

## Resolutions adopted by MLKCLC in 2003

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Supporting editorial diversity in media and the survival of two daily metro newspapers in Puget Sound - 5/21/03  
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Supporting the November 16, 2003 SOA Watch action in Tacoma - 11/5/03

### **Resolution opposing the privatization of federal government jobs and supporting the passage of the TRAC Act - Adopted 1/15/03**

WHEREAS the Bush Administration is planning to hand over to private for-profit contractors 850,000 jobs currently held by federal employees. The proposed revision to Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-76 directs managers of federal agencies to review for privatization at least 850,000 federal workers' jobs; and  
WHEREAS the Bush Administration says the goal of outsourcing federal jobs to private contractors is 'efficiency and economy,' when in fact there are no long-term studies demonstrating savings to taxpayers from privatization of government work. Federal agencies already contract out more than \$125 billion dollars annually and there is NO system in place to track the costs and quality of service; and  
WHEREAS federal employees and their work are meticulously tracked and documented in extraordinary detail through the Budget Appropriations and other federal oversight groups; and  
WHEREAS in the words of AFGE President Bobby Harnage, the Bush Administration is at war with reliable and experienced federal workers, and is systematically conspiring to bust their unions, gut their civil service protections and hand over their jobs to politically well-connected contractors; and

WHEREAS while 9 million Americans are now unemployed, the Bush Administration is offering more tax cuts to corporations and campaign contributors. President Bush has used Homeland Security as a pretext for stripping collective bargaining rights and civil service protections from the 170,000 federal employees transferred into the new Department of Homeland Security; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council opposes all attempts to privatize, cut back or withdraw collective bargaining rights and civil service protections from federal workers; and be it further

RESOLVED that King County Labor Council will write letters, and encourage affiliates to do the same, to U.S. Senators and Congressional Representatives calling for quick passage by Congress of the TRAC (Truthfulness, Responsibility and Accountability in Contracting) Act, which would establish a government-wide system of tracking contractors, the cost of the government work they perform and the size and cost of the contractor workforce; and be it finally

RESOLVED that KCLC will support the protest and rally being planned by AFGE Local 3197 for February 26th, 2003 and call on affiliates to join in that support.

### **Resolution opposing the war against Iraq - Adopted 2/19/03**

WHEREAS Union members and leaders already feel the brunt of the attacks against labor, which will only increase if Bush takes the U.S. into war. Bush has invoked Taft-Hartley against the ILWU, threatened to nationalize the docks or split up bargaining units, and is using the so-called "Homeland Security Act" to deprive workers of collective bargaining rights; and

WHEREAS the Bush Administration's drive toward war is serving as a distraction and cover for our failing economy, corporate corruption, widespread layoffs, union busting, the curtailment of civil liberties, the harassment and detention of immigrants, and tax policies that favor the wealthy and add to the ever-widening gap between rich and poor; and

WHEREAS not even taking into account the aftermath of a war against Iraq which will require military occupation for many months, if not years, the estimated cost of the war itself begins at around \$200 billion, a cost that will come at the direct expense of workers and their families, diverting urgently needed funds from job creation, healthcare, education and other vital human services; and

WHEREAS labor has had an historic role in fighting for justice and we believe our country should promote democracy, education and opportunity; negotiate new trade agreements that raise living standards and environmental protection in all nations; and focus on finding a just peace in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS union members and leaders have the responsibility to inform all working people about the issues that affect their lives, jobs and families; and to be heard in the national debate on these issues; and

WHEREAS pre-emptive attacks against sovereign states violate the principles of freedom and respect for all people, United States foreign policy which should be based on these principles, and the explicit language of the United Nations Charter; and

WHEREAS such military action is predicted to actually increase the likelihood of retaliatory terrorist acts; and

WHEREAS the King County Labor Council supports our working men and women of the armed forces and urges President Bush to bring them home safe and sound; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council opposes the pending war against Iraq and will work in solidarity with other labor and community organizations to strengthen the anti-war movement; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council forward a copy of this resolution to affiliated labor bodies and organizations and the national AFL-CIO Executive Council for action supporting this resolution; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council support efforts of peace by saluting and supporting those legislators and labor leaders who have voted and spoken out against the war danger, including Congressmen McDermott, Inslee, Larson and Baird and Senator Patty Murray.

### **Resolution in support of diversity in media ownership - Adopted 2/19/03**

WHEREAS freedom of the press and broad public access to a diverse range of information through the media are prerequisites for a functioning democracy; they are the very oxygen of democracy; and the broadcast airwaves and the internet are owned commonly by the public and should be managed to serve the public interest; and WHEREAS adherence to the highest journalistic principles is a public trust; and the public interest is best served by the availability of a broadly diverse range of viewpoints; and media diversity and employment is seriously threatened by further consolidation of media ownership in the hands of fewer entities; and

WHEREAS the Federal Communications Commission is currently considering an unprecedented rollback of media ownership regulations which protect diversity and local accountability in our media; and the elimination or weakening of these regulations would likely reduce competition, local accountability, diversity of content, diversity of voices, and the amount and/or quality of news coverage in broadcast and print media across the country, while providing windfall profits for a small handful of corporate media owners; and

WHEREAS we recognize that citizens in a democracy require public access to a diverse range of media voices and messages in order to participate fully in our community's shared social, cultural and political life; be it therefore

RESOLVED that we call upon the Federal Communications Commission and the Congress to protect content diversity and press freedom by retaining and strengthening existing media ownership regulations and we further call upon the Congress to exercise its oversight in the area of federal communications policy and to consider legislation aimed at protecting our democratic media by prohibiting further media consolidation.

### **Resolution supporting the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride - Adopted 4/2/03**

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO has officially embraced the cause of immigrant workers in the United States; and

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO actively campaigns for legislative reform to benefit immigrant workers and their families; and

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO expects that legislation to reform immigration law will be a matter of increasing congressional and executive activity beginning in 2003; and

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO believes that such legislative reform must include, at a minimum: (1) legalization, including the right of immigrant workers in the United States to live and work in this country and become its citizens; and (2) the right of immigrant workers to unite their families in the United States if they wish; and

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO understands that a national mobilization of individuals and organizations from all sectors – including labor, business, political, religious, community, immigrant, civil rights and others – is necessary to demonstrate to Congress and the President that there is widespread support in the United States for meaningful legislative reform and for the recognition of the contribution of immigrant workers to the quality of social, cultural, political and economic life in the United States; and

WHEREAS the AFL-CIO believes that an Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride – which will culminate in a mass demonstration of support in the United States for meaningful legislative reform in Washington, DC – will be a powerful vehicle for mobilizing that national constituency; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will adopt the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride (IWFR) as a campaign, will join with the AFL-CIO, affiliated unions, state federations and other central labor bodies in the IWFR and will urge member unions to contribute to this effort and to adopt this same resolution of support of the IWFR.

**Resolution supporting editorial diversity in media and the survival of two daily metro newspapers in Puget Sound - Adopted 5/21/03**

WHEREAS the Puget Sound community is served by a rich diversity of print, broadcast and electronic media; and

WHEREAS diversity of media provides a variety of forums from which residents and voters can seek news and other information about events and issues important to our shared community, and this variety of media benefit the people of Puget Sound by allowing the expression of a wider range of opinions and comments on community issues; and

WHEREAS the King County Labor Council is on record as supporting regulatory and other means of ensuring Puget Sound and other communities retain their editorial diversity; and

WHEREAS the potential dissolution of the Seattle Joint Operating Agreement authorized by the federal Newspaper Preservation Act threatens to diminish this very diversity by the closure of one of Seattle's daily newspapers, which have been important voices in and for our community for well over a century; be it therefore

RESOLVED that KCLC will encourage the Hearst Corp. and The Seattle Times Co. to amicably settle the differences between them in a manner that ensures the survival of two daily metropolitan newspapers in Seattle; and be it further

RESOLVED that KCLC will write letters to the publishers of The Seattle Times and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, urging them to seek and commit to a solution that will allow both newspapers to continue operating at full capacity; and be it finally

RESOLVED that KCLC will urge its affiliates to pass a similar resolution endorsing a two-newspaper solution to the current JOA crisis and to send letters supporting this outcome to the publishers of The Seattle Times and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

**Resolution supporting construction of ferries in King and Pierce Counties - Adopted 6/4/03**

WHEREAS the unemployment rate in Pierce County is approximately 7.5%, the highest in the South Sound, and the unemployment rate in King County is approximately 6.4%, the King County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO finds it imperative to create jobs in these two counties; therefore be it

RESOLVED that KCLC endorses the passage of ESHB 1163 – the state transportation budget; and be it further

RESOLVED that KCLC urges the state to expedite the construction of the four 130/1200 passenger/auto ferries in the project list attached to this bill; and be it finally

RESOLVED that KCLC encourages the state to build these vessels simultaneously at union shipyards in Pierce and King Counties in order to create as many jobs as possible.

**Resolution supporting participation in the July 1, 2003 Congressional inquiry on privatization - Adopted 6/18/03**

WHEREAS the current Administration plans to privatize up to one million federal jobs by contracting out to for-profit contractors within the next two years, including 15, 968 jobs in Washington State, in agencies such as the Veterans' Administration, Social Security Administration, the U.S. Postal Service, FDA, IRS, U.S. Mint and National Park Service; and

WHEREAS the VA Puget Sound has received a directive to review for privatization 50% of its workforce within the next two years, as stated by their director, Timothy Williams, in the VA Puget Sound; and

WHEREAS in the words of AFGE National President Bobby Harnage, "Corporations stand poised to have run of the government, replacing federal workers with private sector workers who are often poorly paid, scantily trained, and almost always deprived of union representation and collective bargaining rights;" and

WHEREAS private contractors will not be required to give veterans hiring preferences, resulting in the loss of employment for veterans at large; and

WHEREAS because the federal workforce is highly integrated, the negative economic impact of privatization will fall disproportionately on communities of color; and

WHEREAS a public discussion of federal privatization will bring to light issues of importance to all workers as well as to the general public, making it urgent to educate the media, legislators and the public about privatization; and

WHEREAS Congressman Jim McDermott will be moderating a congressional inquiry into federal privatization entitled, "Should Government Go Private? How Will It Affect You?" to be held Tuesday, July 1st, 5:00 – 7:00 P.M. at the Seattle Labor Temple, to include panels giving testimony on the plight of the worker, the effect on the public and whether a privatized government will be economically efficient; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will help coordinate, publicize, attend and/or participate in this congressional inquiry on July 1, 2003.

**Resolution supporting investment in domestic capacity - Adopted 7/16/03**

WHEREAS the future of our workers in high technology and engineering fields is dependent on four things: (1) investment in domestic capacity — especially in local jobs

and the local workers who want these jobs; (2) continuation of a strong U.S. technological knowledge base and skilled workforce; (3) protection of our labor and environmental laws from challenge by other countries through the World; and Trade Organization and other free-trade bodies; and (4) increased awareness by all workers in every country of the effects of economic globalization on their domestic economy and culture; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council supports the following:

- Education of our workforce about the effects of economic globalization, including the exportation of jobs and the practice of importing workers, which further pits worker against worker, reduces wages, and undercuts collective action.
- Inclusion of workers and their organizations at all levels in the dialogue and decisions about economic globalization.
- Creation of union-to-union, worker-to-worker, and union-to-company dialogue, both in the United States and elsewhere, about the issues of globalization and offshoring.
- Strengthening of legislative protections for workers, our environment, and our communities and challenging legislation that protects corporations who are undercutting the domestic economy with offshore/outsourcing practices.
- Strengthening of social safety nets for all people in the United States.
- Raising awareness that corporations that benefit from our national policy and local and state tax laws owe a reciprocal obligation to invest in domestic capacity. It is just plain wrong to tax people, and use that tax money to throw those people out of work.
- Rights for all workers, and especially our high-technology and engineering constituents, to organize for their benefit as workers in the United States.
- A prohibition of the offshoring of government jobs, either directly or through outsourcing agencies or consulting firms.

**Resolution supporting UNITE's campaign for workers' rights at Cintas Corp. - Adopted 7/16/03**

WHEREAS labor councils and unions around the country have fought to support good jobs in the uniform industry by demanding that uniforms be produced under non-sweatshop conditions; and

WHEREAS many uniforms and other textile goods used by unionized employers are laundered in industrial laundry facilities, where workers often face similar sweatshop conditions and union-busting; and

WHEREAS the employees of Cintas Corporation are seeking to organize a union for better pay and benefits, decent working conditions, and respect on the job, and Cintas Corporation has responded with illegal threats, intimidation and retaliation; and

WHEREAS Cintas Corporation, the largest company in the uniform and laundry industry, has been charged with violating the rights of its employees across the U.S. and Canada, and has been found guilty of discrimination and cited and fined numerous times for failure to pay minimum wage and overtime; and

WHEREAS the Cintas Corporation has a long record of anti-union behavior, including closing acquired union shops, dozens of union decertification petitions and votes such as one that was thrown out by the Administrative Law Judge who said Cintas had "embarked upon an extensive campaign of unlawful conduct plainly calculated to get rid

of the union,” and other events that have hurt many unions, and that, if allowed to continue, pose a threat to the entire labor movement; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will continue to call upon all affiliates to encourage their members and employers (using their managerial discretion) to procure only uniforms that are manufactured by workers who earn decent wages and benefits and whose rights to organize a union free from intimidation, threats and interference; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will help Cintas workers’ efforts to organize a union; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council calls on all its affiliates to encourage their members and employers (using their managerial discretion) not to purchase uniforms or laundry services from Cintas Corporation and not to renew any contracts with Cintas until the company demonstrates that it will respect the right of its employees to organize a union free from intimidation, threats and interference.

### **Resolution supporting the Equal Benefits Ordinance - Adopted 7/16/03**

WHEREAS many working families include domestic partners; and

WHEREAS an Equal Benefits Ordinance requires governmental contractors who offer spousal benefits to their employees to offer domestic-partner benefits on the same basis; and

WHEREAS several cities, including Seattle and San Francisco, have passed an Equal Benefits Ordinance; and

WHEREAS the King County Labor Council supported passage of the Equal Benefits Ordinance when it came before the Seattle City Council; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council encourages the Metropolitan King County Council to pass an Equal Benefits Ordinance.

### **Resolution supporting the December 10, 2003 National Day of Action/World Human Rights Day - Adopted 8/6/03**

WHEREAS individual workers do not have the power to negotiate labor contracts and must have collective bargaining rights to meet the power of corporations, as understood by the Supreme Court in 1937 when they ruled that the National Labor Relations Act was constitutional, recognizing in their decision that, “...a single employee was helpless in dealing with an employer, that he was dependent ordinarily on his daily wage for the maintenance of himself and his family; that if the employer refused to pay him the wages he thought fair, he was nevertheless unable to leave the employ and resist arbitrary and unfair treatment,” and therefore, that, “...union is essential to give laborers opportunity to deal on an equality with their employer.” (Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Evan Hughes); and

WHEREAS in the United States fewer than 9% of private sector workers and less than 37% of public workers are covered by collective bargaining agreements; while in every other industrial democracy in the world rates of unionization are at least two times greater for both the private and public sectors; and

WHEREAS contracts in this country should not be for the protection of the rich and famous alone, like CEOs and professional athletes; and

WHEREAS the collapse of collective bargaining in the United States is practically a secret, making it necessary to bring this crisis into the open, shed light on it, and initiate a public debate on how to fix it, beginning in our workplaces with our members; and WHEREAS the ability of union locals to bargain effectively depends largely on the percentage of employees represented in the workplace; therefore be it RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council (KCLC) urges all affiliate unions to implement a program for member education on collective bargaining rights that covers officers, stewards, activists and members; and be it further RESOLVED that the KCLC will support federal and state legislative initiatives to bring back collective bargaining rights, working with our allies and coalition partners like central labor bodies and Jobs with Justice; and be it further RESOLVED that the KCLC will enlist from elected officials and candidates public support for collective bargaining for all private sector and federal workers (in the tradition of FDR when he said, "If I were a factory worker the first thing I would do is join a union"); and be it finally RESOLVED that the KCLC will assist in organizing and participate in A National Day of Action on December 10, 2003, World Human Rights Day, in order to bring attention to the crisis of collective bargaining in the United States.

**Resolution supporting the 2003 March to Miami in opposition to the FTAA - Adopted 9/3/03**

WHEREAS the National AFL-CIO has adopted strong resolutions against extending the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) model to the rest of the hemisphere via the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA); and WHEREAS the National AFL-CIO has issued an "FTAA Call to Action," co-signed by dozens of allied groups calling on trade unionists and their allies to "join thousands of people in Miami... on November 19-21 to say yes to fair trade policies and no to the FTAA;" and WHEREAS over 3 million American jobs have been lost to Trade Agreements, over 700,000 attributed solely to NAFTA, with 25,000 of those lost jobs in Washington State alone; and WHEREAS the loss of jobs has also increased exploitation of foreign workers and devastation of the environment; and WHEREAS "Fast Track" negotiating authority allows the U.S. President to push the FTAA through Congress with limited debate and no amendments; and WHEREAS the United Steelworkers of America, the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment and coalition partners are organizing an education event on September 26, and a march and rally in Seattle on September 27, 2003, which begins the March to Miami Mobilization; be it therefore RESOLVED that KCLC calls upon Washington labor bodies to energetically oppose the FTAA and adopt a resolution against the FTAA; and be it further RESOLVED that KCLC urges our congressional representatives to reject the FTAA and work for fair trade agreements that raise labor and environmental standards; and be it finally

RESOLVED that KCLC supports activities and promotes participation in the scheduled March to Miami events protesting FTAA, including the events planned in Seattle on September 26 and 27, 2003.

**Resolution supporting the boycott of World Bank Bonds - Adopted 9/17/03**

WHEREAS corporate globalization has undermined democracy and lowered living standards for working families in the United States and throughout the world; and WHEREAS together with the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, the World Bank is a principal architect and enforcer of corporate globalization; and

WHEREAS the World Bank pushes developing countries to restructure their economies for the benefit of transnational corporations and foreign investors, and to produce for export to the United States, rather than producing for the needs of the majority of the population; and

WHEREAS the World Bank does not respect the rights of working people to organize, and refuses to respect the internationally recognized core labor standards of freedom of association and the right to engage in collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS the World Bank imposes a narrowly defined, export-led growth model on Third World countries so they can earn hard currency to make payments on foreign debts. To achieve this increase in exports, structural adjustment policies are imposed that include slashing public spending, increasing interest rates to exorbitant levels, deregulating markets, devaluing currencies and reducing existing labor protections. The impact on workers and their families is devastating. Workers face massive layoffs and wage cuts, while prices of basics, such as food, housing, energy and transportation, skyrocket; and WHEREAS structural adjustment policies worsen U.S. trade deficits, leading to the loss of solid family-supporting jobs while driving down the already abysmally low wages of workers living in the developing nations. Requirements that Third World countries deregulate and eliminate "barriers" to foreign investment pit poor countries and workers against each other in competition to attract foreign companies. This, in effect, leads to a race to the bottom in wages, working conditions and environmental standards as well as a loss of approximately one million U.S. jobs annually; and

WHEREAS the World Bank aggressively promotes privatization, including privatization of basic public services such as education, health care, water and public pension systems like our Social Security system; and

WHEREAS by keeping the governments of low-income countries dependent on new infusions of capital from high-income countries, the World Bank has reinforced an "external allegiance" of these governments, making them more accountable to World Bank managers than to their own people, thereby diminishing any real chance of meaningful development or democracy in these countries; and

WHEREAS the World Bank operates in a secretive fashion and is accountable neither to the taxpayers who fund it nor to the citizens of debtor countries who are subjected to its policies; and

WHEREAS 80% of the resources controlled by the World Bank come from the sale of World Bank bonds to institutional investors, including pension funds, and these resources are used to carry out the aforementioned destructive policies; and

WHEREAS the World Bank has pressured developing countries to privatize public water systems and to increase costs of drinking water for poor consumers, causing people to lose access to clean drinking water, and thus becoming more susceptible to the waterborne diseases that kill 2 million children each year, and forcing women and children, who bear most of the costs of daily household chores, to travel farther and work harder to collect water; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will not purchase bonds issued by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank) or invest money in any investment fund that holds World Bank bonds; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council go to the Seattle City Council with a coalition of community allies to encourage the City Council to adopt a similar resolution; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will communicate its support for the boycott of World Bank bonds to its affiliates, the Washington State Labor Council and the National AFL-CIO and encourage them all to sign on to the boycott.

### **Resolution supporting public ownership, operation and maintenance of the Green Line monorail - Adopted 9/17/03**

WHEREAS the Seattle Popular Monorail Authority interim board voted in December 2002 to adopt the DBOM (Design-Build-Operate-Maintain) procurement method, under which operation and maintenance of the voter-approved Green Line monorail could be contracted out to private companies; and

WHEREAS the Seattle Popular Monorail Authority Board of Directors has indicated its intention to give further consideration to the issue of contracting out prior to making a final decision; and

WHEREAS mass transit service in Seattle has been provided by unionized public workers since 1919, when the private streetcar system was taken over by the City of Seattle due to poor service, lax safety standards, deferred investments and frequent labor disputes; and

WHEREAS experience shows that contracting out of mass transit is generally accompanied by substandard wages and benefits, high turnover and reduced quality of service; and

WHEREAS our community needs to preserve and create high quality, living wage jobs; and

WHEREAS experience shows that the public's interest in safe, high quality, low cost service is best served by a publicly operated transit system; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council declares its support for public ownership, operation and maintenance of the Green Line monorail; and be it further

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council will work with interested affiliates to build support for public operation of the Green Line monorail based on policies that prioritize safe, efficient, low cost and quality service, fair working conditions and maximum economic benefit to the people of Seattle and King County.

### **Resolution supporting the November 16th SOA Watch action in Tacoma - Adopted 11/5/03**

WHEREAS the School of the Americas (SOA), recently renamed the Western

Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC), has for decades graduated Latin American military personnel proved to be subsequently linked to “terror, torture, dictatorships and lawlessness” (p. 120 of *School of Assassins* by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, who holds a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York); and

WHEREAS the current U.S. administration has declared a permanent War on Terrorism; and

WHEREAS the continued funding for and operation of an institution dedicated to training agents of state terrorism constitutes an extreme contradiction to stated national policy in opposition to terrorism; and

WHEREAS we, as educators, are ethically bound to uphold justice, human rights, truth, freedom and genuine democracy and, consequently, obliged to denounce violations of these principles; and

WHEREAS we feel the weight of responsibility for policies funded by our tax dollars that result in the repression, and in countless instances the death, of our fellow teachers, students, clergy, workers, union activists and peasants in other countries; and

WHEREAS the main thrust of the SOA/WHISC curriculum is anti-civilian warfare and the suppression of dissent, which also has clear domestic implications with regard to the proposed implementation of the Patriot Act; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the King County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, does hereby endorse and strongly support the action planned for 10:00 A.M. on November 16th at Portland Avenue Park in Tacoma called by SOA Watch to repudiate the existence of the SOA/WHISC and demand its immediate closure.