



California News Reporter

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"United in Harmonious Cooperation to Promote the Welfare of Letter Carriers and to improve the Postal Service"

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Will Your Future Be "Contracted Out?"

by John Beaumont
CSALC President

Under pressure from the Postal Board of Governors, Postmaster General Jack Potter and his team of thieves are planning to heist as many new postal deliveries as possible regardless of their location. Using private contractors to deliver the mail is not a new concept to the USPS; however, this practice was limited to out of the way delivery locations in areas not even serviced by our fellow rural route carriers. Contract Delivery Service (CDS) was formerly known as Highway Contract Routes (HCR). These are routes that provide services into remote rural areas of the country like the back roads leading up a mountain pass or dropping off mail down into the Grand Canyon. Now the Postal Service has decided to spread CDS directly into the cities and communities we deliver adjacent to, and in some cases directly within, the delivery routes we currently service.

If the Postal Service is allowed to expand this practice it will erode our current delivery network to the point that the last mile between the delivery unit and our patrons' front door could be delivered by anyone.

With letter carriers cited as being one of the most trusted employees in our country, proponents of privatizing the USPS have been unable to gather much traction in their quest to break up our service. Unfortunately it is our own company, which, by their persistence to contract out new deliveries regardless of their proximity to or within our current routes, is working to privatize our 200-year-old institution from within. Last month our National President William H. Young stated while testifying before Congress that "***employing part-time, low-wage workers with no benefits will lead to high turnover and poor service over time. This will break the trust Americans have developed with the Postal Service through their***

long-term contact with dedicated, career letter carriers."

Behind Wal-Mart the Postal Service is the second largest employer in the United States and now like Wal-Mart they wish to bring in thousands of employees who will deliver our future 1 to 2 million new addresses yearly with workers that have no bargaining rights or benefits.

Mismanagement associated with the implementation of DOIS, management continuing to move starting times later into the work day, reducing retail hours at the front windows, and now contracting out delivery services for new deliveries, it is clear to see that the ***USPS Board of Governors is quickly moving to remove the term Service completely out of the Postal Service!***

There are three ways we can work together to expose and fight back the wave of lies being spread by the USPS to defend and justify the spread of

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The USPS is betting that your future will be contracted out. Will you prove them wrong?

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CDS in city delivery areas.

1. Know the arguments and be prepared to contact our representatives in congress, when directed by our National President, to enlist their help in stopping the spread of CDS.
2. Immediately start helping the NALC to increase its political clout by **automatically giving to COLCPE** to protect your future.
3. Get involved in any informational action approved and directed by our National President to increase public awareness about what we are facing and how CDS will impact the millions of people we provide service for.

Knowing the arguments is vital to successfully presenting our issues to our elected representatives and the public when soliciting their help to fight CDS. Most conserva-

tive representatives who represent rural areas of the country or those whose districts have a large number of affluent constituents tend to side more with the issues driven by Corporate America. These representatives need to be informed on how the implementation of CDS bypasses the normal postal recruitment and hiring process that has ensured their constituents would only have qualified and trustworthy people coming up to their residences to deliver their mail.

Unlike career letter carriers CDS contractors are recruited with minimal security screening. After being awarded their bid(s) these contractors often sub-contract their routes to unknown individuals to increase their own profit. Sub-contractors are not screened at all and thus pose a serious security risk. Like career letter carriers, sub-contractors would handle all types of mail, including medicine, checks, parcels, and credit

cards. Allowing CDS increases the possibility of having Americas' mail delivered by convicted felons and identity thieves. Allowing CDS to further expand into our cities and communities would increase possible bio-terrorism attacks similar to the anthrax incidents in 2001. CDS weakens the ability of the Postal Inspection Service to prevent, investigate, and prosecute mail fraud. CDS would definitely compromise if not sacrifice the sanctity of the mail.

Another major argument our conservative representatives should relate to is that CDS does not grant veterans preference when hiring. This means that when our men and women return home from serving our country in the Armed Services they can no longer count on the USPS to give them earned credit as a leg up to get a reasonably paid job when they are able to return to the workforce. And if they are able to get one of these contracted out routes they would be doing this work for low wages and without benefits or retirement.

Congressional members that represent our nation's dense urban areas usually support issues relating to working families. Along with all of the arguments above these representatives should also be informed of how CDS threatens the jobs and incomes of America's 325,000 city and rural letter carriers, of which many are hired directly from their respective congressional districts. They also need to be informed on how this ill-conceived idea would eventually destroy the long-term viability of America's Postal Service. President Young stated that "**by promoting CDS the United States Postal**

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CSALC President John Beaumont discusses the USPS push to contract out our delivery services with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

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Service would be contributing to the erosion of middle class living standards and add to the ranks of workers without insurance or adequate pension protection".

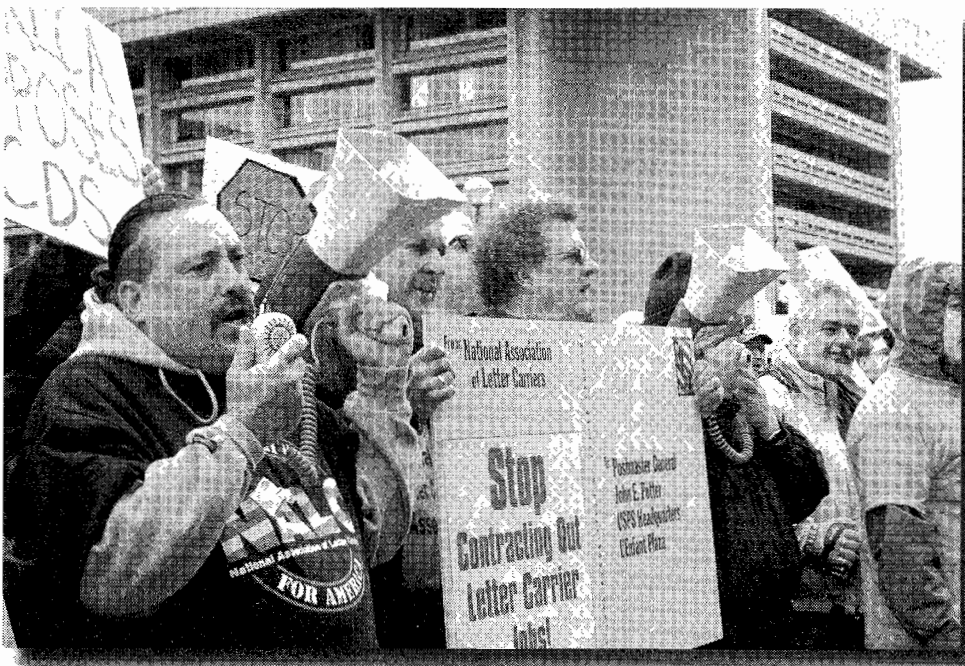
Giving to COLCPE on a regular basis, like through automatic deduction, will enable our union to increase the amount of money we can spend to allow us access to congressional members from both parties. The clout we earn with COLCPE is critical in enlisting a congressional

either a voided check or voided deposit slip to: **NALC COLCPE, 100 Indiana Ave., NW, Washington DC 20001-2144.** If you are a retiree and would like to help your union by having a small amount taken from your annuity please refer to the **information listed on Page 9 to fill out the "Give Me 5" annuity deduction form.** We need everyone's help to stop the USPS movement to outsource postal jobs. **Without congressional intervention we will not be able to halt the Postal Service's plans to gut our delivery network by expanding CDS!**

Lastly, **we need every member to get involved in any informational action approved and directed by National President William H. Young.**

Actions that may be proposed could be sending letters to the editor of your local news, participating in an informational picket or rally, or meeting as a group with your local congressional representative. The NALC has already participated in approved informational pickets in Orange County, organized by NALC Branch 1100, and Washington DC organized by President Young. Further actions, if needed, will be planned at a later date at the direction of our National President at specific targeted sites around the country. Your involvement in these demonstrations is critical to our success as a union in fighting CDS.

The Postal Service is recklessly heading in a path that would demolish our 200 year old institution. With your help, and only with your help can we succeed in stopping them dead in their tracks. ★



representative's support, whether Democrat or Republican, to stop the spread of contracting out delivery services. With the outsourcing of postal deliveries right around the corner there has never been a greater need for each of us to donate at least \$5 to \$10 or more a month to COLCPE to insure our future and the survival of the United States Postal Service. If you are not already giving to COLCPE on a monthly basis **please fill out Page 10** and send it in with

Are You Ready for Battle?

By Harold Kelso

CSALC Vice President

Today is the day! 189 letter carriers from California, Nevada, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee will be unleashed upon Capitol Hill. Their goal is to obtain as many co-sponsors as possible on House Resolution 282.

H Res. 282, authored by Rep. Albio Sires of New Jersey, calls for the discontinuation of the practice of contracting out mail delivery services

by the United States Postal Service. The 189 letter carrier/lobbyists have two days to convince their elected officials that contracting out not only endangers the efficiency of mail delivery, but also threatens the security of the mail. Contracting out equals increased identity theft.

The practice of contracting out is also anti-veteran. When our brave young men and women return home from the Middle East, many of them will be looking for solid middle class jobs with good benefits. In the past, veterans found a home in the Postal Service. As the practice of contracting out expands, these opportunities for our veterans diminish.

While I'm on the subject of our veterans, I would hope that after the shameful fiasco that occurred at Walter Reed Army Hospital that the words "contracting out" would be considered dirty words on Capitol Hill.

Wednesday, April 18

I am writing this at the end of the final lobby day. I attended six meetings yesterday and seven today. I saw many new faces among the California letter carriers in the meetings that I attended and must say that I was very impressed with all of the "rookies." Their knowledge of our issues and the passion with which they expressed their knowledge was amazing.

Here are the final totals for Lobbyp-
alooza III:

119 meetings with members of the House of Representatives (out of a possible 435)

36 meetings with members of the Senate (out of a possible 100)

155 total meetings with Congress (out of a possible 535)

We met with over one quarter of the Congress and...

This is just the beginning.

The march on Monday and the meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday are the opening skirmishes of our War on Contracting Out. A war that we, our customers and even the Postal Service can't afford to lose.

Are you ready for battle? ★

In Memoriam



**Tony Cortese, President
San Jose Branch 193**

Retiree Report

By McDowell Frazier

CSALC Director of Retirees

It's now 2007. We have a new 110th Congress. It's time for retired carriers issues to be on the legislative agenda.

Inflation is hitting retired carriers hard. Look at the cost of medicine. Gasoline prices are going through

the roof. Three legislative bills NALC is working are premium conversion for retirees' health insurance, windfall elimination provision and government pension offset. Positive change on any of these issues would help most retired carriers.

Congratulations to all the NALC members who help get postal reform passed last year. Special thanks to President Emeritus Vincent Sombrot-

to who had the vision and foresight to realize the postal service had to reform in order to compete in the 21st century communications business. Thanks also to President Bill Young for his relentless pursuit of postal reform.

We won the battle for postal reform. Now we have another battle with the postal service on wanting to contract out city letter carriers jobs. The NALC members did not fight for years for postal reform so other non-union cheap laborers could reap the harvest. We need to give our active carriers all the help they need in order to fight off contracting out city letter carriers jobs. That would be a slap in the face to all of us who fought long and hard for postal reform.

Contracting out city letter carrier jobs is no joke. Once these jobs are gone it's no getting them back. When President Young calls for active and retired carriers to get involved all of us have to fight with everything we have to stop this madness by the postal service.

Donate to COLCPE — it is our political front line of defense. ★

We Got Their Attention!

By Jim Walzenbach

CSALC Treasurer

The occasion was the D.C. lobby trip and the issue was Contract Delivery Service. The Monday training for the event began early on a very cold and windy morning. You could feel the excitement as brothers and sisters gathered to address the concerns of all Letter Carriers. The agenda called for a letter carrier picket at USPS headquarters between training sessions.

About two hundred of us met outside the hotel and traveled as a group to the Washington Mall. The rally got underway as President Young and the national officers joined us. Other NALC members joined the assembly, as did brothers and sisters from the Rural Carrier Association. Now about three hundred carriers marched from the Mall through the street to deliver our message to postal management at L'Enfant Plaza.

The Washington police presence made us all feel secure and the canine units along the way reminded us of the routes we carry. We picketed with our signs for about an hour outside headquarters. President Young and Donny Pitts, President of the Rural Carriers, delivered to the USPS an oversized postcard protesting Contract Delivery Service. We got their attention, judging by the many faces we saw peering out at us from USPS Headquarters windows. We hope they also got the message. ★

Muscular Dystrophy Report

By Jackie White

CSALC MDA Chair

Greetings, sisters and brothers. 54 years ago the NALC was the very first Union to get on board with Jerry Lewis and Muscular Dystrophy. Indeed MDA has become the official Letter Carrier Charity.

So why aren't more NALC Branches

having MDA events and fund raisers? The NALC has less than 200 branches participating in MDA events and fundraisers.

The California State Association Of Letter Carriers is going to try to remedy this situation in the very near future. The CSALC is going to try to get more involvement, more participation, and raise more money for MDA in the upcoming months.

I will be sending out canisters to collect COINS for A CURE. Just some pocket change will help out tremendously. I will also be sending out more information on muscular dystrophy. If you have something that works in your branch please let me know; if you have ideas or suggestions please let me know.

Together let us truly make MDA our California Letter Carrier Charity and give our coins to help effect a cure.

Thank you. Have a great day in Unionism. ★

State Legislative Liaison

By Greg Price

CSALC District 1

Brothers and Sisters I was asked and accepted the new position of State Legislative Liaison. I am excited and eager to see where the journey takes me. Some of the responsibilities that have been explained to me will to assist our State President, John Beaumont, with state legislative issues, (as I live in the Sacramento area) as well as help our Legislative Liaisons with what resources they may need to accomplish their goals.

As we have worked with Congress in past years, we need, and have started to work on City, County, and State issues. Sometimes the movements that begin in local politics gather momentum and are carried across the State, as well as the relationships we build with those politicians who share our concerns.

As we prepare for the 2008 elections, one of the races we are excited about is Congressional District 4. Charlie Brown ran against incumbent John Doolittle in 2006 and narrowly lost. Mr. Brown has decided to run again and with the hard work of labor organizations, Charlie Brown will be Congressman Brown of the 4th District in 2008. ★

www.
csalc.
org

The Blue Wave Rolls Over The Valley

by Verle Craven

CSALC District 3

Who would have thunk it. The most exciting congressional race in 2006 took place in District 3. I refer, of course, to Congressional District 11; Stretching from Walnut Creek in the Bay Area, over Altamont Pass into the valley; Tracy, Manteca; up highway 99 to Stockton.

In this slice of California pie, one of the most improbable victories in political history was accomplished. Jerry McNerney whipped Richard Pombo, and letter carriers were proud to be in the forefront of the action.

State President John Beaumont made the call that arguably was the difference for Jerry. Pombo was so far ahead after beating Pete McClosky in the primary that he decided to relax and not run a real campaign against his Democrat opponent. Looking at Jerry's chances, labor leaders decided to throw their weight behind the Democrat in the race for governor. Most labor leaders, that is.

Meanwhile, Jerry kept plugging along, building grass-roots strength. Jerry and his loyal and growing legion of volunteers walked through the long hot summer. John was watching the numbers and the agenda of the pollsters, and in October, he realized that the race was a dead heat. Pombo's numbers were going down and McNerney's were rising. It didn't take a genius to predict that Schwarzenegger had a lock on the

governor's race. John decided it was time to make a move.

Using his reputation and influence, he marshaled resources and poured them into CD 11. Three Congressional District Liaisons, Frank Royer from Branch 1111, Walt Butler from Branch 4850 and Hector Caban from Branch 1427 were sent to work on the campaign full time.

John persuaded The California State Federation of Labor to send all available staff into the District. Pombo & Co. suddenly woke to their peril — too late, as it turned out — and stated flooding the with airwaves with negative ads.

On the penultimate Sunday before the election, letter carriers from all over California flooded into the big valley to walk for Jerry McNerney: in Tracy and Manteca, over a hundred precinct walkers came out, most of them wearing letter carrier blue t shirts. I like to think that on this beautiful late fall day, our blue wave put Jerry over the top.

At the end of the day, with everyone sitting around tired but happy, wolfing down BBQ, all the precinct walkers told the same story: the vast majority of people contacted were fed up with Pombo; "... he's finished."

I said at the top of the article that this was one of the greatest political victories in history, and that is no exaggeration. When Jerry went to Washington his swearing in, he was amazed to find himself surrounded by admirers. The papers described

this reaction, comparing it to groupies around a rock star. This was overwhelming and a little uncomfortable for a down to earth regular guy like Jerry.

The mobilization of letter carriers shows that our potential is unlimited. Having a friend like Jerry in Congress is an unbelievable asset for letter carriers. It's wonderful that this is the case, because the future of the NALC is on the line. Everything points to political clout as the only path to stopping a misguided Postal Service from contracting out our futures. I am satisfied that when the call comes for action, the blue wave will rise like a tsunami.

There are two things all letter carriers must do. Become an E Activist. Sign up for biweekly deductions to COLCPE. . Being on the E Activist list will let you know when action is needed, and will provide the uniform message we must deliver. Regular contributions to COLCPE will make it possible to expand and accurately utilize the NALC political network. It's your livelihood. If you don't protect it, who will? ★

What's New with the Saxsenmeier Scholarship?

By Carol Maggio
CSALC Secretary

The Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship is administered by the CSALC and each year 8 high school students from all over the state benefit from the scholarships that are issued. Children and grandchildren of California letter carriers members are eligible to apply. Original applications are filled out by the letter carriers parent, verified by the NALC local branch officers, are sent in by mid-January to the Sax Chair. The Sax Chair sends packets out to the students which must be completed and returned to the by the end of March. Records such as SAT scores and high school transcripts along with an essay are some of the items which must be sent back to complete the application process. Selection of the awards are done by college professors and the award announcement is made in May of each year. Parents are encouraged to help their students

make sure that they return complete packets for the selection process.

The Saxsenmeier Scholarship Fund must earn enough money each year to support the scholarships awarded. We are working very hard to increase the base fund so that it can be more self supporting with the hope of raising the amounts of the scholarship awarded in the future. Many of the branches around the state have made it a priority to donate to the scholarship fund regularly and it is very much appreciated by the CSALC and the students who have benefited from the scholarship awards. The CSALC Budget Committee has suggested new fundraisers to increase the Sax Fund.

Recently at the CSALC / NBA Joint Training Session in Millbrae the CSALC hosted a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament which raised over \$1000 and by the end of the week-end training between recent donations and raffle tickets sold, the total

increased to \$3500. We have planned more fundraisers this year and next. There will be a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament one evening at the Fall CSALC / NBA Joint Training in Los Angeles and Charlie Miller, President of Branch 1100 has offered to host a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament this summer to benefit the Sax Fund. At the 2008 State Convention in Los Angeles, the Golf Tournament will also benefit the Sax Fund.

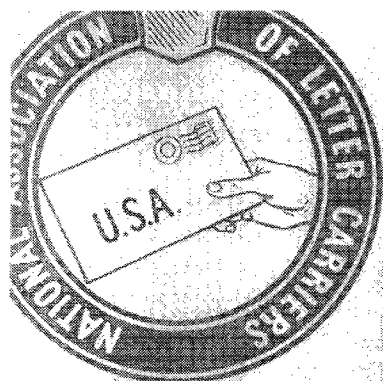
A highlight of the latest CSALC board meeting was Branch 214's Jerome Tercero's presentation to the board of a check for \$500 for the Sax Fund from the San Francisco Mutual Aid Association. The San Francisco Mutual Aid Association was a small sick and death benefit policy that many members of Branch 214 subscribed to. It was closed to new members in the early 70's and had reached a point where it could pay off all the members their benefits and close down. The Sax Fund received the benefit of the money remaining after all accounts were paid. It was very fitting for this donation to come from members of Branch 214 as Carl J. Saxsenmeier was a former president of Branch 214 from 1954 to 58, one of the first board of directors for the NALC Health Plan and a Western Field Director (now called the National Business Agent).

The new fundraisers have the potential to be very successful for the Sax Fund. Thank you all for making the new fundraisers a success. ★

Retiree COLCPE Information

If you are a retiree and would like to make a small donation to COLCPE from your monthly annuity check, you can do so by downloading the "Gimme 5 for COLCPE" form from the NALC website, printing out the form, filling the form with your information and mailing it back to NALC Headquarters. The link to find the form on the NALC website is listed below:

<http://www.nalc.org/depart/legpol/pdf/AnnuityWithholding.pdf>



Contribute
to **COLCPE**
monthly from your bank account via
Electronic Fund Transfer

Every month on the 1st of the month,
COLCPE will automatically (and without a
fee) deduct from your bank account the
amount you choose to contribute.

Please fill out and mail this coupon
with a voided check or deposit slip to:
NALC-COLCPE
100 Indiana Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001-2144

I hereby authorize my bank to deduct from my checking account monthly the sum of:

\$25 \$20 \$15 \$10 \$5 Other: \$ _____

and forward that amount to NALC's Committee on Letter Carriers Political Education (COLCPE).

I make this authorization voluntarily and may revoke it at any time by notifying the NALC COLCPE Committee in writing.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (please print): _____

Social Security Number: _____ OR Postal Record number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Attach a voided check here:

By making a COLCPE Electronic Fund Transfer authorization, you are doing so voluntarily with the understanding that your monthly contribution is not a condition of membership in the National Association of Letter Carriers or employment by the Postal Service nor a part of union dues and that COLCPE will use the money it receives to contribute to candidates for federal office as permitted by law. You are also making this Electronic Fund Transfer authorization with the understanding that COLCPE contributions are not tax deductible and that your selection shall remain in full force and effect until you cancel by notifying the NALC COLCPE Committee in writing.

2008 CARL J. SAXSENMEIER

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The California State Association of Letter Carriers (CSALC) is now accepting applications for the 2008 Carl J. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Program. All applications must be sent to the scholarship committee chair by January 12, 2008. The Chair will send scholarship packets to all applicants by the end of January, 2008. Completed packets must be returned to the Chair by April 6, 2008. The scholarships are available to the dependent children and grandchildren of members of NALC Branches within the State of California who have not served in a supervisory capacity in the previous two (2) years from the date of 2008 award announcement. Applicant's parent/grandparent must be a member in good standing of the NALC for at least one year prior to making application. Applicant must be a high school senior when making application. **ALL** requested information must be received by the Scholarship Chair by April 6, 2008. Saxsenmeier Scholarship Awards are issued in the year of high school graduation only.

Walter Johnson – Saxsenmeier Scholarship Chair
913 E. Willow Cr. — Hanford, CA 93230 — Phone (559) 583-0534

Saxsenmeier Scholarship Application (Please Print)

Applicant's Name _____

NALC Member Name _____

Home Address _____

City / State / ZIP _____

Home Telephone _____

Other Cell / Pager / FAX _____

Email Address _____

Applicant's Signature _____

NALC Member Signature _____ Relationship to Applicant _____

Local NALC Branch Officer Signature required for verification of member in good standing:

Branch Officer Signature _____ Title _____

Branch Officer Printed Name _____

Branch Number _____ Branch City _____ Date _____

California News Reporter
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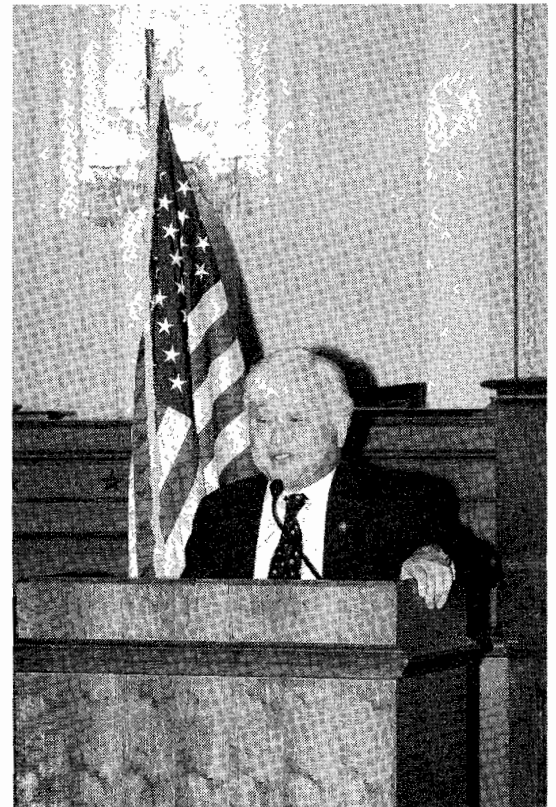
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Making Our Case



(Above Left: CSALC President John Beaumont, Congressmen Gerry McNerney and Tom Lantos meet with NALC President William Young at the Northern California training session. (Left) A view of the 300 picketers protesting contracting out at USPS Headquarters. (Above) Congressman Mike Honda speaks at the Congressional Breakfast following the DC Lobby trip.