

Remarks by
IAM International President R. Thomas Buffenbarger
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September 15, 2009

JOBS Now! Resolution

I rise in support of the JOBS Now! resolution.

Over 30,000 Machinists Union members have been laid off in the last ten months. Many of our sister unions were hit even harder.

America now has 29.7 million unemployed workers ... involuntary part-time workers ... or workers who want a job but cannot find one.

Just in the last four months, another 900,000 Americans simply gave up looking for a job.

Never before, NEVER BEFORE, have 31 million Americans been idled to this degree.

Not in Reagan's Recession of 1981.

Not in Hoover's Depression of 1929.

Only as a result of Bush's Financial Fiascos of 2008 have so many become jobless.

THIRTY-ONE MILLION American workers --- union and non-union alike --- are hurting, hurting like they never have before.

THIRTY-ONE MILLION need JOBS Now!

THIRTY-ONE MILLION Americans need a second stimulus package.

A second, targeted stimulus package aimed at our manufacturing, construction and transportation sectors can create JOBS NOW!

New policies designed to re-ignite the engines of growth can generate
JOBS NOW!

Our resolutions explain how we, as a Nation, can do that.

Sisters and Brothers, if we are all talk and no action, then those
THIRTY-ONE MILLION Americans will be even worse off next year
than this year.

Their brightest **HOPE** will turn into deep, dark **DESPAIR**.

So **JOBS Now!** must become our initiative, our issue, our action
agenda and our clarion call.

When we are asked, “what does labor want?”

Our answer should be: **JOBS NOW!**
Let’s practice that.

Say it quietly.

JOBS NOW!

Louder!

JOBS NOW!

Louder still.

JOBS NOW!

Good. Now let me ask you this:

When 14.5 million Americans are laid off, what does labor want?

JOBS NOW!

When hundreds of thousands of auto, steel and communication
workers are laid off, what does labor want?

JOBS NOW!

When 9 million Americans are forced to work fewer hours each week, what does labor want?

JOBS NOW!

When thousands of teachers, firefighters, letter carriers, government and postal workers and state, county and municipal employees are furloughed for even few days each month, what does labor want?

JOBS NOW!

When tens of thousands of Plumbers, Painters, Sheetmetal and Iron Workers, Bricklayers and Electricians are sitting on the bench in hiring halls, what does labor want?

JOBS NOW!

And when Service Employees – yes, I said Service Employees -- Laborers, Teamsters, Food and Commercial or Farm Workers are out of work, what does labor want?

JOBS NOW!

So when 5.7 million Americans who want to work can't find a job, what does labor want?

JOBS NOW!

And when 900,000 Americans become so discouraged that they stop looking for work, what does labor want?

JOBS NOW!

Thank you, Mr. President. I urge adoption of the resolution.