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## **UFCW Local 2 Ratifies New Cargill Contract**

Cargill workers represented by UFCW Local 2 ratified a new agreement on May 26th. The contract covers over 2,500 members at the plant and secures solid increases in benefits that will improve working conditions over the next five years. Members negotiated for \$.55 increase up front with \$1.60 over the course of the contract. Improvements also included better insurance benefits as well as pension increases.

Recognizing the plant's diversity and the fact that many of the workers have family in other countries, bereavement language was adjusted so that workers who cannot travel home to be with their families in a time of loss still receive bereavement benefits. **OP**

## **UFCW Remembers Former IVP Richard Perry**



The UFCW mourns the loss of former International Vice President Richard J. Perry and remembers his years of service and dedication. Perry was 80 when he passed away on Sunday, May 29, 2011.

Perry began his union career as a representative for the Retail Clerks Local 770 in Los Angeles. Perry was later promoted to the International Union, where he headed up the Professional Division in Washington, D.C. He was elected an International Vice President of the Retail Clerks and when his union merged with the Amalgamated Meat Cutters, Perry became one of first

African-American vice-presidents in UFCW's history.

Perry carried a deep commitment to union solidarity throughout his career. He took pride in the hard work of UFCW members and worked to enhance the public appreciation of the quality and value represented by products and services carrying the union label. Upon his retirement from the UFCW, Perry became the Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Label and Service Trades Department of the AFL-CIO. His years of commitment to UFCW members and working families will not be forgotten. **OP**

## **UFCW Locals Expose Walmart Political Contributions**

On Friday, UFCW Locals across the country along with allies at Jobs with Justice met with elected officials and called on Walmart to be transparent about its political giving. Participating UFCW Locals included Local 1445, 324, 770, 1776, 881, 555, 1564, 21, 23, 2, 7R, 5, 648, 1439, and 152.

UFCW Locals presented officials with a new report from Walmart Watch examining the political expenditures of Walmart's political action committee, Walmart Stores Inc. PAC for Responsible Government, which makes contributions to candidates and other political action committees at multiple levels of government. While companies are not permitted to contribute directly to candidates at the federal level and thus act through political action committees, they are able to contribute in state elections, an opportunity Walmart regularly seizes. Additionally, the report analyzes the campaign spending of the Walton family.

Primary findings include:

- Walmart's PAC and the Walton family continue to give overwhelmingly to the GOP.
- The primary area of increasing support for Democratic Party candidates is among conservative Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

- Blue Dog Coalition Democrats and members of the Tea Party are overrepresented in Walmart PAC political giving while Progressive Caucus Democrats are significantly under represented.
- Democrats supported by Walmart were much more likely to oppose key elements of President Obama's political agenda.
- At the state level, the company and family further wield their vast resources to undermine the interests of Walmart's core customers (working families) and associates. **OP**

## Protesters Turn Wisconsin Capitol into "Walkerville"

Protesters have once again descended on the capitol in Madison, Wisconsin, setting up a community of tents aptly named, "Walkerville" to protest Walker's anti-worker agenda.



Protesters began setting up the tents on June 4. Around 100 tents and 250 campers have been set up around the capitol building to protest Governor Scott Walker and the legality of his anti-worker legislation attacking the collective bargaining rights of public employees.

"Walkerville is a place for families to come together and to stand up for what we believe is right, which is restoring justice, restoring our democracy and working together to achieve a fair economy for all of us," said Stephanie Bloomingdale, Secretary-Treasurer for the Wisconsin AFL-CIO.

Each day the protesters will highlight a different group

of workers being attacked by the budget cuts. The demonstrations began on Sunday, June 5, with a spotlight on the planned \$800 million cuts to K-12 education, which also affects the University of Wisconsin. All this comes right after the Joint Finance Committee approved tax cuts for manufacturers that will cost the state \$128 million a year. On Monday, focus shifted to how this law is affecting firemen, sanitation workers and other public services.

The protesters have a permit to stay until June 20, although they intend to stay there as long as the budget negotiations continue. **OP**

