

NATIONAL JOBS FOR ALL COALITION

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Dear Friend:

Inequality and economic insecurity threaten too many Americans. You, too, must be outraged by a government that enriches the wealthy and turns the American Dream into a *bad* dream—of eroded pension and health benefits, exported jobs, stagnant wages. . . .

2006: Advocating the Coalition's Core Goal--Living Wage Jobs for All. Full Employment is a major route to economic and social justice. **We dedicate our 2006 Drive for Decent Work to Sumner Rosen, vice chair and co-founder of the Coalition whose death this August is an incalculable loss to the cause of full employment--** which he called *the worker's best friend*. Not long before his death, Sumner had this to say about decent work, the current goal of the International Labour Organization (of the United Nations):

The central principle is "Decent Work"; it is clear, practical, difficult but achievable. It lays the groundwork for a global economy that will deserve to be called one of the great historic achievements, a renaissance worthy of the highest praise that history and humanity can provide.

Under the leadership of our new Vice Chair and Legislative Director Chuck Bell, the Coalition prepared *Government for the People: A Call to Reinvest in America and Create Living Wage Jobs for All*. In this document (available on our website early in 2006), we:

- Analyze the country's "double deficits"—*in living-wage jobs and in public goods and services*—in bridges, roads, schools, affordable housing, health care These "double deficits" are tragically highlighted by the Katrina disaster.
- Identify all pending job creation legislation in the U.S. Congress. Together, these bills would create about 7 million jobs!
- Establish *Principles for Sustainable and Popular Public Job Creation*
- Propose the *21st Century Public Investment Bill* that will establish:
 1. A *Public Investment Fund (PIF)* to address unmet social needs for services such as education, recreation, child, elder and health care; and
 2. A federal *Public Works Authority* to provide long-term funding and supervision for high priority public projects—such as housing, transportation, bridges, roads, environmental restoration—not currently funded by other branches of government. .

You will soon receive the stirring Preamble to *Government for the People: A Call to Reinvest in America and Create Living Wage Jobs for All*. We will urge you to sign onto this **Drive for Decent Work** and to recruit others. The Drive, of course, needs your dollars!

2005 Continued See Enclosed Report of Ongoing Projects for Fuller Descriptions

Social Security and Decent Work: A Pause in the Battle. The *2005 Report* explains why the Coalition must continue to teach the public how vital Social Security is for all and to debunk the phony financial shortfall that opens the door to further attack and cutback. We point out that Social Security is our mainstay when we and our breadwinners cease to work--particularly as pension rights crumble with the regularity of the daily news.

The Real Security Project: Outreach to the Faith Community. *The Permanent War Economy: Real Security or False Promise*—our Church Bulletin insert—was distributed by the National Council of Churches to its database of about 200,000—a significant proportion of the entire progressive religious leadership in the United States.

No More Katrinas: Keep Score on Recovery and America's Future. The enclosed Katrina checklist includes a set of principles for recovery in the hurricane devastated Gulf Area. It was distributed at the Justice after Katrina Rally in Jackson Mississippi and New Orleans on December 9-10. Bill Quigley, lawyer and human rights activist and one of the leading advocates for Katrina survivors, writes:

*The Coalition's Katrina checklist really helps focus attention on the underlying economic justice problems that contributed to the devastation of Katrina and are holding back an ethical and just rebuilding of the Gulf Coast community. **Had there been full employment at living wages in New Orleans, many of those left behind could have evacuated. If there was full employment at living wages now, most people could come back instead of being scattered across the country in temporary housing. The Checklist of the National Jobs for All Coalition is a great tool for people interested in learning more about and acting for real social and economic justice.***

Our Wonderful Website--maintained by economist June Zaccone—is much-used and much-praised. In March, the Social Security Quiz was the *Featured Weekly Item* of the Electronic Policy Network. Our monthly Employment Report will add a Full Employment Index to the unemployment analysis which heads the NJFAC *Hit List*, along with the Social Security Quiz, especially the Spanish interactive version. We got plaudits from the staff of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and this from musician/social activist Ray Korona: “You have one of the very best sites covering Social Security that I've seen anywhere” This is an invaluable resource. Visit often: <http://www.njfac.org>.

Can you believe? Volunteers do almost all the Coalition's work. With your generous financial contribution and active participation we could do so much more to advocate effectively for living wage jobs for all! **Honor the memory of a tireless and brilliant advocate for full employment by contributing to the Sumner Rosen Memorial Drive for Decent Work.**

Sincerely yours,

Trudy Goldberg

Trudy Goldberg, Chair