

# The Township Democrat

The Official Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization

Volume 1, Issue 2

[www.winfielddems.org](http://www.winfielddems.org)

Spring 2007

## Conversations With the Township Chair

By Susan M. Lubonovich

WTDO Chair and Pct. 30 Committeeman

Welcome to the second issue of the Township Democrat, the Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization. As a Township, Winfield is indeed fortunate we are a Keystone Township, the nexus of three Congressional Districts (6th, 13th, 14th) and existing completely within the 48th State Senate, 95th State Representative and 6th County Board Districts.

This allows us Democrats, as individuals and as an organization, to stand solidly behind our Democratic candidates and work for their election. But, you may say, we have no Democratic candidates on a LOCAL level. We were competitive on a Congressional level, but not on a LOCAL level. And you would be absolutely correct. Other than Dirk Enger, co-founder of the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans and candidate for State Representative in the 95th, we had NO ONE in Winfield Township run for office who embodies the Democratic point of view. You could say, we are too small as a Township to field our own candidates, and you may be correct in this assumption.

Thus, it is up to the Winfield Democratic Township leadership to forge alliances with the Townships with which Winfield shares these Districts and vet appropriate candidates. But the upcoming Consolidated Elections, the completely LOCAL elections, are virtually uncontested. What does this say about us? Democracy is a muscle that needs to be exercised with great regularity or it stiffens and atrophies. These are our school boards, our library boards, our Township offices, our city and village

(See *Chair*, p. 4)

## Democracy Is Not A Spectator Sport!

John Laesch

Big Grove Township (Kendall County), Pct. 2 Committeeman

As a former intelligence analyst who served in the Middle East for most of my military career, I was alarmed when President Bush started rambling about "Weapons of Mass Destruction" in Iraq. Watching the nightmare unfold on CNN strengthened a recurring question in my mind, "where is the Democratic Party?"

As a recent graduate of Illinois State University in Bloomington, IL, I decided to Google some answers. Thankfully, the McLean County Democrats had built a website and I was able to write an e-mail and ask, "Where is the Democratic Party?"

The response to my question arrived in my inbox within a few days. "You are the Democratic Party." The E-mail went on to ask if I would volunteer locally or get involved in a campaign.

From this point onwards, there has been no pause button in my political career. From a presidential, congressional and city council campaigns to running for Congress, it has been a non-stop fight to take our government back for the American people. And while my own political future remains uncharted, there is one certainty that I wish to share with you.

Government is nothing more than a creation of our own thoughts and actions.

You are the Democratic Party and our country needs you right now.

If you are unhappy with the existing government then you have an obligation to

(See *Laesch*, p. 6)

## CALENDAR

APRIL 17

6AM-7PM

CONSOLIDATED

ELECTIONS

LOCAL POLLING

LOCATIONS

WTDO SPRING

BRUNCH FUNDRAISER

SPECIAL GUEST

(WATCH WEBSITE FOR

DETAILS)

Aug. 5

WTDO FAMILY PICNIC

BLACKWELL FOREST

PRESERVE

WATCH OUR WEBSITE

FOR SUMMER PARADE

INFO:

[WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG](http://WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG)

**"It is possible to read the history of this country as one long struggle to extend the liberties established in our Constitution to everyone in America."**

**Molly Ivins**

## West Chicago Election Notes

**By Doug May**

*Pct. 1 Committeeman*

There are few choices for voters in the Consolidated Election in West Chicago. In the Aldermanic races, there is only one candidate running in each ward. This could reflect satisfaction in the job that is being done by the City Council, or more likely, apathy on the part of the citizens. Running for even a local office requires a large commitment of time, and the current Alderman are pretty entrenched. In the previous election two years ago, it was the same situation with no competitive races.

This time however there is a choice for Mayor. Acting Mayor **Michael Kwasman** is running for election. An Alderman for six years, Kwasman was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Michael Fortner's election as State Representative. Kwasman has pledged to continue the "progress" made by the previous administration. Much of this progress consists of attempting to bring development to West Chicago, privatizing city services, and refusing to negotiate a contract with the city workers, forcing a strike late last year.

Another former Alderman, **Wayne Woodward**, is running for Mayor. He is running as an outsider, not part of the current power structure. Woodward served a term as Alderman from 1997-2001. He wants to make West Chicago a "better place for everyone" and feels that the needs of the older parts of the city should receive more attention. He would like to attract more "Big Box" stores to the city, so as to generate more sales tax revenue. He also feels that the city puts too many restrictions on developers, discouraging businesses from coming to West Chicago.

There are also elections for School, Library, and Park District boards, but at the time this was written the DuPage Election Commission had not posted the information on these races.

**"Democracy is not something you believe in or a place to hang your hat, but it is something you do. You participate. If you stop doing it, democracy crumbles."**

**Abbie Hoffman**

## Your Tax Cuts At Work

*Republicans Expose Themselves to Nation*

**By Barry Dredze**

*Pct. 18 Committeeman*

Do you eat?

On February 26, the Associated Press reported that the Food and Drug Administration now conducts half the food safety inspections it did three years ago.

Do you live on planet Earth?

On February 27, the Los Angeles Times reported cuts of "more than 225" jobs with the National Wildlife Refuge System which covers 547 refuges across nearly 100 million acres of various threatened habitats between fiscal 2004 and 2006, leaving some refuges with no management staff at all and where invasive plant species and unchecked development choke out wildlife habitat.

Do you feel secure with America's place in the world?

Also on February 27, the Associated Press reported that the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Peter Pace, upgraded the risk assessment from moderate to significant regarding military response capability.

Do you see a pattern here? Even the military, which should be the benefactor from our priority of war hysteria, is affected by the hands-off conservative approach to government in particular, and to the public interest in general.

The recent scandal over mistreatment of wounded troops at Walter Reed Hospital stems in large part in the controversy manufactured by "government is the problem" movement conservatives. Under the Clinton administration's "reinventing government" initiative, then-Vice President Al Gore commissioned a cost-comparison study of support services at Walter Reed where federal workers were compelled to compete with potential contractors regarding efficiency of performance functions. As the study concluded federal civilian employees superior the Bush administration was already in office, the bid was overturned by the Army Audit Agency and Halliburton offshoot IAP Worldwide Services was awarded a five year \$120 million contract. Privatization was and remains the priority of conservative Republican leadership.

A fiscal budget is hardly the most entertaining topic

(See **Budgets** , p.4 )

## **Labor News**

**By Doug May**

*Pct. 1 Committeeman*

### **Local Labor Council**

The North Central Illinois Labor Council recently elected Jerry Porter (Sheet Metal Workers Local 265) as President. Our Township Organization has enjoyed the support of the Council for many years, and we look forward to working with Jerry in the future, as Labor groups are expanding their efforts to elect worker-friendly candidates, both nationally and locally.

### **Labor 2006**

In the fall election season Labor played a huge role. In an unprecedented effort, the AFL-CIO committed far more resources into getting worker-friendly candidates elected than in recent memory. This was a nationwide effort, but locally, the goal was to elect Tammy Duckworth in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Organized Labor truly made this a competitive race in a hard core Republican district. We would have succeeded, had it not been for the vast sums of money spent by the Republicans on negative television ads and deceptive robo-calls. Nationally, we were able to help elect a Democratic House and Senate. The House has passed a much-needed minimum raise increase and promises more worker-friendly legislation in the future. It's encouraging to see a new attitude in Washington.

In Illinois, labor helped ensure a sweep of statewide elected officials. In addition the State House and Senate are firmly in the control of Democrats, with a veto-proof majority in the Senate. With the addition of two new suburban Democratic Senators, Michael Bond in Lake County and Linda Holmes in the Aurora area, suburban interests will have more of a voice downstate.

### **Employee Free Choice Act**

The House recently passed legislation that would simplify the process for joining or forming unions. Currently, the process requires holding an election under the supervision of the National Labor Relations Board. As the NLRB is appointed by the President, this current board ranks as probably the worst in history when it comes to workers rights. In addition, businesses are able to threaten and intimidate employees while the election is pending. The new legislation merely requires that employees sign up to form a union, and provides penalties for employers who interfere with the process. Not surprisingly, Representatives Hastert, Roskam and Biggert voted against a stronger voice for people in the workplace.

The bill faces a tough road ahead. Corporate tool Mitch McConnell (R-KY), has vowed a filibuster when the bill makes it to the Senate. In addition, the administration has promised a veto if it gets to the President. According to an AP report:

"But the White House, in a statement, said the measure "would

*(See Labor, p. 5)*

## **Winfield's Picture Becomes Clear**

**By Jed Skillman**

*Winfield Resident*

The days when Winfield was viewed as a fly-over village between Wheaton and West Chicago are over.

It should come as no news that the Village of Winfield is in the enviable position of becoming one of the most unique and delightfully non-trendy communities in the western suburbs. The Village has much to offer those seeking something other than a standard bedroom community with easy access to transportation. In addition to a broad mix of home styles and price ranges, the Village is characterized by much that is unique to Winfield.

We are surrounded by county forest preserves. There are trails for light hiking and cross-country skiing. There is a canoe launch into the West Branch of the DuPage River, and rumors persist of a few choice spots for sure fire catch-and-release bass fishing. Winfield is also on the Prairie Path bike trail and in the summer becomes a center for bike racing enthusiasts.

*(See Winfield, p. 6)*

**"...[T]o form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity...."**

**Preamble to the Constitution of the United States**

*(Budgets, cont'd from p. 2)*

of conversation, or reading material. But a fiscal budget is perhaps the best way to discover the priorities of those with the ways and means to spend money.

Consider the Estate Tax. Most of us are familiar with the Estate Tax, however, by the label preferred by Republicans as "the Death Tax." Inevitably we all experience the unfortunate loss of a loved one, and ultimately ourselves. So, it is reasonable for news about a Death Tax to get our attention. If we knew it as the Estate Tax, we might believe it has little to do with most of us. As it happens, this so-called Death Tax mainly affects those who are in the top two-tenths of the top one percent of the richest people in this country. For example, if the Estate ("Death") Tax is repealed, as the Bush administration's 2008 federal budget demands, the heirs to the Wal-Mart fortune would receive an estimated tax break of \$32.7 billion. To help pay for the Walton family's tax break, the Bush budget cuts Medicare by \$28 billion and drives up the health care costs of tens of millions of American families.

#### **Meanwhile, closer to home**

Reasons why the self-described fiscal conservatives who have dominated the DuPage County Board now face budget deficits as deep as \$50 million can and will be debated. Meanwhile, non-profit social service agencies will feel the pinch of subsequent budget cuts, while County Board Members enjoy a self-voted pay raise.

The Board plans to cut its contribution to Access DuPage in half. Since 2001 the partnership of area hospitals, physician and social service groups and county government, has served 11,700 low-income, medically uninsured residents in DuPage County. As the number of uninsured people rise, local hospital emergency rooms will endure the impact, to say nothing of preventative treatment programs that will fall away. The DuPage families, employers and others who depend on them will suffer too.

With six full-time and six part-time paid staff and dozens of volunteers, the DuPage County office of the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service is on the front line in the County's environmental management. The DuPage 2007 county budget also eliminates funding for the U. of I. Extension. Beside certification programs for arborists and pesticide applicators, and screening for invasive predators like the Asian longhorn beetle and recent infestation of the emerald ash borer, the Extension also supports twenty-five 4-H Clubs with about 400 youth members in DuPage County. One quarter to a third of the annual

DuPage County Fair's animal exhibits are 4-H Club member projects. While 4-H Clubs are operated by parents and other volunteers, the loss of the resources and administrative support from the Extension would likely mean the end of most clubs. Without county funding the Extension will lose matching state funds and must close its doors in compliance with the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. Meanwhile, an effort to enact the sin tax to offset the budget shortfall failed in Springfield, but nevertheless succeeds in illustrating the twisted priorities of the GOP at every level of civic authority with which it comes in contact.

*(Chair, cont'd from p. 1)*

councils. Where are we? Where is our voice? Look at who is representing us - some are now in the State Assembly who started out on a local school board.

So, what can an individual do to change his political environment? First, of course, is VOTE. Something, somewhere on your ballot is contested. Leave blank what or who you don't want and vote for what you do want. Become involved in your LOCAL Democratic Party. How? Become a Precinct Committeeman. This is Democracy at a fundamental grassroot level. This is an opportunity to talk and listen to your neighbors. In the recent General Election, every precinct in Winfield Township with a Precinct Committeeman did better than one that didn't. In the November Election, Winfield Township accomplished some historic firsts: we won four precincts outright; we won 16 precincts on a state constitutional office level; Lisa Madigan won every single precinct in Winfield Township - a complete first! Can't do that - then find out who your Precinct Committeeman is and offer to help. Ask how to become a Democratic Election Judge. And of course, there is the ultimate challenge - financial support of your LOCAL Democratic Party. Our Spring "Kick in for the Quarter" Campaign has started. And we need your help! The Website ([www.winfielddems.org](http://www.winfielddems.org)) isn't free, nor is the meeting room, nor the meeting notices, nor this Newsletter, The Township Democrat.

Support your LOCAL Democratic Organization. Help us build a stronger organization and elect some real representation on our local, Township and County Boards. Please mail your **contribution to the WTD at P.O. Box 224, Warrenville, IL 60555**

The Township needs you. The Repubs will not be defeated by rhetoric alone.

strip workers of the fundamental democratic right to a supervised private ballot election." Substituting a card check mechanism under which unions would get bargaining rights as soon as a majority of workers at a plant sign approval cards, "would turn back the clock 60 years and return us to a failed system." In a mid-February speech, Vice-President Dick Cheney explicitly stated that President Bush would veto the bill, stating that "our Administration rejects any attempt to short-circuit the rights of workers." Yes, this administration is all about workers rights.

### **Homeland Security? Not if it includes workers' rights**

From the AFL-CIO Blog:

"So, what's more important to President Bush—fighting terrorism or busting unions? You can come to your own conclusions, but, on Tuesday, the Bush White House said it would veto an anti-terrorism bill that includes many of the recommendations of the bipartisan 9-11 Commission if it includes a provision that grants collective bargaining rights to 43,000 airport screeners in the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

The usual lineup of anti-worker Republicans in the Senate also plan to gut TSA workers' freedom to have a voice on the job. As *The New York Times* reports:

In a letter sent Tuesday to the White House, Senator Jim DeMint, (R-SC), and 35 other Senate Republicans said they were prepared, if necessary, to sustain a veto.

In January, the House included the collective bargaining provision in the Sept. 11 bill and Senate Democrats added the pro-worker language to the Senate version when it passed out of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee last month.

The provision would repeal a portion of the 2002 Aviation and Transportation Security Act that gave the Bush administration the authority to end bargaining rights for TSA workers. In 2003, as TSA workers at several airports were readying to vote on joining the American Federation of Government Employees, the Bush administration, citing so-called "national security" concerns, terminated the screeners' collective bargaining rights." In this administration's view, unions are a larger threat than terrorists.

*Doug May is a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 825.*

are sworn enemies of affirmative action, equal employment opportunity, and minority business set-asides.

On a global level, during the Clinton administration, the Republican Congress did everything in its power to thwart U.S. aid to Mexico when it was in danger of economic default and bankruptcy. Finally, President Clinton and his economic advisors took Executive branch funds and made a loan to Mexico. Mexico was saved from bankruptcy, and the rest of the world was spared a kind of economic domino effect.

All we have from the current Republican administration is a mixture of corruption and incompetence that, among other things, is having the stunning effect of permitting New Orleans—a major city and a major economic and shipping center—to literally go under the waves.

Throughout the U.S. and in business-oriented DuPage county, business people cannot give the Republican party a free pass. Business people belong in the Democratic party, the party that works.

*Frank Malley is President of Clarity Creative Research, Inc.*

## **Bill Redmond Award for DuPage County Precinct Committeeman of the Year – 2006**

Every year, the Chairs from each of DuPage County's nine townships submit candidates for the DuPage County Democratic Party's Bill Redmond Award for Precinct Committeeman of the Year.

This year the Winfield Township Democratic Organization's own Ninth Precinct Committeeman, Walter "Wally" Kubon prevailed.

"This award is about our organization, not about me," Kubon said, noting that his multiple precinct efforts did include numerous direct visits with voters and a deliberate, well-planned Get Out the Vote program.

Congratulations Wally!

*(Winfield, Cont'd from p. 4)*

Homes in the older part of town commonly have roomy 1950s-size lots of ¼ acre or larger. Old growth trees tower over many homes. In most neighborhoods, wildlife is a common sight.

It is these elements that distinguish Winfield from other municipalities. In the last several years many residents have realized that with every bit of DuPage farmland lost, with every road widened, with every sardine-tight subdivision built, the things that Winfield offers become increasingly scarce commodities. Not much time will need to pass before this becomes apparent to the home-buying public. A Winfield address means something significant.

However, there is one condition to this: Winfield residents must stay vigilant, engaged and participatory.

We now have a Village administration that takes the protection of our environment and natural resources seriously. They passed a strengthened Tree Preservation Ordinance, and are in the process of crafting meaningful “tear down” guidelines. Public works and Village Hall are now being managed with professionalism. Village Police have stopped over-sized trucks from using Winfield streets to cut through to County Farm or Geneva Roads. Previous to the current administration there was no single map of Village water and sewer lines and no program of simple routine inspection. It was all “patch and fix”. And, for the first time in ten years, Village leaders have pulled finances out of the red and put them back in the plus column.

Let me say it again: For progress to continue, for momentum to build, for Winfield to become the kind of place we know can be, we Winfield residents must be alert. There are those who stand to profit handsomely if citizens go to sleep or become complacent.

The wooded and open land Winfield offers, especially in surrounding unincorporated areas, as well as the double and triple lots scattered in town will always make our Village a target of over-development. Winfield is our Village. We live here. It is not a lumber pile for somebody else to saw up and haul away.

Stay alert, stay aware, and help your elected officials do the job they were elected to do. When you see a job well done, thank them.

Oh, yes. And don't forget to vote.

*(Laesch, cont'd from p. 1)*

seek change through activism and involvement. The best way to find the Democratic Party is to look in the mirror.

The same wealthy and powerful special interest groups who are benefiting from the war in Iraq, a bad environmental policy, unfair trade agreements and a for-profit healthcare system will soon work their way into the pockets of the newly elected majority.

We can not rest simply because we changed a Republican majority to a Democratic majority. We must answer a higher calling: to change the system itself. The only way to remove special interest money from politics is to build a grassroots, bottom-up political organization that we can proudly call the Democratic Party. We will never truly have a government of, by, and for the people if people like you do not get involved.

Throughout my 2006 campaign for U.S. Congress, our T-shirts bore the statement, “Democracy is not a Spectator Sport.” Democracy is not a video game that you can play from your couch. Every one of us can make a difference by engaging our sphere of influence. People already trust your political opinion; they count on you to keep them abreast of what is going on in the world. You can take this to the next level by engaging people in your household, at work and in line at the supermarket.

I remember watching Michael Jordan take the Chicago Bulls to their first championship. When the score is tied and there are only 10 seconds left on the clock, winners like Jordan wanted the ball, worked for the shot and took home the championship.

If you are ready to work for change, the Winfield Township Democratic Organization (WTDO) is looking for you. I would like to invite you to attend the next WTDO Party meeting and join the proud Democrats who want change in our communities, Springfield and Washington. The WTDO meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM, at the Bowling Green Sports Complex, 30W150 Roosevelt Road, in West Chicago.

The fight for justice and equality did not begin with us and it will not end with us. It is simply our moment to step up, ask for the ball and take the winning shot.

## Enger Management

By Columnist Dirk Enger

Pct. 4 Committeeman

There is no political party that has the right to use or wrap itself around the veteran topic. Both parties have failed to give what was owed to those who fulfilled their obligation to this Nation. I hear a lot coming out of Washington, DC on how we have to take care of our veterans and troops. I wish that these were not just words, not just window dressing, but actions on new laws for our veterans.

The Walter Reed story was long overdue. Many within the walls of Congress have known of the conditions there, yet how often do we hear of the President or the members of Congress visiting the wounded at Walter Reed? Maybe our elected officials should open their eyes and visit with our wounded heroes and thank them, instead of using them for photo-ops on the evening news.

The facts are clear: we are failing as a nation and as a government, when it comes to the obligation owed to those who have served our nation. Our VA system is a broken system, due to the lack of funding and badly needed upgrades within the VA healthcare system. Right now there are 90,000 veterans backlogged, waiting up to 9 months for initial Doctor visits. The VA is understaffed and underfunded when it comes to treating our severely brain injured soldiers; yet last year this administration cut research and treatment for TBI by 50%. The Iraqi war has a higher amputee ratio than Vietnam. There are more double and triple amputee survivors than any other war in history. These injuries require long-term care; but, yet again, last year this administration and Congress cut funding for prosthetic research by \$9,000,000. One out of every five wounded in Iraq have severe burn injuries, some up to 70% of their bodies. This, too, requires long-term rehabilitation. If our government had only provided our troops with the equipment that they needed and were promised in the 2004 Department of Defense budget, then maybe some of these injuries could have been avoided.

Our system is so flawed that even if you lose both of your hands in combat, if they are not amputated above the elbow, you don't qualify for 100% disability. You also do not qualify for the \$50,000 government grant to upgrade your home for handicap access. This is wrong!! Now the Bush administration would like to charge our veterans a \$250 enrollment fee to be a part of the VA system and they want to double the co-pay for prescription drugs.

Never, in the history of the United States, have we had this many veterans homeless while the war is still going on. It is estimated that over 5000 Iraq war veterans, who have returned home after fighting on foreign soil, will be sleeping on American soil as a homeless person due to the waiting list and backlog at the VA system. There are over 300,000 homeless veterans in the United States, 20,000 of them in Illinois (the 4th worst state in the nation for homeless veterans) -- 35% of the homeless population are veterans.

If this administration and the new Congress truly want to support our troops, the first step should be to pass a bill requiring mandatory funding and not discretionary funding for the VA.

Bob Adams, my co-chairman, and myself went to Washington, DC for two days of lobbying for our shelter and veterans rights. I fear that many of our politicians will not keep their word and will vote against supporting our veterans. We need to be sure that the politicians that we vote into office are held accountable for their actions. A car magnet is a nice start to support our troops, but we shouldn't stop there. Our first President, George Washington, said it best: "The willingness with which our young are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be proportional as to how they perceive the veterans from earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country."

I leave you with one request: show respect towards our veterans and don't take freedom for granted. Too many have laid their lives upon the altar of freedom for you. *They deserve better and so do our veterans!!!*

Semper Fi (Always Faithful)

*Dirk Enger is Co-chairman of the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans and a veteran of the USMC, Desert Shield/Desert Storm.*

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Letters, opinions, jokes (clean ones, please!)



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## **Business People and the Democratic Party**

**By Frank Malley**

*Pct. 15 Committeeman*

Why, when all logic opposes the assumption, why does the Republican party pretend that it is automatically the party for business people?

The current Republican administration has nurtured Big Oil. Higher fuel costs mean a higher cost of freight for every business, and higher freight costs are essentially an unacknowledged surcharge on every business that orders goods and on every consumer who makes a purchase. The administration has also stood by while a few favored major business corporations gobbled up competitors in an acquisition frenzy. Large corporate consolidations result in firings at the rate of 10,000 or 15,000 or 40,000 at a time. Small businessmen—indeed most businessmen—recognize that every laid off employee is a laid off consumer.

Many small businesses have been started by older executives who were deemed by corporations to be too expensive to retain. Again, the Republican administration has been inert while too many corporations took the simplistic and unimaginative approach of fighting competition by trying to become the cheapest in their marketplace. Many businessmen realize the folly of such an approach. When you try to be the cheapest, inevitably there will be someone else who is cheaper. Corporations are foolishly putting out on the street the very grey and very wise heads that could

permit them to succeed. American companies cannot succeed if they try to be the cheapest. They can, however, resoundingly succeed if they build on the technology and skill and experience that have been their traditional strength.

The Bush administration has driven the national debt up to a catastrophic nine trillion dollars. Now Uncle Sam is the first one in line for borrowing, elbowing to the back of the line all business and consumer borrowers and driving up interest rates.

Within the last several years, the only action that the Republican administration has taken in relation to the international trade imbalance is to impede the importing of foreign steel. This action made a few favored domestic steel producers rich and at the same time put out of business forever small metal fabrication companies throughout the U.S. that were compelled to buy from a few domestic steel producers at take-it-or-leave-it prices.

The Republicans stood by while United Airlines set the shocking precedent of doing away with its pension obligations to its employees. Now no one's pension is safe. There are many American businessmen who want to provide the best in benefits to their employees, because it is the right thing to do, and because it is good business to reward your people for their work. With this Republican countenanced precedent, responsible businessmen will have to work extra hard to cover the "expense" of pensions and other benefits.

What, too, of all the women and minorities in business? Republicans have made it clear that they

(See **Business**, p. 5)

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Return Service Requested

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 18**

