



Spirit of '46 – Breaking New Ground Rally and March on Parliament Hill – May 1, 2011

**Provide a New Direction for the Economy!
Hold Governments Accountable to the People!**

TAKE UP THE WORK TO CHANGE THE SITUATION!

**– Presentation by Rolf Gerstenberger, President, USW Local 1005 –
Stop Harper!**

The Harper government is the worst since 1945. His government has no respect for the post-war norms that established a certain equilibrium in society between the working class and monopolies. Every aspect of life is tilted towards serving big business including annexation of Canada to the U.S. Empire. The Harper regime and similar ones in Quebec and the provinces have no respect for the rights of Canadians, let alone recognize their sovereign right to decide their own affairs. The Harper regime must be stopped!

Today, the Harper government and others are annexing not only the economy but even government ministries, the armed forces and border agencies into a United States of North American monopolies and their wars of aggression and occupation. USW Local 1005 calls on workers across the country and in Quebec to take up the work to change the situation through your own efforts, no matter which party or combination of parties forms the next government!

A New Direction for the Economy! Who Decides? We Decide!

Mills and factories across the country such as AbitibiBowater and the former Stelco are wasting away not providing livelihoods and not producing value. A new direction is required for the economy. Canadians have a direct stake in this economy. It is theirs. It should not and does not belong to the global monopolies to serve their narrow interests. The economy should not be their prerogative to wreck, move, develop or refuse to develop at their short-sighted egotistical whim. The Canadian economy needs a new direction based on self-reliance, manufacturing, social responsibility and control by those who actually work and live here. Canada has all the necessary raw material and human factor for an all-sided dynamic economy that is free from the business cycle and its recurring crises, an economy that can guarantee the rights of all and provide a future for our youth and security for our seniors, an economy that serves the people not the narrow interests of the monopolies. For such an economy to flourish, governments must uphold public right not monopoly right and be accountable to the people!

Manufacturing Yes, Nation-Wrecking No! Our Resources Stay Here!

The destruction of manufacturing and sell-out of our resources is nation-wrecking, which we oppose. Across Canada in all sectors of the economy, workers and their families are facing similar situations of insecurity. This should not be the case. Workers create the wealth society depends on for its living. In return for our work, we should receive the wages, working conditions and security of livelihoods and retirement we deserve but that does not happen because the wealth we create is siphoned off to pay the rich. We have to turn that situation around! The working class creators of wealth and providers of services must have first claim on what they produce and governments must guarantee that in practice!

During the last decade, Canada has suffered unprecedented wrecking of manufacturing. Examples of this abound throughout the country such as the anti-social anti-worker restructuring in the forest and auto sectors, the direct attacks on railcar building in Nova Scotia and Ontario, the liquidation of Electrolux in Quebec, the demise of Nortel, restructuring of AbitibiBowater and the list goes on and on in every province. Wrecking of manufacturing directly reduces available livelihoods and wealth. Less revenue is available for social programs and public services, which further fuels the anti-social hysteria about government debt and deficits. We say manufacturing yes nation-wrecking no and governments are accountable to make that happen.

The Right to Quality Public Services

This demonstration on May First is also held to issue a *cease and desist* order on the attacks on public sector workers. Cease and desist these attacks on postal workers, transit workers, garbage renewal workers, teachers, healthcare workers and government employees. Cease and desist these attacks; they are not just attacks on fellow workers; they are attacks on the quality public services and social programs Canadians deserve and need in a modern society. Government abuse of the collective rights of workers to bargain in good faith for wages, benefits, pensions and working conditions acceptable to their peers, such as the Ontario government's criminalisation of TTC workers'

right to strike, is not only disrespectful of public workers but is also an assault on the right to quality public services and by extension, on the very conception of society and nation-building. It is nation-wrecking.

The right to quality public services and social programs, and giving due respect to public employees and their rights are connected with the need to set a new direction for the economy, to reverse the neoliberal trend of privatization, to increase investments in public services and social programs, and stop paying the rich. Public money must be invested in public services with work carried out by public enterprise. Public money and assets must not be used to expand the power and wealth of the rich and their monopolies.

The Right to Canadian-Standard Pensions for All!

Our demonstration on May First also demands that governments guarantee pensions for all according to a Canadian standard. A strengthened CPP and QPP are the best institutions at this time to begin this task. It is outrageous that the global monopolies can simply abdicate their social responsibilities towards their defined-benefit pensions and pass the burden of the economic crisis onto active and retired workers such as at Nortel, AbitibiBowater, Vale, the big auto companies, U.S. Steel etc. It is even more outrageous that governments refuse to hold these monopolies to account in full for their pension responsibilities! This is also the case in the public sector where the pensions of public workers are under threat from the same neoliberal agenda to smash rights and social programs. It is shameful that governments themselves are leading the charge to dismantle public pensions. This must not pass! Defend the pensions we have! Fight for pensions for all!

Public Right, Yes! Monopoly Right, No!

A neoliberal fantasy is that the usurpation of power by powerful monopoly interests will continue forever based on the self-serving denial of the rich that our society is highly socialized, interconnected and interdependent. As a people, we must find ways to work and live in social solidarity, to harmonize peacefully the diverse interests of individuals, their collectives and those of society generally. Presently, one small privileged section of the population uses its wealth, positions of power and ownership of global property to exercise dictatorial authority. That is unacceptable and must change.

The Need to Change the Situation

USW Local 1005 says that the situation will not change on its own; something must be done to change it. On this May First we call on everyone to demand that whatever government is elected must uphold public right, not monopoly "right"; the government must provide the rights of workers, seniors and youth with proper guarantees. Experience shows that unless workers directly fight for a program that favours them, things become worse. Any misguided idea that those who are not our peers and do not have to live with our working conditions, wages and pensions will "give" us a break and guarantee our security is a delusion we should put to rest.

Let us together break new ground in the fight to defend the rights of all and provide a new direction for the economy! Take Up the Work to Change the Situation!

Stop Harper!

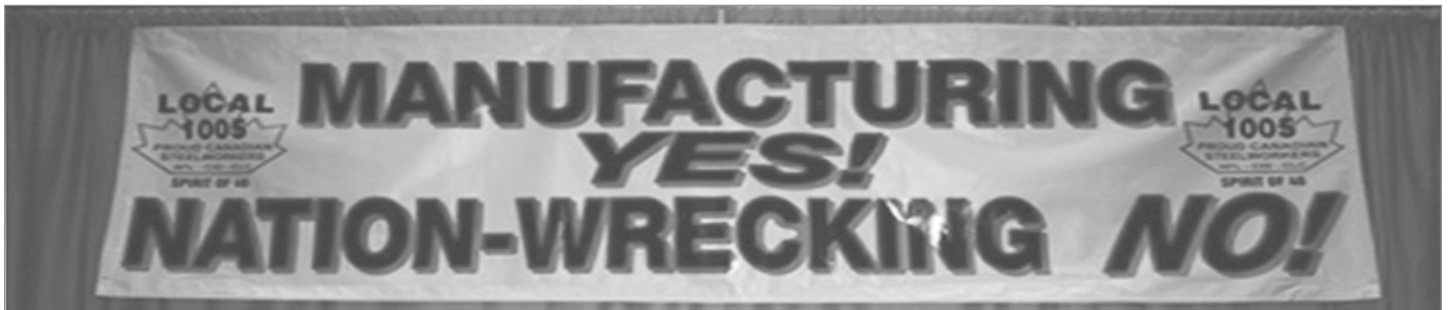
Manufacturing Yes! Nation-Wrecking No!

Hands off our public services and assets! No to privatization!

Canadian-standard pensions for all! Strengthen the CPP/QPP!

Public Right Yes! Monopoly Right No!

Hold Governments Accountable to the People!



**To contact USW Local 1005: Call 905-547-1417 or e-mail info@uswa1005.ca
Visit the website: www.uswa1005.ca**