

On Saturday, May 8, 2010 The 75 Anniversary of The WPA

**Bus Drivers! Monitors! Teamsters! Mechanics! Get on the Bus! for the  
MAY 8 WASHINGTON D.C. JOBS PROTEST TO DEMAND:**

## **A REAL JOBS PROGRAM NOW! THE RIGHT TO A JOB FOR ALL!**

**... AND, STRATEGIZE ABOUT HOW WE CAN WIN THESE DEMANDS**

**USW Local 8751's membership voted to provide ½ of the bus ticket price for all members to the May 8<sup>th</sup> March on Washington. See your Chief Steward in the yards to sign up. Busses leave Roxbury Community College at 10:00 PM on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, and return after the march.**

Dear friends,

On May 8, 2010 unemployed people, youth, labor and community activists from all over the country will gather in Washington D.C. to tell the government that today's jobless crisis is as bad as it was 75 years ago -- when the unemployed demanded and won a public jobs program.

At 12 noon on May 8, there will be a **"RALLY FOR THE RIGHT TO A JOB" IN FRONT OF THE U.S. LABOR DEPT.** Afterwards, activists will meet and **STRATEGIZE ABOUT HOW TO WIN THAT RIGHT.**

**PLEASE JOIN US HERE IN BOSTON ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21 FOR A PLANNING AND MOBILIZING MEETING, where we will strategize on how to bring as many workers, including unemployed and immigrant workers, community activists and youth to Washington on May 8, as well as plan how to strengthen the struggle for Jobs or Income Now right here in Massachusetts. The meeting will occur at 6:30 P.M. at the ACTION CENTER, 284 AMORY STREET, JAMAICA PLAIN, MA (for info call Bail Out the People Movement at 617-522-6626, bopmboston@gmail.com, bopm-boston.blogspot.com)**

On May 6, 1935, Pres. Roosevelt signed executive order 7034 creating the largest public works program in history. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) created 8.5 million jobs during the Depression of the 1930s.

For all who are concerned with real economic and social justice, the 75th anniversary of the WPA provides a powerful historical reference point to speak truth to power.

No truth is more evident today than that the unemployed, the underemployed and all who must work for a living need a WPA-type jobs program that is at least as big, if not bigger, than the WPA of the 1930s. There are upwards of 30 million unemployed and underemployed workers in the country right now. The real unemployment rate is close to 20 percent in most of the country, and amongst young African Americans and Latinos/as, the jobless rate is more than 50% according to the New York Times. Without a real jobs program, many young workers of color, as well as young workers in general, may never have a job.

The small jobs bill that Congress passed recently, merely promises tax incentives to businesses that hire new workers. No one really believes that tax incentives or other trickle down half-measures are really going to put a dent in the unemployment rate.

The time has come to establish that everyone has a human right to a living-wage job. Martin Luther King Jr. devoted the last year of his life to fighting for such a right.

Let no one insist that it is pointless to fight for jobs because there's no money for a jobs program. Budget deficits didn't prevent the multi-trillion dollar bail out of Wall St., or the more than one trillion dollars (and growing) spent on wars over the past decade.

The worst global economic crisis in 80 years -- coupled with globalization, and an economy based on putting profits and greed over social need -- has brought the issue of employment to a historical turning point. Depression-level unemployment and underemployment has become a permanent feature of the economy. The new reality of permanent high joblessness not only affects the growing millions who cannot find a job, it undermines all workers who are struggling against low wages, cutbacks, and for the right to organize.

By far, the most essential lesson of the WPA is that it took a massive fight-back, including the organization of the unemployed, to demonstrate to the powers that be that there would be no social peace unless there was some social justice.



**School Bus Drivers from San Francisco, whose members of the United Transportation Union (UTU) Local 1741 work for First Student, at March 4, 2010, demonstration for Jobs and Education. <http://www.sfschoolbus.com/>**

With your support and active participation, together we can turn the anniversary of the WPA into the launching of what Dr. King called the next civil rights movement, a movement for the right to a job.

The Bail Out the People Movement, one of the coalitions working on a national level for a public jobs program, is the initiator of the May 8 protest for jobs. More organizations and activists are coming on board every day.

**Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Action Center at 6:30 P.M.**

**Together, we can win Jobs or Income NOW!**

**In Solidarity and Struggle,**

**Chuck Turner, Boston City Councilor**

**Frantz Mendes, President, USW 8751, Boston School Bus Drivers Union**

**Sandra McIntosh, Coalition for Equal Quality Education**

**Mahtowin Munro, Co-Leader, United American Indians of New England**

**Claude "Toutou" St. Germain, Coordinator, Fanmi Lavalas Movement, Boston**

**Phebe Eckfeldt, Women's Fightback Network, Harvard Clerical and Technical Workers Union**

**Miya Campbell, FIST Youth (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together)**

**Bishop Filipe Teixeira, OFSJC, Diocese of St. Francis of Assisi, CCA**