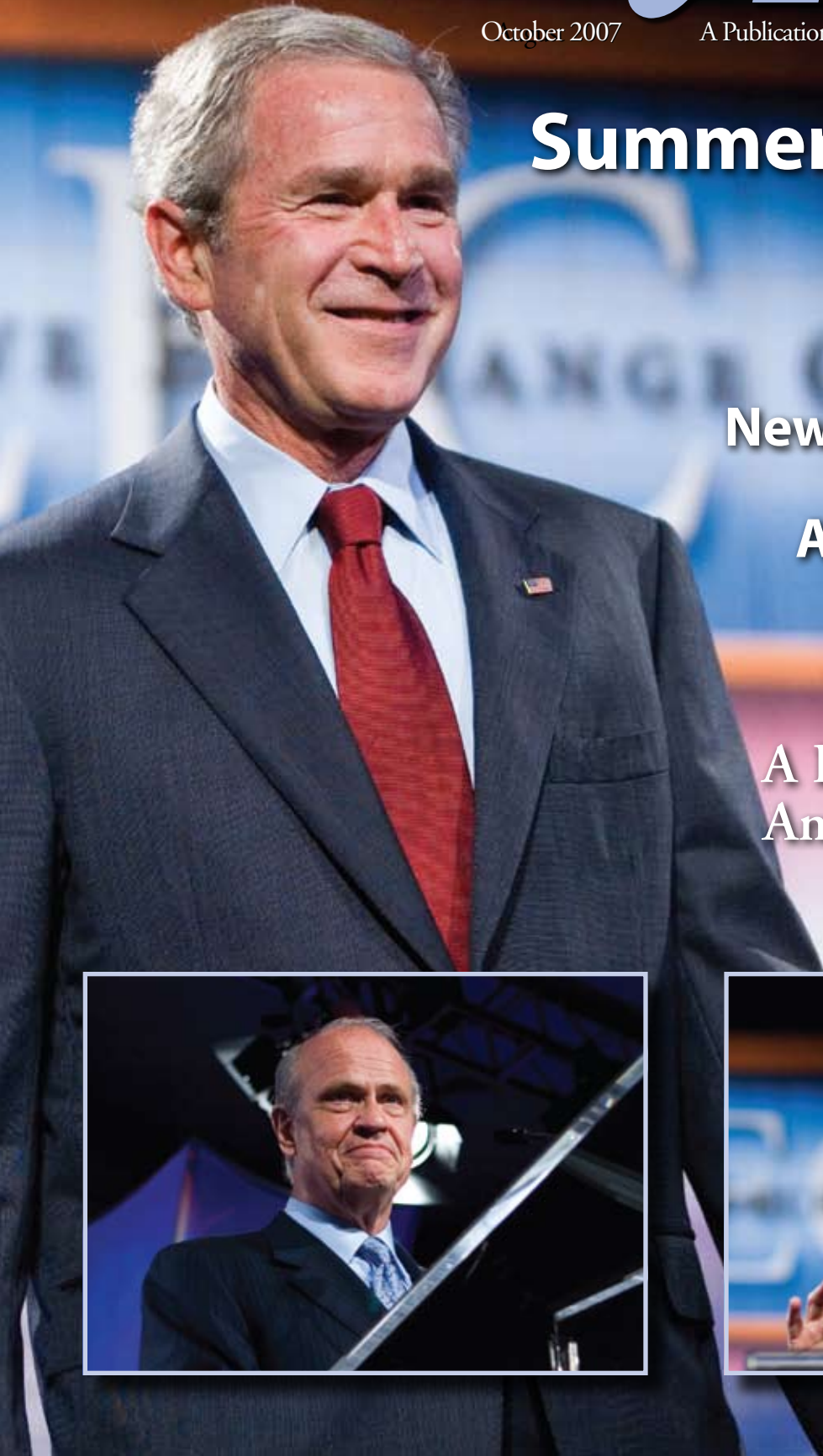


INSIDE *ALEC*

October 2007

A Publication of the American Legislative Exchange Council



Summer of Freedom:

ALEC's 34th

Annual Meeting

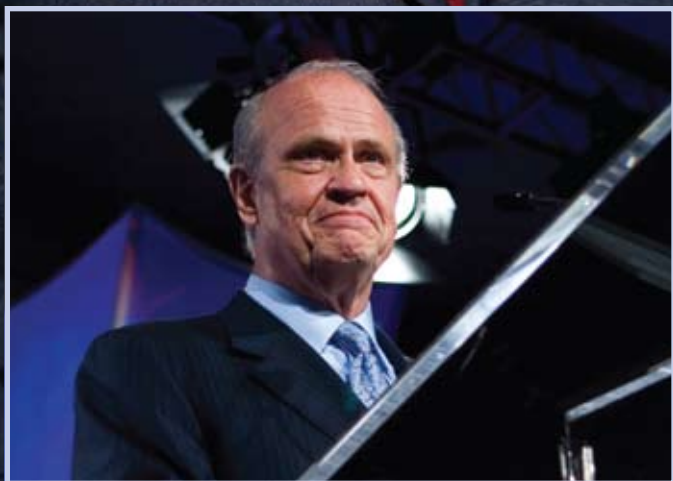
New Model Legislation

A Tale of Two States:

Iowa vs. Michigan

Let Freedom Ring:

A British Perspective on
American Conservatism



ALEC and Heritage host Capitol Hill briefing

By Josh Culling

Nearly 100 Capitol Hill staffers attended a luncheon briefing regarding the expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in the Longworth Building on Capitol Hill, July 13, cosponsored by ALEC and The Heritage Foundation. Moderated by Christie Raniszewski Herrera, ALEC's Health and Human Services Task Force Director, the guest speakers were Tennessee Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn, Maryland Delegate Adelaide Eckardt, and The Heritage Foundation's Nina Owcharenko.

SCHIP was originally created to provide impoverished children with access to government-funded health care. Current talks, however, suggest expanding coverage from those children whose family incomes are at 200 percent of the poverty level or below to those as high as 400 percent of the poverty level. Congresswoman Blackburn noted that families with incomes at 400 percent of poverty are classified as "rich" by IRS standards, and thus should not be eligible for health care intended for the poor.

Calling the SCHIP controversy "the largest health care debate that this Congress has seen in the past eight years," Owcharenko said supporters of its expansion are attempting to "radically expand eligibility" for not only the middle class, but for adults and immigrants as well.

Josh Culling is a former ALEC Intern and a recent graduate of The Ohio University.



From left, ALEC's Director of the Health and Human Services Task Force, Christie Raniszewski Herrera, Tennessee Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn, Maryland Delegate Adelaide Eckardt, and The Heritage Foundation's Nina Owcharenko.

ALEC Calendar

December 5-8	States & Nation Policy Summit	Washington, D.C.
May 14-17, 2008	Spring Task Force Summit	Hot Springs, AR
July 30 - August 3	ALEC Annual Meeting	Chicago, IL



Online Registration Starts October 1.

INSIDE ALEC

October 2007

A Publication of the American
Legislative Exchange Council

2007 National Chair

Iowa State Rep. Dolores Mertz

Private Enterprise Board Chairman

Jerry Watson

American Bail Coalition

Executive Director

Lori Roman

Senior Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives

Michael Bowman

Senior Director of Membership and Development

Megan Lott

Director of Public Affairs

Jorge Amselle

ALEC Exhibits & Advertising

Exhibiting or advertising at an ALEC event is a great way to promote your company to members of both the private and public sector. If you are interested in exhibiting or advertising at an ALEC meeting, please contact Rob Pallace at 202-466-3800 or email him at exhibits@alec.org.

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL
ALEC

© American Legislative Exchange Council
1129 20th Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 466-3800 • www.alec.org



ALEC International Update

Let Freedom Ring! A British Perspective on American Conservatism

By Roger Helmer, MEP



“I have heard more about conservative values in one hour in Philadelphia than I have heard in years in the Conservative Party.” So said one of the Conservative MEPs with me on a visit to the 34th Annual Meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) in Philadelphia, July 25-29.

ALEC is a major US public-policy institute bringing together hundreds of conservative state legislators with an A-list of corporate partners. They debate policy, develop model legislation, and provide a major force for conservative values in American politics. And they talk constantly and confidently about their core beliefs, or as they would put it, “Jeffersonian Principles.”

They believe in freedom, liberty with responsibility, enterprise and free markets, small government and low taxes, and family and nation. Indeed much the same values as those of our own Freedom Association, of which I recently became Honorary Chairman. And they proclaim those values. It was a rare speech in Philadelphia which did not hit some of those hot buttons, and each time the speaker was rewarded by a warm audience response.

In my experience, most British Conservatives would instinctively endorse those values – though we might call them Thatcherite rather than Jeffersonian. So why don’t we talk about them? We hear constant complaints that no one knows what the Party stands for. We talk about moving to the middle ground, or “lurching to the right,” as though we had no underlying philosophy at all. David Cameron says we want to give more power to the people and less to government, which is fine so far as it goes, but it needs more context, more explanation, more examples.

In Philadelphia I had the privilege not only of shaking hands with George W. Bush, but also of meeting two of the current Republican presidential hopefuls, Mike

Huckabee (who made a storming speech) and Fred Thompson. I loved one line from Fred:

“I believe that you can’t spend more than you’ve got coming in. You can’t tax people into prosperity. You can’t pay people more to stay home than to go to work. And criminals can’t commit crimes when they’re behind bars. Does that sound like common sense? It’s not very common in Washington!”

I recently tried this line on a Conservative audience. It went down a storm. (*U.S. translation: They loved it.*)

Thompson might have added, “And you can’t make bad schools better by making good schools worse.” There is a big head of steam in the US behind “school choice.” Here at home, and despite good work by people like Civitas, the issue has scarcely surfaced. We’re still stuck in a sterile debate about whether the state should impose one single model (comprehensive) or a dual model (comprehensive + grammar). City academies seem to be just fiddling at the margin.

Why can’t we get really radical and have the state (and local bureaucracies) imposing nothing at all? Why don’t we let schools – parents, governors, and teachers – set their own standards, and let the marketplace pass judgment on the result? The state should be no more than the funder of last resort, not the imposer of models, still less the would-be micro-manager we see today. We need our own version of



ALEC International Update



Let Freedom Ring

Continued from page 3

“Americans for School Choice.” Maybe Graham Brady MP would be the man to kick-start it.

Our American friends talk a lot about federalism – but not the Brussels kind. They mean almost the opposite – States’ Rights, 10th Amendment, “Powers not delegated (to the federal government) are reserved for the States ... or to the people.” Indeed to coin a phrase, we could call it “localism.”

In Philadelphia I went for the mandatory photo-opportunity at the Liberty Bell. And I bought the T-Shirt with the flag, the bell, and the slogan “Let Freedom Ring.” That is the message from Philadelphia that the Conservative Party should take to heart.

Roger Helmer is a Member of the European Parliament for the East Midlands in the UK, and a member of ALEC.

ALEC’s International Initiative

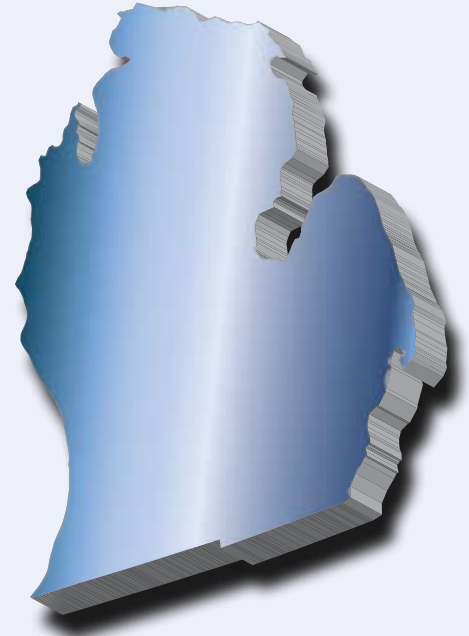
The goal of the International Relations program is to foster dialogue between ALEC members in the United States and overseas. ALEC Members have always been outward looking and prepared to play a full role in world affairs. Free trade is central to ALEC’s vision of the way nation states should relate to one another.

In order to fully realize a broad and deep free market that reaches across the Atlantic, we need to mobilize strong leadership from legislators on both sides, as well as our business communities. Now, more than ever, conservatives on both sides of the Atlantic need to continue their challenge to over-taxing, over-borrowing, and over-governing. At both the Member States level and within the EU itself, ALEC’s unique public-private model is in the perfect position to bring about this public-policy dialogue, with an eye to realizing a free, lively transatlantic economy.





A TALE of TWO STATES



Lawmakers in Michigan and Iowa attempt to change decades-old labor laws

By Michael Hough

Michigan and Iowa are two states moving in completely opposite directions. In Iowa, the economy is healthy and growing, while in Michigan, the economy is hemorrhaging jobs and the state is in the midst of a prolonged recession. Part of the reason for the economic disparity is that Iowa is a right-to-work state and Michigan is not. However, some lawmakers in Iowa are attempting to overturn the state's 60-year-old right-to-work law, while a few lawmakers in Michigan are attempting to enact one. If these changes are made in Iowa and Michigan, the economic fates of these two states could be reversed.

Michigan is currently enduring a recession, job losses, and a migration of people leaving the state. While the nation as a whole has added 8.3 million new jobs since August 2003,¹ Michigan has only added 5,700.² Michigan also has the highest unemployment rate in the nation at 7.2 percent, which is well above the national rate of 4.6 percent.³ In fact, since 2000, Michigan has lost almost 300,000 jobs and the number of unemployed people has increased by almost 200,000.⁴ Residents of the state are voting with their feet and leaving in droves. In the past six years only hurricane ravaged New Orleans has lost more residents than Detroit.⁵

A couple hundred miles away in Iowa the economy is in much better shape. Since August 2003, the state has gained more than 61,000 jobs and the unemployment rate has gone from 4.5 percent all the way down to 3.8 percent.⁶

In Iowa, you can work someplace where there is a union, but cannot be forced to join that union or pay dues. The present law in Iowa allows collective (exclusive union) bargaining but also allows an employee to refuse to join or pay dues or fees to the union that acts as his or her exclusive bargaining agent. In Michigan, employees are denied this

choice and must join the union or fork over union "agency" fees if they want to work in a union shop.

Recently, the National Right to Work Committee, using statistics from the Department of Labor, found that between 2001 and 2006, private-sector employment growth in right-to-work states was 6.3 percent as compared to 1.2 percent in states with forced unionism laws.⁷ During this same time period, the employment rate in Michigan declined by 5.3 percent.⁸

In states that do not have right-to-work laws, unions often take advantage of their monopolistic bargaining ability and negotiate salaries and benefits that are out of line with wages and benefits in the free market. Once in place, costly union wages and benefits often serve as a hindrance to companies attempting to compete in the global economy. Such an example is the United Auto Workers (UAW) union in Detroit, Michigan. Despite the fact that General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler have been losing money and closing plants over the last couple of years, UAW officials continue to fight reforms that will allow these companies to become more competitive with their foreign counterparts.

Currently, Japanese automakers Toyota, Nissan, and Honda are able to manufacture their cars for less in large part because of lower labor costs. General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler attribute 10 percent of the cost of their new vehicles to labor expenses.⁹ Domestic automakers are paying between \$1,200 and \$1,500 per car just for health care for their workers.¹⁰ According to a study by Stout Risius Ross, a financial and business strategy company, there is a \$2,400 profit gap per vehicle between U.S. automakers and their Japanese counterparts.¹¹

ALEC POLICY FORUM

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

Ford is currently trying to negotiate with the UAW to erase the \$25-per-hour additional labor cost that exists between them and the Japanese.¹² Not surprisingly, the UAW is resisting any cuts in pay or benefits even as they are losing union members because of layoffs and plant closings—almost one million since 1979.¹³

Aside from the increased cost of labor, domestic automakers also have to contend with union rules that allow workers to be paid for doing nothing. *USA Today* reported that the UAW maintains a job bank, “which preserves hourly workers’ jobs even when there is nothing for them to do.” Because of this job bank, many in Michigan have nicknamed the UAW “U Ain’t Working.”¹⁴

Despite the fact that many of its members have lost their jobs or fear more cutbacks, the UAW has not reigned in its own budget. *USA Today* reported the following about the spending habits of the UAW: “The union last year was still taking local leaders on conferences to places such as Las Vegas, Palm Springs and Cape May, N.J., and spending \$65,000 on pens and keychain gift sets. Even as its members fear wage cuts and job losses, the union pays its staff well. According to documents filed with the Department of Labor, out of 1,100 employees, the UAW pays about 650 of them more than \$95,000 a year.”¹⁵

The UAW also continues to spend money lobbying lawmakers on issues that have little or nothing to do with autoworkers. For example, the UAW opposes vouchers for children to attend private schools, opposes health care savings accounts, supports giving the District of Columbia a full voting member in Congress, and opposes efforts to have voters show identification at the polls.¹⁶

In order to limit the unions’ power through monopoly bargaining laws and to make Michigan competitive in today’s global economy, state representatives Jack Hoogendyk and Kevin Elsenheimer, along with State Sen. Nancy Cassis, introduced right-to-work legislation earlier this year. Rep. Hoogendyk said, “If Michigan were to become a right-to-work state, it would do a lot to move us in the right direction to become economically viable.”¹⁷

While the immediate prospects may not be great for passing right-to-work legislation in the home state of the UAW, public opinion in Michigan is behind changing the state’s labor law, and this could mean success in the long-term. The firm Research 2000 conducted a public-opinion survey in December 2006, and found that by a margin of 68-30 percent, Michiganders agree that a person should be able to hold a job “regardless of whether or not he or she belongs to a union.”¹⁸

In Iowa, some lawmakers are ignoring the economic evidence from their neighbors to the east and pushing legislation that will effectively gut Iowa’s right-to-work law. Soon after the 2006 elections, the majority leaders in the Iowa House and Senate began pushing so-called “fair share” legislation. This legislation would have forced non-union members to join their local union or pay a fee. Under the proposed legislation, employees who refused to join or pay the union fee could be fired. The bill would not have directly effected employees who work at places where there is no union.

Proponents claim that this misnamed “fair share” legislation is needed because non-union members often benefit in the form of increased wages, better health care,

Continued on page 11



Summer of Freedom in Philadelphia: ALEC's 2007 Annual Meeting

By Jorge Amselle

Among the many highlights of ALEC's 34th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia this summer was a surprise visit by President George W. Bush. The president was warmly welcomed by ALEC members Thursday morning, who reserved their loudest applause for his promise to veto any tax increase Congress sends him. The president was preceded by The Honorable Dick Armey and introduced by Texas Congressman Kenny Marchant.

At the National Forum Luncheon on Friday, former Tennessee senator and now official candidate for president, Fred Thompson, brought Hollywood star power to bear as he spoke on the importance of federalism. Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee was also warmly received as he addressed ALEC members at this luncheon. ALEC extended invitations to the top five candidates from both major parties.

On Wednesday, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, addressed ALEC's Board of Directors and State Chairmen at the honorary leadership dinner. In the Telecom and IT Task Force meeting, the 2007 Miss America, Lauren Nelson, addressed the issue of Internet security for vulnerable young people who are targeted by Internet predators.

Media figures also played a prominent role at this year's Annual Meeting as members were treated to an inspiring presentation on the importance of maintaining a positive outlook by Neil Cavuto of FOX News. John Fund of the *Wall Street Journal* gave attendees his take on the status of electoral politics in America and the key issues that will define upcoming campaigns.

Legislators and private-sector members also took advantage of Radio Row in the exhibit hall to discuss the issues in their states with national and regional talk radio shows from across the country.

Yet, despite the exciting speeches, receptions, and entertainment, there was much work to do. ALEC members passed several new pieces of model legislation



President George W. Bush shakes hands with Catherine Bray.



Gov. Mike Huckabee greets ALEC Members.



Sen. Fred Thompson talks with ALEC Members following the National Forum Luncheon.



Speaker Newt Gingrich signs a copy of (*Winning the Future: A 21st Century Contract with America.*)



From left: John Fund of the *Wall Street Journal*, Alvin Jones of TMI on XM Satellite Radio, and Neil Cavuto of FOX News.



From left: Bernard Pousot, COO of WYETH, meets with Iowa Rep. Dolores Mertz, ALEC National Chair, and Arkansas Sen. Steve Faris, ALEC First Vice Chair.

(see page 14) and attended key workshops on health care policy, energy solutions, and education.

“ALEC’s Democrat and Republican members participated in substantive public-policy sessions throughout the Annual Meeting, allowing legislators to return to their state capitals better prepared to serve their constituents,” said ALEC’s National Chairman, Iowa Rep. Dolores Mertz.

ALEC Members Recognized

ALEC’s public- and private-sector members work tirelessly to promote the Jeffersonian principles on which ALEC was founded—free enterprise, individual liberty, limited government, and federalism. Each year, a handful of members stand out as leaders in their communities and in their support for our organization. Nominated by their peers, these members are recognized at our Annual Meeting with awards that exemplify their contributions.

This year, Billy Tauzin, CEO of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) and a former member of Congress representing Louisiana, was awarded ALEC’s prestigious Adam Smith Free Enterprise Award for his visionary leadership in the spirit of Adam Smith.

Since becoming PhRMA president and CEO in January 2005, Billy Tauzin has helped millions of American patients gain access to the medicines they need to treat a wide array of diseases. He has also worked hard to protect the world-leading innovation of America’s pharmaceutical research companies, which is so important to the health of patients everywhere.

ALEC also recognized six Legislators of the Year. “Each of these elected officials have placed themselves at the forefront of pursuing policy solutions based on Jeffersonian principles in sometimes difficult situations,” said Missouri State Representative and ALEC National Board Member, Jane Cunningham, on presenting the award. The 2007 Legislators of the Year are:

Sen. Robert Burns (AZ) is Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and also a member of the Rules, Finance, Resources, and Justice Committees.

Sen. Dennis Nolan (NV) has served as the Assistant Majority Floor Leader, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security, the Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation, and a member of the Judiciary Committee, the Committee on Human Resources and Facilities, and the Education Committee.

Sen. Charlie Ross (MS) currently serves as Chairman of the Judiciary A Committee, and on the Constitution, Elections, Environmental Protection, Executive Contingent Fund, Finance, Insurance, and Veteran and Military Affairs committees. In 2004, as Chairman of the Judiciary A Committee, Sen. Ross drafted the comprehensive Tort Reform Bill and was the leader in the Senate in the successful fight to pass the bill. He is also the Chairman of ALEC's Civil Justice Task Force.

Rep. Rodney Hubbard (MO) is Chairman of the Special Committee on Urban Issues. He also serves on the House Special Committee on Job Creation and Economic Development, the Special Committee on Health Insurance, and the Special Committee on Urban Education Reform. Rep. Hubbard voted for Tort Reform, Workers' Compensation reform and a Quality Jobs Act. He also helped develop and co-sponsor the Milton Friedman Put Parents in Charge Act.

Sen. Bob Beers (NV) is vice-chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. He also serves as a member of the Committees on Natural Resources and Legislative Operations. Senator Beers was instrumental in fighting for lower taxes and smaller government at both the state and local levels in Nevada.

Rep. William Hamzy (CT) was chosen to serve as Deputy Republican Leader for the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions. He also serves on the General Assembly's Judiciary Committee, the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee, the Select Committee on Aging, the Regulation Review Committee, and the Legislative Management Committee, and he is chairman of ALEC's Information Technology and Telecommunications Task Force.

Chris Heaton-Harris (MEP) was named the 2007 ALEC International Legislator of the Year. First elected to the European Parliament in 1999, Harris was re-elected in 2004 to the European Parliament as the No.2 on the Conservative List.



Miss America Lauren Nelson addresses ALEC's Telecom and IT Task Force.



Billy Tauzin (left) CEO of PhRMA receives Adam Smith Award from ALEC Private Enterprise Chairman Jerry Watson of the American Bail Coalition (center). Former ALEC Private Enterprise Chairman Kurt Malmgren, of PhRMA, (right) accompanies Tauzin.



ALEC 2007 Legislators of the Year from left: Nevada State Sen. Dennis Nolan, Missouri State Rep. Rodney Hubbard, Connecticut State Rep. William Hamzy, and Arizona State Sen. Robert Burns. Not Pictured Mississippi State Sen. Charlie Ross, and Nevada State Sen. Bob Beers.



Other Award winners included from left to right, Bruce MacRae (UPS), Chris Heaton-Harris (MEP), Jeanne H. Schmedlen, Ken Ardoin (Pfizer—Retired), Thomas A. Morrow (Sprint—Retired), Pete Hernandez (AT&T), and Kristen Harrison, pictured here with Rep. Dolores Mertz and Sen. Steve Farris.

ALEC's private-sector members were also recognized with four 2007 Private Sector Members of the Year: Thomas A. Morrow (Sprint—Retired); Ken Ardoin (Pfizer—Retired); Bruce MacRae (UPS); and Pete Hernandez (AT&T). ALEC also presented its Volunteer of the Year Awards to Kristen Harrison, Salt River Project; and Jeanne H. Schmedlen, Director of Special Projects and Chief of Protocol, Office of the Pennsylvania Speaker of the House.

This year also marked the creation of a new award honoring Nevada State Sen. Bill Raggio (Republican, Washoe County Senatorial District No. 3). The William J. Raggio Excellence in Leadership and Outstanding Service Award was presented to Sen. Raggio for his long and outstanding service to the American Legislative Exchange Council in a variety of official positions and for an established commitment to the Jeffersonian principles of individual liberty, free markets, limited government, and federalism.



Nevada State Sen. Bill Raggio.

“For more than 30 years, **Nevada State Sen. Bill Raggio** has made extraordinary contributions to ALEC through his dedication and involvement with this organization. Sen. Raggio has served on ALEC's National Board since 1983 and was ALEC's National Chairman in 1993,” said Iowa Rep. Dolores Mertz and ALEC's 2007 National Chairman, upon announcing the award.

To read transcripts for select speeches and to order photos from the 2007 Annual Meeting please visit www.alec.org/meetings.



Local and national media swarmed ALEC's Annual Meeting.



Over 60 exhibitors welcomed ALEC members.

A Tale of Two States

Continued from page 6

and retirement plans through collective bargaining. They argue that it is only fair that non-union members share the cost of supporting the union.

Opponents point out that legislation that would gut Iowa's right-to-work law would force workers, who choose not to join their local union, to pay for far more than just the cost of collective bargaining, with "agency" fees approaching nearly 100 percent of the full dues cost. Such legislation will essentially force workers to join unions.

Fortunately, opponents of Iowa's so-called "fair share" legislation mobilized and called their state legislators, went door to door, and placed ads in local newspapers. Many non-unionized educators who belong to the Professional Educators of Iowa, pledged to quit before being forced to pay dues to unions they do not support. ALEC also got involved and sent issue alerts to our members in Iowa. The grassroots opposition paid off because leaders in the House never brought the bill up for a vote.

"Pro-right-to-work Iowans were able to prevail this year, despite the fact big labor controls the legislative leadership positions and the governor's mansion," said Dimitri Kesari, Director of Government Affairs at the National Right to Work Committee. "This shows again the power of the

right-to-work principle in legislative disputes at all levels. However, pro-right-to-work Iowans must remain vigilant."

Despite their defeat during the 2007 legislative session, Mark Smith, President of the Iowa Federation of Labor, said, "Fair Share' remains a top priority of organized labor."¹⁹ Smith also said that labor groups remain hopeful that the legislation will make its way to the governor's desk next year.²⁰ When recently asked if "fair share" legislation was still on the table for 2008, House Speaker Pat Murphy said, "We consider it very much a live round."²¹

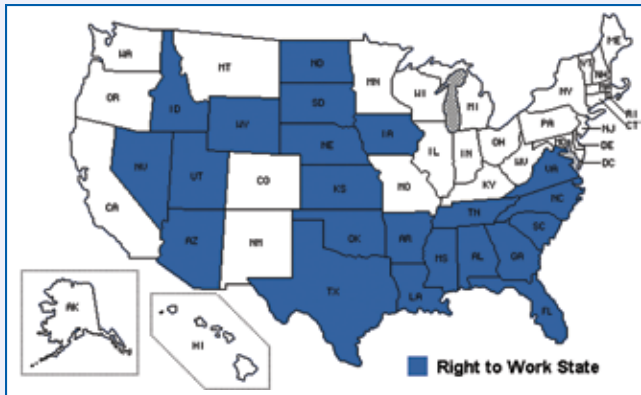
Opponents of such legislation may have a tough fight on their hands because a majority of state senators voted in favor of the bill last year, and 49 out of 100 House members have already pledged to support the bill.²² Democrat Gov. Chet Culver has stated that he would sign this legislation should it reach his desk.²³

Iowa and Michigan are at a fork in the road. In both states, lawmakers are contemplating major changes to their labor laws that could have a serious impact on their economies. In Michigan, many lawmakers and business leaders are beginning to see that forced unionism laws have made the state less competitive in today's global economy and hurt businesses in their state.



ALEC POLICY FORUM

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL



In Iowa, some lawmakers are ignoring the economic recession just a couple hundred miles to the east and attempting to gut the state's right-to-work law. Lawmakers in Iowa should look to Michigan to see that when unions gain monopoly bargaining power they begin to serve as an albatross around the neck of a state's economy. Lawmakers need to enact and maintain laws that attract businesses to their states. Forced unionism laws are misguided and lawmakers who enact or maintain these laws are doing a disservice to their citizens.

In Michigan and Iowa, political leaders who respect the rights of workers to join or not join a labor union and who care about the vitality of their states' economies should reject forced unionism laws and make sure their state has a right-to-work law.

Michael Hough is the Director of the Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Task Force and the Director of the Commerce, Insurance, and Economic Development Task Force for the American Legislative Exchange Council.

Endnotes

- ¹ White House, Office of the Press Secretary. August 3, 2007.
- ² U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics Information and Analysis. Suite 4675. 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Washington, DC 20212-0001 <http://www.bls.gov/LAU>.
- ³ U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- ⁴ U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- ⁵ Reuters News Service. March 23, 2007.
- ⁶ U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics Information and Analysis. Suite 4675. 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Washington, DC 20212-0001 <http://www.bls.gov/LAU>
- ⁷ "This Would Make a Huge Change for Michigan: Right to Work Allies Ready to Go on Offense Wolverine State." National Right to Work Newsletter. July 2007.
- ⁸ National Right to Work Newsletter. July 2007.
- ⁹ Tom Krisher. "UAW, Automakers Enter New Contract Talks." Associated Press. August 5, 2007.
- ¹⁰ Tom Krisher
- ¹¹ Tom Krisher
- ¹² Tom Krisher.
- ¹³ Sharon Silke Carty. "Open-Shop Laws Threaten Unions." USA Today. July 25, 2007.
- ¹⁴ Sharon Silke Carty.
- ¹⁵ Sharon Silke Carty.
- ¹⁶ <http://www.uaw.org/cap/index.php>
- ¹⁷ Sharon Silke Carty.
- ¹⁸ "This Would Make a Huge Change for Michigan: Right to Work Allies Ready to Go on Offense Wolverine State." National Right to Work Newsletter. July 2007.
- ¹⁹ Rod Boshart. "Business Group: Declare 'Fair Share' Dead. Top Democrats Say it's Too Early to Take Bill Off 2008 Agenda." The Gazette. August 1, 2007.
- ²⁰ Rod Boshart.
- ²¹ Rod Boshart.
- ²² Rod Boshart
- ²³ Dave Dreeszen. "Business Council Won't Support 'Fair Share'." Sioux City Journal.Com. March 6, 2007. www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2007/03/06/news_business/local/6e8a17d8c71342b78625729600107bc6.txt.

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

Copyright © 2007 by the American Legislative Exchange Council. All Rights Reserved. Except as permitted under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, no part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system without the prior permission of the publisher.

Published by
American Legislative Exchange Council
1129 20th Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20036

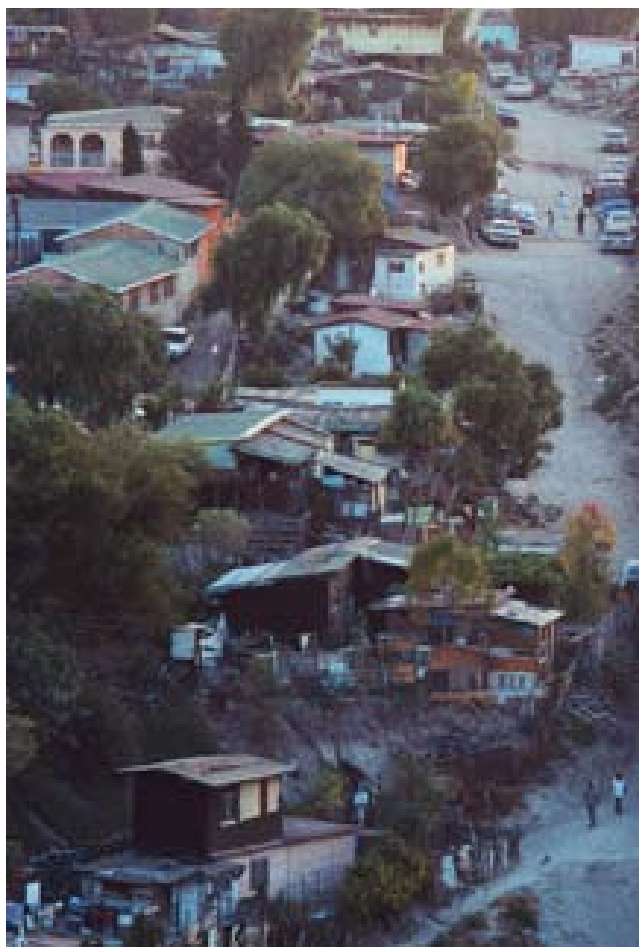
On the Backs of the Poor:

Environmentalism in the Developing World

By A.C. Raizes Karchem

The G8 nations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) are sending a powerful message to the developing world: “Develop green or don’t develop at all.” These eight countries are effectively calling for environmental policies that limit the ability of developing states to raise the standard of living for the hundreds of millions of people who still live in abject poverty.

Policies that limit the construction of cost-efficient power plants, reduce access to clean water, and punish investment and economic growth are not just unpopular in poor countries, they are unethical. It should surprise no one that these poverty-stricken nations prioritize electricity and clean water over foreign imposed emissions limits.



In an effort to establish further cooperation with developing countries, German Chancellor Angela Merkel invited Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Africa to participate in the June 2007 G8 summit at Heiligendamm, Germany. These major emerging markets are being referred to as the O5 (Outreach 5), and they will be included in G8 meetings on a regular basis.

Merkel’s move to expand the G8 will help add some new blood and is a needed change considering that member countries such as Italy and Canada are less economically influential than emerging markets in the South and East. While G8 leaders do need to reach out to these emerging powers, applying strict emission standards to nations like China, Brazil, or Mexico is more likely to drive them away from constructive engagement on climate issues.

The idea behind establishing the O5 was to hold them to more rigorous environmental standards than those required under the decade-old Kyoto Protocol. Arguably, it is these nations that are now ready to take on this added challenge. The push to reduce global CO2 emissions is being thrust upon those who can least afford it. Such initiatives will only stifle their burgeoning economies and retard the growth of much needed infrastructure modernization.

Brazil, for example, has a GDP that is well over one trillion dollars and has firmly entrenched itself as an upper-middle-income country. However, on a per capita basis, Brazil remains poorer¹ and less developed than its neighbors Argentina, which has the highest HDI (Human Development Index) in Latin America, and Chile, which has experienced political stability and sustained growth for most of the last 20 years.

Brazil, and the rest of the O5, face enormous social problems that must be addressed; the only way forward is through economic growth and development. To ask these nations to slow down is unreasonable, particularly given that it is the developed countries that produce the highest levels of emissions. Let’s keep the O5 in the conversation, but let’s not doom them to permanent “developing” status.

A.C. Raizes Karchem is a former ALEC Intern and student at the University of Rochester.

¹ http://internationaltrade.suite101.com/article.cfm/south_american_countries_gdp_2006

New Model Legislation from ALEC



Ron Barnes, President of State Relations, Direct Marketing Association, addresses ALEC's Natural Resources Task Force.

CIVIL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Amendments to the Regulatory Compliance Congruity with Liability Act

This model legislation was designed to assure that a state's regulatory system is congruent with its civil justice system and to provide some form of protection from liability to companies whose products adhere to government regulations. A question arose regarding a provision that exempted "construction defects" from its liability protections. The model act was amended to clarify that the objective was to refer to unintended flaws that occur during the manufacturing process rather than to place the construction industry outside the scope of the model bill, as the original language might have suggested.

The Asbestos Claims Transparency Act

This model bill provides a solution to the problem of the growing disconnect between compensation paid via the tort system and compensation provided through asbestos bankruptcy trusts. By requiring full and timely disclosure of all actual and potential asbestos claims, this legislation attempts to facilitate communication between the asbestos trusts and the tort system in an effort to keep claimants from collecting damages from both sources.

COMMERCE, INSURANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Resolution Opposing Federal Legislation to Repeal or Modify the McCarran-Ferguson Act

Under the McCarran-Ferguson Act of 1945, insurance regulation is reserved to the states. Although the federal government maintains responsibility for enforcing laws against boycotts, coercion, and intimidation, insurance companies were allowed to share claims data, subject to state law. Until recently, no state had prohibited insurance companies from sharing claims data. Recent events in the property and casualty marketplace have suggested that states ought to prohibit sharing of claims data or that the McCarran-Ferguson Act should be repealed so that the federal government can prohibit the practice. Advocates for repealing McCarran-Ferguson want the federal government to prohibit this practice and claim that forbidding the sharing of data will promote competition. However, allowing data to be shared benefits small companies that do not have the actuarial resources to assess risk and therefore promotes competition.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HOMELAND SECURITY TASK FORCE

GPS Tracking of Sexual Offenders

This act enables state and local authorities to use GPS electronic monitoring as a means of tracking offenders and pre-trial defendants. The act also creates incarceration penalties for program participants who do not follow the program protocols.

Electoral College Resolution

This resolution calls on the states to recognize the current Electoral College system as the best way to elect the President of the United States. The current Electoral College system respects small states, rural areas, and the principle of federalism. Furthermore, this resolution calls on states to defeat any multi-state compact legislation that would cause its electoral votes to be awarded based on the results of the national popular vote.

EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Higher Education Sunshine Act

This model legislation is a revisit of the Intellectual Diversity in Higher Education Act requiring public institutions of higher education to report on activities they

have undertaken to ensure intellectual diversity or a free exchange of ideas on campus and in the classroom.

Higher Education Accountability Act

This model legislation requires public institutions of higher education to track certain key indicators and to make the results transparent to parents and students. By improving “consumer information,” parents, students and other taxpayers will be better able to evaluate the effectiveness and value of various public universities and to compare them to one another.

Parental Choice Scholarship Program Act (Universal eligibility, means-tested scholarship amount)

This model legislation combines elements from two ALEC school choice bills. By allowing universal scholarship eligibility, but varying the amount of the scholarship according to income, this bill offers legislators a school choice program designed to help those who need it most.

Next Generation Charter Schools Act

This bill is designed to give states that currently have charter school laws a roadmap for improvement and for those who do not have charter school laws, an outline of the key elements every high-quality charter school law should have.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TASK FORCE

Statement of Principles on Health IT

This statement affirms ALEC’s position that health information technology should be patient-centered and market-driven.

Resolution on Transparency in Health Care

This resolution encourages the private sector to voluntarily provide information about the cost and quality of health care, and it encourages state governments to make quality and cost data related to state-funded health programs available to state employees and beneficiaries of publicly-funded programs.

Health Care Choice Act for States

This legislation allows consumers trapped in overregulated health insurance markets to purchase health insurance across state lines.

Welfare System Integrity Act

This legislation establishes the Income Eligibility Verification System (IEVS), a computerized system designed to find and root out welfare fraud.

NATURAL RESOURCES TASK FORCE

Resolution for Commercial Nuclear Energy

This resolution recognizes the large and growing need for commercial nuclear energy and urges the president and Congress to make steady progress toward a permanent geologic repository for used commercial nuclear fuel and such nearer-term priorities as interim fuel storage and research into fuel reprocessing and closing the nuclear fuel cycle.

TAX AND FISCAL POLICY TASK FORCE

72-Hour Budget Review Act

A model bill to enhance budget transparency by prohibiting hearings or votes on appropriation and/or revenue related bills until 72 hours after the bill’s public introduction.

Taxpayer Transparency Act

A model bill to enhance budget transparency by maintaining a searchable budget database Web site detailing where, for what purpose, and what results are achieved for all taxpayer investments in state government.

Resolution Urging Congress to Eliminate the Alternative Minimum Tax

This resolution encourages Congress to abolish the Alternative Minimum Tax to increase simplicity, predictability, and neutrality in the tax code and to protect American taxpayers from this burdensome levy.

Resolution to Support Congressional Efforts to Ban Internet Access Taxes

This resolution supports a permanent Internet access tax moratorium. This resolution recognizes that taxing Internet access would harm taxpayers, slow broadband deployment, particularly in rural and low-density areas, would decrease telework opportunities, and widen the digital divide.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE

Advanced Voice Services Availability Act of 2007

The purpose of this legislation is to promote the availability of competitive advanced voice services, such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services, to all consumers and businesses by establishing a framework that promotes customer choice and competition.

Wireless Communications Tower Siting Act

This bill ensures the safe and efficient integration of facilities necessary for the provision of advanced wireless communications services throughout the community as well as the ready availability of reliable wireless service to the public and government agencies and first responders, with the intention of furthering the public safety and general welfare.

ALEC Model Legislation may be viewed by ALEC members at www.alec.org.

Member News



Texas Speaker Craddick Elected ALEC Secretary

At last month's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Texas Speaker Tom Craddick (R-Midland) was elected to serve as Secretary of ALEC's Executive Board of Directors.

Texas Speaker Tom Craddick (R-Midland).

"I am excited to serve this important and principled organization in this capacity," Speaker Craddick said. "I

would like to thank my fellow ALEC members who have entrusted me with this position, and I look forward to working with the Executive Board on a variety of issues affecting legislatures across the country."

In 2003, Tom Craddick became the first Republican speaker in Texas in more than 130 years. Craddick has been instrumental in helping the state overcome a \$10 billion budget shortfall and producing model ethics, insurance, tort and transportation reforms. Under his leadership, Texas made historic cuts in property taxes and restructured public school finance, while adding urgent improvements to Texas public schools.



Florida Rep. Kravitz to Head Safety and Security Council

State Rep. Dick Kravitz, R-Orange Park, has been named chairman of the House Safety and Security Council. The Beauclerc resident has represented District 19, which includes Mandarin, Northwest St. Johns County and parts of Westside Jacksonville and Clay County, since 2000. He previously served two years as chairman of the

ALEC Member, Florida State Rep. Dick Kravitz
Florida House photo by Mark Foley.

Criminal Justice Committee, and as the vice chairman of the Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council. He is a member of the Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Task Force.

In his new role as council chairman, Kravitz will lead the house's effort to improve public safety throughout Florida as it reviews bills from the Committee on Juvenile Justice, Committee on Courts, the Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety, and the Committee on Constitutional and Civil Law.

Excerpted from Florida Times-Union, August 22, 2007.

ABCTE Awarded \$6.4 Million Education Grant

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) recently announced that the U.S. Department of Education has awarded the organization a \$6.4 million, multi-year grant for the development of a minority teacher recruitment initiative, called Teach & Inspire.

The initiative for which ABCTE was awarded grant money, Teach & Inspire, is designed to recruit mid-career professionals of color to pursue alternative teacher certification. The program goal is to recruit 1,800 teachers of color in Mississippi and Florida to fill high-need subject areas like math and science.

"We thank Secretary Spellings for her support. ABCTE is committed to recruiting, certifying and supporting excellent teachers of color," said David Saba, president of ABCTE. "The funding also helps high-need school districts that have already forged partnerships with us to recruit more minority teachers. With a commitment to teacher quality, teacher recruitment and enhancing the diversity of the teacher workforce, Teach & Inspire is uniquely qualified to make a difference."

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

ALEC

1129 20th Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20036
www.alec.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
SUBURBAN MD
PERMIT No. 2295