is signed; be it therefore RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council endorses the boycott of all Mt. Olive Pickle Company products until such time as a contract is signed between FLOC and the company, and will communicate this endorsement to Mt. Olive Pickle Company CEO William Bryan; and be it further RESOLVED that this organization will work among its constituency and community allies to mobilize support for the Mt. Olive Pickle Company boycott.

Resolution supporting October 28 – November 3, 2001 as Campus Equity Week - Adopted 8/15/01

WHEREAS the American Federation of Teachers, the American Association of University Professors, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor, the National Alliance for Fair Employment, and the National Education Association have called for October 28 - November 3, 2001 to be Campus Equity Week to improve the plight of contingent academic workers; and WHEREAS currently, of 10,000 community college instructors in Washington state, 7,000 are paid from a part-time pay schedule which means they average about \$23,000 per year when they work full-time; and WHEREAS this salary puts them barely above the federal poverty level of just under \$18,000 per year for a family of four and this \$23,000 salary is 56% less than full-time faculty make; and WHEREAS currently, part-time and adjunct faculty in the community/technical colleges frequently have no medical or leave benefits, no job security, and restrictions on the academic freedom their full-time colleagues enjoy; and WHEREAS the low pay of part-time and adjunct teachers puts a downward pressure on the pay of their full-time counterparts, whose salaries average under \$45,000 annually; and WHEREAS the goals of Campus Equity Week are both to inform the public about part-time and adjunct academic employee working conditions and to increase union membership among faculty, both goals in keeping with the KCLC mission; and WHEREAS the Washington Federation of Teachers, with several KCLC affiliates, including Seattle Community Colleges Federation of Teachers, have led the nation in addressing issues of part-time faculty employment through an ongoing Pay Equity Campaign; and

WHEREAS the American Federation of Teachers has designated Seattle as a media point for October 29, 2001 to highlight the issues of poor pay, lack of benefits and job security for part-time and adjunct academic employees; be it therefore RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council recognizes and endorses October 28 - November 3, 2001 as Campus Equity Week.

Resolution objecting to the closure of the White House offices for women's initiatives - Adopted 8/15/01

WHEREAS the White House Women's Office for Initiative and Outreach was established in 1995; and
WHEREAS, the Women's Office for Initiative and Outreach has served as the central liaison for questions and concerns from organizations and the public about policies affecting women; and
WHEREAS the Women's Office for Initiative and Outreach has served to foster better legal, economic and administrative equality by freely providing information to the public; and
WHEREAS in January 2001, the current administration ordered closure of the Women's Office for Initiative and Outreach and the White House Women's Conference Circle; and
WHEREAS the current administration has yet to establish any Women's Office similar to those that were closed; be it therefore
RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council objects to the closure of the White House offices for women's initiatives and moves to take action to recommend the White House reestablish equivalent offices to address women's issues; and be it further
RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Washington State Labor Council for consideration at their upcoming convention, followed by similar forwarding to the AFL-CIO and the White House for consideration.

Resolution endorsing the Bove-Dufour Books to Prisoners benefit - Adopted 8/15/01

WHEREAS Jose Bove and Francois Dufour of the Confederacion Paysanne are leading figures in the international struggle for corporate responsibility; and
WHEREAS Jose Bove and Francois Dufour have written a book, *The World is Not For Sale*, and are touring the United States to discuss the impacts of agribusiness on our health, the economy, and the environment; and
WHEREAS Jose Bove and Francois Dufour will be speaking at a benefit for Books to Prisoners in Seattle on September 27th at the IBEW Hall; and
WHEREAS Books to Prisoners is a Seattle-based non-profit organization which will use all proceeds from this benefit to send free books to men and women in prisons throughout the United States; be it therefore
RESOLVED that KCLC endorses the Bove-Dufour Books to Prisoners benefit on September 27th; and be it further
RESOLVED that KCLC encourages its members to attend this benefit.

Resolution in support of a training in non-violent disobedience - Adopted 9/19/01

WHEREAS the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC),

formerly known as the School of the Americas (SOA), located at Fort Benning, Georgia, is a combat training school for Latin American soldiers; and

WHEREAS these soldiers have been trained to make war on their own people; and
WHEREAS WHISC training manuals have advocated interrogation techniques such as torture, execution, blackmail and arresting the relatives of those being questioned; and
WHEREAS labor organizers were one of the groups singled out in WHISC manuals; and

WHEREAS the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO and the Washington State Labor Council have passed resolutions calling for the closing of the WHISC; and
WHEREAS WHISC Watch, founded by Maryknoll priest Father Roy Bourgeois, is an independent organization that seeks to close the US Army School of the Americas/WHISC, under whatever name it is called, through vigils, fasts, demonstrations and nonviolent protests, as well as media and legislative work; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will support the WHISC Watch Northwest in a 5-hour training course in nonviolent civil disobedience to be held in the Labor Temple on October 13, 2001; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will assist WHISC Watch Northwest by providing a meeting room and will notify all affiliates and community and religious groups associated with the King County Labor Council of the aforementioned training.

Resolution to Oppose Harassment of Arab-Americans, Islamic-Americans and South Asian-Americans - Adopted 9/19/01

WHEREAS the airline hijackings and subsequent attacks of September 11, 2001, shocked the world with the sudden, traumatic, major loss of life of airplane crew and passengers, office workers, rescue workers and others; and

WHEREAS evidence and speculation has pointed the blame at small Islamic groups based in the Middle East with a history of violence; and

WHEREAS condemnation of these murderous acts has come from all quarters, including national and local leaders of the overwhelming majority of Arabic, Islamic and Palestinian communities and countries; and

WHEREAS it is the job of our governments, as representatives of the people, to attempt to determine a proper and just response to these acts; and

WHEREAS there have already been numerous acts of verbal and physical harassment against individuals who are Arabic- or Islamic-Americans or legal residents, and against individuals who merely appear to belong to those categories, and against American Islamic religious and community institutions; and

WHEREAS acts of malicious harassment against individuals and institutions based on their ethnic or religious profile are unjust acts against innocent people, which bring no justice or solace to the victims of the September 11th attacks; and

WHEREAS hate crimes and harassment targeting individuals based on their appearance or membership in a minority group have recently victimized James Byrd, an African-American man who was dragged to death in Texas; Matthew Shepard, a gay man who was beaten to death in Wyoming; and Filipino-American postal worker Joseph

Ileto, who was shot to death in California by a gunman who wounded six others in a Jewish daycare center; and

WHEREAS the labor movement needs to actively oppose malicious harassment, which is a threat to the spirit of social justice and working class unity which we hope to build; be it therefore

RESOLVED that this body and its members shall agree to oppose, by word and deed, harassing acts and words which target people who are or appear to be Arab-American, Islamic-American or South Asian-American, because such harassment is both harmful and unjust; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution shall be forwarded for consideration to those AFL-CIO bodies and other groups of which this body is an affiliate; and be it finally

RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the next national AFL-CIO convention for adoption.

Resolution urging national AFL-CIO Bylaws changes - Adopted 10/17/01

WHEREAS in the Summer of 2000 the delegate bodies of the King County Labor Council and the Washington State Labor Council each adopted amendments to their respective constitutions and bylaws; and

WHEREAS during this process both delegate bodies voted overwhelmingly to exclude the following language that had been requested for inclusion in their bylaws by the national AFL-CIO: "No individual shall be eligible to serve as an officer, member of the executive board or committee or other governing body of, or any other committee of, or as a delegate from, or as a representative, agent or employee of any state central body who consistently pursues policies and activities directed toward the achievement of the program or purposes of authoritarianism, totalitarianism, terrorism and other forces that suppress individual liberties and freedom of association; and

WHEREAS during the discussion preceding rejection of the above language by the KCLC and WSLC delegate bodies in July and August 2000, delegates criticized the clause for being vague, for being a relic of the anti-communist McCarthyite witchhunts, and for having the potential to chill robust debate and to be used in a discriminatory manner against delegates or employees of the Council; and

WHEREAS the history of the U.S. labor movement is replete with examples of the U.S. government using charges of "communism," "terrorism," or other vague, jingoistic accusations as a means to divide and harass unions and to blacklist, silence and even frame and imprison union activists and leaders; and

WHEREAS after the KCLC and WSLC submitted their revised constitutions and bylaws to the national AFL-CIO for approval, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney wrote a letter to the Councils which stated in part that the rejected language was mandatory, and that it had to be inserted into the Council's constitutions "... to bring your constitution into conformity with the provisions of the Rules Governing AFL-CIO Central Labor Councils and the Constitution of the AFL-CIO"; and

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO mandate undermines democracy that is so vital to the continued growth of the labor movement by ignoring the serious objections to the clause and the democratic will of the KCLC and WSLC delegate bodies; and

WHEREAS this resolution, adopted at the WSLC convention on August 25, 2001 in Wenatchee, asks affiliated unions to pass similar resolutions and forward them on to their international unions for adoption; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council calls on the national AFL-CIO to eliminate the above mentioned language from the AFL-CIO Constitution, Article III, Sec. 7; Article V, Sec. 6; and Article X, Sec. 8; and be it further

RESOLVED that the KCLC encourage affiliated unions to pass similar resolutions and forward them on to their international unions for adoption; and be it finally

RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the next national AFL-CIO convention for adoption.

Resolution calling for the AFL-CIO to 'clear the air' about its foreign policy issues - Adopted 10/17/01

WHEREAS the impact of economic globalization on American working families everywhere is causing more job dislocation, impoverishment of working families, division among workers and a huge economic gap between rich and poor in the U.S. and among nations, with power shifting more and more into corporate hands; and WHEREAS an effective strategy to serve our members' interests and counter the corporate economic globalization agenda is to build solidarity and unity among unions and workers' organizations worldwide based upon mutual respect and our common needs, with mutually determined labor standards based on social justice and human rights as they are perceived by workers in each nation; and

WHEREAS while we recognize and applaud the many changes in international policy and practice of the AFL-CIO in recent years and as we are taking steps to increase credibility among workers and members in the U.S. we must also overcome fear and suspicion of workers abroad based upon errors and excesses of the Cold War years so that the AFL-CIO may become a more trusted and vital actor on the stage of working class international affairs; and

WHEREAS recent articles in the Labor Studies Journal for Summer 2000 show that the AFL-CIO played a role leading to the bloody Pinochet overthrow of the democratically elected government in Chile, that its work was linked to corporate and CIA intervention ordered by Richard Nixon and led by Henry Kissinger (clearly against the best interests of the labor movement in Latin America and the United States), that the AFL-CIO engaged in similar activities in many countries on almost every continent and that such activities served corporate interests and were largely funded by the U.S. government; and

WHEREAS the bitter fruit of the experience in Chile and other countries was a strengthened hand for Corporate America, destruction of militant unions and support of spurious unions, persecution of working families and the torture, disappearance and death of many trade union activists and leaders, situations which defy rebuilding trust without our taking responsibility for such events where it may be due, and accounting for and repudiating such policies; and

WHEREAS the Asian-American Free Labor Institute of the AFL-CIO accepted government money to intervene in Asian union affairs until 1996, for example, funding the pro-Marcos Trade Union Congress of the Philippines in the 1980's, and its

successor organization, the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS), is also funded by the U.S. government; be it therefore

RESOLVED that to advance the progressive new policies of the AFL-CIO in global affairs, we call upon our Federation to fully account for what was done in Chile and other countries where similar roles may have been played in our name, to renounce such policies and practices and to openly invite concerned union members and researchers to review and discuss all AFL-CIO archives on international labor affairs; and be it further

RESOLVED that the AFL-CIO describe, country by country, exactly what activities it may still be engaged in abroad with funds paid by government agencies and renounce any such ties that could compromise our authentic credibility and the trust of workers here and abroad and that would make us paid agents of government or of the forces of corporate economic globalization; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the above actions be taken to clear the air in affirmation of an AFL-CIO policy of genuine global labor solidarity in pursuit of economic and social justice with attention to domestic and international labor standards that include the right to organize and strike, an adequate social safety net, living wages, the right to health care and education, elimination of mandatory overtime, protection of the rights of immigrant workers, prohibitions on strikebreaking and the pursuit of peace among nations and peoples.

Resolution in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001 - Adopted 11/7/01

WHEREAS on September 11, 2001, the United States of America suffered the worst act of terror in our history, which resulted in the death of more than 6000 innocent civilians, including many of our fellow union brothers and sisters; and

WHEREAS these attacks have continued in the form of biological acts of terrorism, thus endangering the lives of other citizens, including our brother and sister fire fighters, police and emergency response personnel and postal workers; and

WHEREAS as a result of these attacks many union jobs have been lost and severe hardship has been levied upon the families of those affected; and

WHEREAS thousands of union members who serve in the military reserve may be called to active duty to defend against further attacks, direct or indirect, thereby endangering their lives and livelihoods; and

WHEREAS hate crimes directed at ethnic and religious groups have occurred in response to the September 11th tragedy; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council goes on record as condemning these horrific acts of terrorism and that we stand against prejudice and hatred of any group of people and will oppose all efforts to limit our civil liberties; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council goes on record as standing in solidarity and support of those brothers and sisters that now defend our country, which includes military, fire fighters, police and emergency response personnel; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will lobby our lawmakers to provide the necessary funding for training, unemployment insurance and job creation to benefit all those who have lost their jobs as a result of this cowardly attack on our people; and be it finally

RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the AFL-CIO.

Resolution supporting the New Era Cap Company boycott - Adopted 12/5/01

WHEREAS the King County Labor Council affirms the rights of all workers to be treated fairly with justice, dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS New Era Cap Company produces all the on-field caps for Major and Minor League baseball, and also manufactures caps for the NBA, NFL, NHL, PGA, Little League, and a number of colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS New Era operates a plant in Derby, NY; and

WHEREAS those workers have been on strike since July 15, 2001, with negotiations being stalled; and

WHEREAS it has been verified by an independent monitoring agency, the Workers Rights Consortium, that workers at the Derby plant have suffered workplace injuries, including Musculo-Skeletal Disorders, repetitive motion injuries, needle punctures and blood contamination; and

WHEREAS the Workers Rights Consortium has also verified that there is substantial evidence that New Era has not provided medical and wage benefits to some injured workers; and

WHEREAS during contract negotiations New Era proposed to cut wages by 40 percent and reduce a mid-year bonus by 83 percent; and

WHEREAS this comes as the Derby plant's workers have not received a raise in three years, pay between \$245 to \$329 per month for family health care, and receive no pension plan - all while making on average only \$12.14 per hour; and

WHEREAS now, in the midst of said negotiations, on January 5th New Era announced the layoff of 125 CWA workers at the Derby plant; and

WHEREAS the work these union members were performing is being sent to a non-union plant in Buffalo and to two non-union plants in Alabama; and

WHEREAS CWA Local 14177 represents 320 workers at said plant; and

WHEREAS the Workers Rights Consortium has verified evidence that New Era has engaged in a persistent pattern of non-compliance with workers' rights of association and rights of collective bargaining, including repeated threats to close the Derby plant and managers physically menacing female workers in response to workers' support of the union; and

WHEREAS CWA has requested a boycott of all New Era products until a new contract is signed; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council endorses the boycott of all New Era Cap Company products until such time as a contract is signed between CWA and the company; and be it further

RESOLVED that this organization will work among its constituency and community allies to mobilize support for the workers at the New Era Cap Company's Derby plant; and be it finally

RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to New Era Cap Company CEO David Koch, President Christopher Koch, the Mariners Team Store, and CWA Local 14177 President Jane Howald, as well as to KCLC affiliates with a request to endorse the boycott.

Resolution opposing the privatization of crane maintenance at the Port of Seattle
- Adopted 12/19/01

WHEREAS the Port of Seattle was created by the citizens of King County to develop and manage the harbor of Seattle for the benefit of the citizens of King County; and WHEREAS the Seattle/King County Building & Construction Trades Council affiliates support the crane maintenance electricians (members of IBEW Local 46) and operating engineers (members of IUOE Local 302) in their objection to accept the Port of Seattle's demands to eliminate family wage jobs, cut wages of other workers and support the transfer of bargaining unit work to other unions; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council supports the members in resisting the Port of Seattle's efforts to reduce family wage jobs, wages and working conditions of the Port employees and the privatization of public sector jobs; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council notify the Port of Seattle that the privatization of the crane maintenance work be immediately halted and that the impending implementation date of such action (January 14, 2002) be postponed indefinitely until these issues can be resolved.