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☞ March 6, 2007 ... Informational Hearing ... Milwaukee Initiative of the Exec. Budget

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs (SC-LEUA)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
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INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Original URL: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/metro/may04/232350.asp>

Residents grill mayor over lunch

Barrett sprinkles in humor as he responds to questions, complaints

By GREG J. BOROWSKI
gborowski@journalsentinel.com

Posted: May 26, 2004

Milwaukee residents dished up a full menu of concerns Wednesday for new Mayor Tom Barrett, who had plenty of issues to deal with - but no time to eat - at his first monthly "brown bag" lunch.

The hourlong session featured a main course of complaints and questions about the Metropolitan Milwaukee Sewerage District and its sewage dumping problems, along with side dishes that ranged from jobs to parking checkers to improving education.

The brown bag, Barrett's informal approach to the political staple of a town hall meeting, drew about 50 residents, plus half the Democratic field for the city's seat in the U.S. House - state Sen. Tim Carpenter and state Rep. Shirley Krug, who were in search of likely voters.

The head of the table, though, belonged to Barrett, who ran through dozens of questions with a mix of humor, earnestness and campaign-trail ease. Afterward, Barrett - and many who came to Room 101 of City Hall - declared it a success.

"I thought it was excellent," said Robert Baker, an elevator mechanic who discussed his trouble finding steady work. "I was able to sit down, a common man, and talk to my mayor."

Barrett spoke with Baker for about five minutes, with Baker urging the city to do a better job enforcing requirements for contractors to hire minorities.

"Enforcement is key," Barrett agreed. "We'll follow up with you on that."

Barrett didn't break much new ground in his comments, though he said he had considered appointing himself to the MMSD board, but he is more concerned about "community representation." He told the group that he would replace some, but not all, of the seven commissioners who were appointed by former Mayor John O. Norquist.

Barrett also noted the audit of MMSD he called for and, following up on a suggestion, said it was worth looking into tax credits or other incentives to get homeowners to disconnect their downspouts from the combined sewer system.

"I think right now the people at MMSD are open to a lot of suggestions," Barrett said. "So we'll float that one past them. No pun intended."

That drew chuckles.

Although it was billed as a brown bag, only a handful actually brought lunches. Several brought notebooks to keep track of the discussion. And, as Barrett answered some questions that were submitted on notecards, some commented that his laid-back demeanor was a departure from Norquist, not known for small talk.

Before tackling the cards, Barrett joked the first one read: "What is your favorite color, Tom?"

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/metro/may04/232350.asp?format=print>

1/14 2005

Packet

Milwaukee



Photo/Rick Wood

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett responds to questions from about 50 constituents during a "brown bag" gathering Wednesday at City Hall. Topics included the sewage dumping, education budgets and parking regulations.



Department of Employee Relations

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Maria Monteagudo
Director

David Heard
Fire and Police Commission
Executive Director

Michael Brady
Employee Benefits Director

August 20, 2004

Mr. Robert E Baker Jr.
5875 N 77th Street
Milwaukee, WI. 53218-1702

Re: City of Milwaukee-Equal Rights Commission

Dear Mr. Baker,

Pursuant to our conversation on August 20, 2004, the City of Milwaukee does not have jurisdiction over complaints involving employers that are outside the City of Milwaukee. The City Ordinance, Chapter 109 under the Fair Housing and Employment Discrimination, requires that the complainant be a resident of the City of Milwaukee and that the business be located within the City of Milwaukee. Since the three companies that you have cited in your complaints are all outside our realm of our authority, I am referring you to the State's Equal Rights Division at 227-4384 or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, at 297-1111.

I have also researched for you, the process of both the City of Brookfield and the Village of Menomonee Falls and neither of these entities have an on-site Equal Rights Commission. Their recommendations were for the complainant to either use the State or Federal Government's process or to go through the Better Business Bureau.

Sincerely,

Denise M. Bowers
Diversity Specialist-Sr.

Cc: Scott Gunderson
Maria Monteagudo

Court of Appeals rejects owner's suit in shooting of dog

Page 2

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2000



EUGENE KANE

City Equal Rights Commission is much neglected

What's the use of having an official body with an impressive sounding name like "The City of Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission" if it has no teeth?

That's what concerned citizens Ruth Zubrensky and Jerry Johnson — charter members of the city's Equal Rights Commission since it was formed in 1991 — are wondering today.

It's also the reason both socially committed Milwaukee residents have decided to quit the five-member panel: It gets no respect.

In a letter last month to Mayor John Norquist, the man who appointed them, Zubrensky and Johnson cited insufficient resources and a lack of commitment by city officials to the commission.

"We have both served since the commission's inception nine years ago and feel that unless the commission is reconstituted and given more resources it will continue to be a weak instrument in ending discrimination and making strides toward a more tolerant city."

In an interview, Johnson talked about his frustrations with the commission's effectiveness, limited by reductions in staff and resources over the years. He also questioned the city's commitment to the commission, and particularly that of the mayor. "The mayor has no real interest in this commission," Johnson said. "It's just a very

Wisconsin Light and a founder of the Brewers Hill Neighborhood Association, noted the decline in the commission's budget — from a high of \$135,000 in 1991 to \$48,000 in 1996 — as proof of the city's lack of interest.

Promotion was another problem; few seemed to know the commission was a place where residents could come with complaints about discrimination issues.

"I dare you to find it in the phone book," Johnson said. "They even left us out of the city directory."

Zubrensky, a longtime civil rights activist and consultant who attended college with Coretta Scott King, sounded even more disappointed that the commission never evolved into a meaningful vehicle for change.

Other cities with significant minority communities, such as Philadelphia and Los Angeles, have similar commissions with larger staffs and bigger budgets. Philadelphia's equal rights commission has a budget of more than \$2 million.

She wished Milwaukee saw its own problems with the same urgency.

"These are volatile times we live in; we have to learn to get along with our differences in this city. But we aren't doing anything like that around here."

In their letter to Norquist, Zubrensky and Johnson identified several areas of concern the commission had uncovered, including evidence some temporary help agencies discriminate against African-Americans and W-2 recipients.

Aside from those concerns, Zubrensky said a stronger commission could also become involved in other festering issues, including the ongoing friction between African-Americans and Arab merchants and investigating cases of harassment of gays and lesbians in Milwaukee.

She's seen some successes during her time on the commission. Zubrensky took pride in helping to establish minority participation goals for Miller Park and the Midwest Express Center. The commission also produced a video for first-time homeowners.

Johnson said they decided to write the letter to Norquist in hopes of shaking things up a bit. In response, Norquist wrote back with "a nice letter thanking us for our service."

Two new members will be invited to replace Zubrensky and Johnson — it's an unpaid job, but there are probably lots of Milwaukeeans who might get a charge out of being appointed by the mayor to such an impressive sounding body.

That's the way these two former members felt at first, glad to get the chance to serve the city they loved in what they believed was an important role.

Before discovering some invitations aren't worth much more than the paper they're printed on.

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Building trades faulted on minorities

Reports finds relatively few among workers, apprentices

By LEONARD SYKES JR.
lsykes@journalsentinel.com

1/13/06

Women and minorities in the Milwaukee metro area are largely being left out of apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades, according to an NAACP-commissioned study released Thursday.

Despite long-standing efforts to increase the numbers substantially, a study by the Employment and Training Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People finds that many of the programs established to recruit minority construction workers have had disappointing results, and that the number of minority apprentices is alarmingly small.

The report says employers have a dismal track record in their attempts to hire minorities, even with the current construction boom in downtown Milwaukee.

The report shows that even with programs such as Big Step and the City of Milwaukee's preference ordinance for hiring minority workers, area employers are sticking to old methods in hiring workers and apprentices for their projects. And many of them, according to the study, are ignoring minorities.

In short, the findings show that many private contractors in the area "have not stepped up to the plate" to become apprenticeship trainers.

"In just a few days, we will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday," said Jerry Ann Hamilton, president of the Milwaukee branch of the NAACP. "Dr. King had a dream of a day when race would not matter.

"But the task force results indicate we've got much work to do if we are to realize King's dream."

According to 2005 data gathered from records at the state Department of Workforce Development and the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards, only 475 companies employed construction trade apprentices in the metro area during the fall.

Of that group, 404 companies had no African-American apprentices; 411 had no Hispanic apprentices, and American Indians, Asians and women were barely represented, the study shows.

Lois M. Quinn of the institute, who led the study with Ruth Zubrensky of the NAACP, said an analysis of the data reveals that 475 contractors are preparing 11 white apprentices for every one African-American, and that the rate is 14 whites for every Hispanic entering the skilled trades.

In 2005, the study finds, there were only 118 African-American apprentices

Please see **TRADES, 2D**

Minority hiring lags, according to report

TRADES, From 1D

out of 1,515, or 7.8%. Only 89, or 5.9%, of the apprentices were Hispanics.

The bureau and other public and private institutions have failed to get satisfactory results from joint apprenticeship training programs and have failed to dent the need for jobs for central city residents, the study says.

Looking at the last six years of apprenticeship hiring and retention, the report finds little progress.

It says that unless all parties make a concerted effort to improve the record, "we may never witness equal access to construction training/jobs for minorities and women."

State Sen. Lena Taylor (D-

Milwaukee) said, "These numbers show that you have to just be willing to let people in the door." Taylor attended a news briefing about the report at NAACP headquarters, 2745 N. King Drive.

Nacarci Feaster, secretary/treasurer of Laborers International Union Local 113 and a board member of Big Step, which trains minority workers for the trades, said one way to increase the number of minority apprentices would be to sidestep the unions and confront employers and owners directly on the issue.

Most of the minority participation, he said, is in the basement trades, such as ironworkers, carpenters and brick masons, but the mechanical trades, from electri-

cal workers, boilermakers, plumbers and steamfitters, has virtually no minority participation.

The report makes 11 recommendations, among them asking the bureau to be more responsive to minorities and increasing state monitoring of construction sites.

According to the report, the Southeast Wisconsin Area Carpentry Joint Apprentice Committee sponsors the largest number of African-American apprentices; Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin-Waukesha sponsors the largest number of Hispanic apprentices.

The full list of recommendations and the report are at www.uwm.edu/Dept/ETV

Council adds job-aid money

MANPOWER, From 1D

Grunau and his partners.

Also, \$250,000 would fund a job training program. The council added that money via an amendment that Ald. Joe Davis proposed.

Davis told council members that a study by the city comptroller's office showed that the additional funds would not lengthen the time needed to pay off the city's debt.

But council members rejected six amendments that McGee proposed. Most of the changes that he proposed would have increased the project's minority hiring requirements.

The council rejected the proposals — with McGee the only supporting vote on five of the six amendments — after Ald. Michael D'Amato said the changes would cause Manpower to walk away from the deal. D'Amato said McGee made his proposals without first discussing them with the comptroller's office, the department or Grunau.

Council President Willie Hines said after the vote that city officials will consider

Developer Gary Grunau hopes to **begin construction this spring on the Manpower building and the power plant building, known collectively as RiverBend Place. The buildings would be completed by July 2007.**

changes to minority hiring goals that would apply to all city-financed developments.

Grunau and his partners are to build a 280,000-square-foot building that would be leased to Manpower along the Milwaukee River, just south of W. Cherry St. The company will move 900 full-time jobs to downtown from Glendale and Brookfield, with another 300 jobs added over five years, company spokeswoman Margaret Gerstenkorn said.

Also, Grunau is to renovate a nearby former power plant building into 55,000 square feet of space for more than 200 employees from other businesses. That project is to cost an additional \$9.2 million and provide property taxes to help pay off the city's financing package.

Barrett, Hines and other supporters of the package called it a good investment for

Milwaukee that will help attract other development to the Park East area and nearby neighborhoods.

One such project surfaced last week, when MLG Development Inc. of Brookfield disclosed plans to develop a 44,000-square-foot office building, 90 condominiums and retail space just across the river from the Manpower site.

Supporters of the package included the Milwaukee Urban League, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce and other business, labor and community groups.

Opponent Craig Peterson said it wasn't fair for city funds to provide free parking for Manpower employees.

Peterson, president of the Zigman Joseph Stephenson public relations and lobbying firm, issued a statement after the vote that congratulated Barrett, Hines and D'Amato for advancing the project.

Grunau hopes to begin construction this spring on the Manpower building and the power plant building, known collectively as RiverBend Place. The buildings would be completed by July 2007.

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Finance plan OK'd for UWM housing

Riverwest residents raise concerns as board gives preliminary approval

By TOM DAYKIN
tdaykin@journalssentinel.com

A Riverwest neighborhood apartment development proposed for University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee students received preliminary financing approval Thursday from the city Redevelopment Authority.

The authority's board voted 4-3 in favor of a \$28.6 million bond issue for the 119-unit building, which would house up to 440 students and university staff members. The UWM Real Estate Foundation would be responsible for paying off the bonds, which would be sold in the authority's name in order to reduce the foundation's interest charges.

That narrow vote came after board members debated whether it should provide preliminary approval for the bond is-

sue even as some neighborhood residents raised concerns about the project. The board reviews only the financing plan, which will require a second vote in June, and not zoning matters. But some board members said they were concerned that their preliminary vote could be viewed as an endorsement of the overall project.

Neighborhood residents opposed to the project said the seven-story development would be too large, and bring too much traffic and noise to Riverwest. They also said it could bring increased rowdiness, crime and vandalism to the area.

"It's the density," said neighborhood resident Susan Mroczynski. "We're all of a sudden going to have a teenage neighborhood."

Opponents said the development, with just 64 parking spaces, would force students to park on neighborhood streets.

UWM officials said the project would help meet the univer-

sity's growing demand for student housing. It's easier to control the behavior of students when they live in housing operated by the university, said Scott Peak, UWM housing director.

Also, some neighborhood residents agreed with plans to use shuttles and bicycles to transport students from the apartments to the campus. Those residents said building more parking spaces at the development would just increase traffic flowing into the area.

"If you build parking for 500 cars, there will be 500 cars going in and out of there," said Tess Reiss, who supports the plan.

The Plan Commission in April recommended approval for a zoning change that would allow UWM to develop the building. It would overlook the Milwaukee River, just north of E. North Ave. and about one block east of N. Humboldt Blvd.

The Common Council's Zoning, Neighborhoods & Develop-

ment Committee will consider the proposed zoning change at its Tuesday meeting.

The authority's board, before granting interim approval to the bond issue, considered delaying the vote until the board's June meeting.

Robert Rondini, a board member, questioned whether the board should act on the financing plan if some neighborhood residents say their concerns about the project aren't being addressed.

Ken Johnson, board chairman, said any delay would set a bad precedent for the board. He said the authority's only role in the project is to provide a conduit for the foundation to issue bonds. Zoning concerns, Johnson said, don't fall into the authority's jurisdiction.

Voting to grant preliminary approval were Johnson, Ald. Willie Wade, Sernorma Mitchell and Kathryn West. Voting to oppose preliminary approval were Rondini, Jose Freyre and Lincoln Fowler.

Even today, she adds, "there are people in our workforce who probably

still think we're crazy."

But after more than a decade of hiring minorities, the company's referral network has become colorblind. "Now we have minority workers recommending minorities," Pratt notes.

The state sets rules for apprenticeships, working with labor and business, and is supposed to be the referee assuring colorblind hiring. But as the study shows, the state doesn't even publish annual statistics on apprenticeships by race, which makes it rather difficult to measure progress.

The study suggests that this be corrected. Among the other recommendations: (1) The state Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards should make joint apprenticeship committees more accountable and disqualify those that make no progress; (2) The state should stop giving waivers to its rules for equity in hiring to companies handling major jobs like the Marquette Interchange; (3) The city, county, state and other governmental entities should themselves become apprentice trainers and should require upfront commitments from contractors to hire minority candidates; and (4) Joint apprenticeship committees should be required to advertise with minority newspapers and radio stations.

Rose Lynch, spokesperson for the state Department of Workforce Development, says the recommendations have merit. "Pending available resources, we feel many of them could and should be implemented. We know we still have a long way to go."

Why has government been so slow to implement reforms that have been discussed for nearly four decades? One clue was suggested in a recent series by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* on the power of the so-called concrete lobby. Between 1994 and 2002, the series found, annual campaign donations by road interests tripled — from about \$150,000 to nearly \$475,000. During that period, legislators boosted the annual road construction budget by 44 percent, or \$100 million.

State-funded construction has exploded in Wisconsin, yet the number of minority workers and apprentices on these projects never seems to increase. But when the contractors are so lavish in their campaign gifts to both Republican and Democratic politicians, it may seem ungenerous to hassle these companies about equity in hiring. The dearth of minority apprentices may simply be a side effect of the bipartisan failure to set strict campaign funding. ■

Committee recommends city funding proposal

MANPOWER, From 10

pure economic power," Bauman said. "I guess I'm here to cave in."

But Ald. Michael D'Amato called it "a great project" that would fuel continued retail and housing development in downtown and its surrounding neighborhoods, including portions of the central city.

Joining D'Amato and Bauman in the vote were Aldermen Ashanti Hamilton, Michael Murphy and Willie Wade.

Mayor Tom Barrett, who announced the funding proposal in December, said the Manpower building would be a "tremendous asset" to the downtown, its workforce and its tax base.

The vote came after a four-hour meeting, which included expressions of support for the proposal from 18 people, including citizens and representatives of businesses, business groups and labor unions.

Most of those supporting the plan said it would bring jobs downtown, including some for the city's lower-income residents.

Some said the Manpower project also would help downtown draw more businesses, especially to the nearby Park East redevelopment area.

Minority hiring is concern

Opposition was largely absent. But the three speakers who did not endorse the project included two aldermen, Joe Davis and Mike McGee Jr.

Davis said he was concerned about the amount of money that would be devoted to hiring minority-owned contractors. He did not say how he would vote when the project comes before the full council.

McGee called Manpower ex-

ecutives "plutocrats" and urged the committee to increase the project's minority hiring requirements. The committee rejected McGee's proposed changes after city Development Commissioner Rocky Marcoux said changes to the financing agreement would cause Manpower to walk away from the deal.

Wade and Hamilton responded that the council at some point should raise minority hiring and contracting standards to create a uniform city policy for future deals.

The public financing package calls for the city to borrow \$25.3 million, with that amount plus

WHAT'S NEXT

■ The 15-member Common Council is to consider the funding proposal for the Manpower headquarters Tuesday.

\$17.8 million in interest paid back over 20 years with the development's property taxes, according to the Department of City Development. Some of the debt also would be repaid through property taxes generated by the nearby Time Warner Cable regional headquarters, 1320 N. King Drive.

Of the city's funds, \$18.7 million would pay for a 1,270-space parking structure with \$1.9 million funding a road along the river and a riverwalk, according to the city comptroller's office.

The funding proposal, which would encompass the Manpower headquarters and other buildings in a special tax financing district, includes a \$1.7 million grant and a \$3 million low-interest loan to building developer Gary Grunau and his partners.

Chris Kliesmet, spokesman for Citizens for Responsible Government, told committee members that he had several concerns about the project, including whether the Barrett administration had negotiated the best possible deal for city taxpayers.

But Kliesmet, whose group

did leafleting in July that helped defeat Barrett's \$41 million financing proposal for the Pabst brewery redevelopment, said his organization has not yet taken a formal stand against the project.

Leading foe doesn't speak

Craig Peterson, president of the Zigman Joseph Stephenson public relations and lobbying firm, who led opposition to the financing package, attended the meeting but didn't speak.

"It would not have made any difference," Peterson said.

Peterson has said that it's not fair for public funds to provide free parking for Manpower employees.

He said some of the council's more conservative members might vote against the proposal next week.

Grunau and his partners would build a 280,000-square-foot building for Manpower along the Milwaukee River, just south of W. Cherry St. The company would move 970 full-time jobs to downtown from Glendale and Brookfield, with another 300 jobs added over five years.

Also, Grunau would renovate a nearby former power plant building into 55,000 square feet of space for more than 200 employees from other businesses. That project would cost an additional \$9.2 million.

Grunau hopes to begin construction this spring on the Manpower building and the power plant building, known collectively as RiverBend Place. The buildings would be completed by July 2007.

The project is expected to create 317 construction jobs during that period, according to a study that the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce has released.

The association is among the business groups supporting the city financing.

Minorities, women could help fill labor shortage

2/17/06

Experts push careers in building trades

By RICHARD SYKES JR.
rsykes@milwaukeejournal.com

Expecting shortages of skilled laborers during a time of more construction projects in southeastern Wisconsin, a representative of the building trades is calling for a concerted effort to bring more minorities and women into the work force.

"We're anticipating that as an industry, we're going to be experiencing an awful lot of growth in the next 10 years," said John Topp, ex-

ecutive director of the Construction Labor Management Council of Southeast Wisconsin Inc.

Even with apprenticeship programs at their current capacity, Topp said there will be a shortage of skilled workers because of the number of people retiring and taking different jobs.

A push to increase minority apprentices would give the industry a much-needed boost and offset potential labor shortages, Topp said.

Topp's comments came soon after a report commis-

Please see **TRADES, 26**

Minorities, women could help fill skilled

TRADES, From 1D

sioned by the Milwaukee branch of the NAACP that says minorities and women were largely being left out of apprenticeship programs in the building trades.

The report, released last month and conducted by the Employment and Training Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, said that despite long-standing efforts to increase the numbers, programs recruiting minority workers have been disappointing.

An analysis of data from the state Department of Workforce Develop-

ment and the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards found that 475 contractors were preparing 11 white apprentices for every one African-American, and that the rate was 14 whites for every Hispanic entering the skilled trades.

Topp, who called the report "a wake-up call," said there will have to be an industrywide effort over the next several years to increase the skilled work force in the state.

The effort is necessary because state and federal statistics indicate a potential shortage of skilled workers over the next several years, he said.

"It's a dynamic that is happening,

and it's a change in demographic which we are all experiencing across our country," Topp said.

In the union construction industry there are now about 18,000 registered journey workers and apprentices in the six-county region of southeastern Wisconsin. Of that number, Topp said there have been shortages from 10% to 20% over the last five years.

That includes the increase in construction projects in the region, from the Marquette Interchange project to the expansion of the Lake Drive Campus of Columbia St. Mary's hospital and the power plant projects in Oak Creek and Port Washington, he said.

labor shortage, experts say

The report from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, he said, "is good timing" and contains a road map for change.

Over the past several years, programs such as Big Step have prepared minorities and women for apprenticeships. Earl Buford, who directs the group, said his program has been recruiting at high schools for apprenticeship programs. But the effort is not widespread, Buford said, because Milwaukee Public Schools doesn't have many trade programs.

"Plus, let's be honest, a lot of 18-year-olds, no matter what school district they're in, don't know if they want to

go into a trade at 18 or 19," he said.

The Construction Labor Management Council has an ongoing outreach program and has hired a professional marketing firm to help encourage contractors in all disciplines to hire apprentices. Topp said the NAACP report indicates that the firms with minority apprentices prove to be successful contractors.

Jerry Ann Hamilton, president of the NAACP's Milwaukee branch, said the group's doors are open for dialogue with contractors. Among the NAACP's 11 recommendations in the report are an increase in outreach and more monitoring at construction sites.

g plan irks group

The public financing package calls for the city to borrow \$25.3 million, with that amount plus \$17.8 million in interest paid back over 20 years with the development's property taxes, according to the Department of City Development.

Some of the debt also would be repaid through property taxes generated by the nearby Time Warner Cable regional headquarters, 1320 N. King Drive.

Of the city's funds, \$18.7 million would pay for a 1,270-space parking structure, the comptroller's report says, with \$1.9 million funding a road along the river and a riverwalk. The funding proposal, which would encompass the Manpower headquarters and other buildings in a special tax financing district, includes a \$1.7 million grant to Grunau and his partners and a \$3 million low-interest loan.

Several downtown business-

owners are irked by the plan under the auspices of the coalition for Milwaukee jobs supporting Manpower's proposed move.

Lamar Franklin, co-owner of the restaurant and bar Garfield 502, 502 W. Garfield Ave., said he anticipates increased business from the project.

"We're trying to build up downtown Milwaukee," he said. "How can we do it unless you have the presence of large companies?"

The Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce said the development would create an estimated 317 construction jobs.

Other groups supporting Manpower include the African American Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council and the King Drive Business Improvement District, an organization of downtown business and property owners.

Manpower breaks ground on new site

Manpower Inc. broke ground Thursday on its new world headquarters in downtown Milwaukee, a \$78 million project that will eventually house about 1,200 employees.

The 280,000-square-foot building, which will overlook the Milwaukee River, just south of W. Cherry St., is being developed by Gary Grunau and his partners, who will lease it to Manpower. The staffing company plans to move 900 full-time jobs to downtown from Glendale and Brookfield by July 2007, with another 300 jobs added over five years.

Mayor Tom Barrett and the Common Council in February approved a \$25.55 million city financing package for the project. Those funds, along with \$17.9 million in interest, will be paid back over 20 years with the development's property taxes.

Grunau Co. sold to Minnesota firm

It will keep local management, share corporate resources

By TOM DAYKIN

tdaykin@journalonline.com

Grunau Co., a long-standing Milwaukee-area mechanical contracting firm, has been sold to St. Paul, Minn.-based API Group Inc., company President Paul W. Grunau said Tuesday.

Grunau will remain as president of the Oak Creek-based Grunau Co., which has 500 employees, including operations in Pittsburgh; Indianapolis; Orlando, Fla.; and Youngstown, Ohio. There are no plans to change any of those operations, and key members of Grunau Co.'s management team will remain on the job, Grunau said.

Terms of the sale were not disclosed.

Grunau said his company, which installs heating systems, plumbing, fire protection systems and other equipment, is financially strong. He estimated that annual revenue in 2006 will be around \$100 million, up about 50% since 1999.

But despite that growth, Grunau said he realized more than a year ago that Grunau Co. eventually would need to align itself with a larger, more financially capable partner to help it continue to prosper.

"We can't stand still," Grunau said. "This is the next step in the journey."

API Group has nearly \$1 billion in annual revenue and is composed of 29 independently managed specialty contractors throughout North America. API Group's business model is to maintain local management and company identity while sharing corporate and human resources, innovations and

and

"That approach appealed to Grunau, who said he wanted a partner that would allow him to continue to operate independently while taking advantage of access to greater financial resources, as well as sharing best business practices.

A privately held company, API Group employees own 33% of the company, with the balance held by the company's chairman and chief executive officer, Lee Anderson.

The purchase of Grunau Co. took effect Friday.

The company was founded in 1920 by Paul J. Grunau, great-grandfather of the current president. It started in Milwaukee's Bay View area as a plumbing company and eventually evolved into a mechanical contractor.

Grunau Co. enjoyed a boom during the 1970s

and early 1980s, thanks to the purchase of Miller Brewing Co. by Philip Morris Cos. Inc.

Philip Morris greatly expanded Miller Brewing by refurbishing it and building six new breweries.

Grunau Co. received \$500 million in contracts from Miller during that period.

Paul W. Grunau took over as president of the company in 1995, after serving one year as executive vice president. An employee since 1990, he purchased the company from his family in 1999.

Paul W. Grunau's father, Gary Grunau, operated a spin-off commercial development firm, Grunau Project Development Inc., before that firm was sold in 2003 to Providence, R.I.-based Gilbane Building Co. Gary Grunau serves as senior vice president of Gilbane's Milwaukee-based north central regional office.

"We can't stand still. This is the next step in the journey."

Paul W. Grunau,
Grunau Co.
president





Media Room

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, February 07, 2007

Carla Vigue, Office of the Governor, 608-261-2162

Governor Doyle Announces Initiative to Grow Milwaukee for Wisconsin's Future Includes Plans for Property Taxes, Education, Health Care and Economic Development

MILWAUKEE – Governor Jim Doyle announced today a comprehensive strategy to help the Milwaukee metro area to succeed and thrive. The initiative, called **Growing Milwaukee for Wisconsin's Future**, is a strategy to secure the basics, build on Milwaukee's assets, and grow a strong middle class.

"Whether you live in Milwaukee or Marinette, the future of our state's largest metropolitan area affects you. For Wisconsin to thrive, we need a strong and growing Milwaukee," Governor Doyle said. "From supporting kids, to cracking down on violent crime, to creating jobs and investing in infrastructure, I ask you to join me in making an investment in Milwaukee for the sake of all Wisconsin."

Governor Doyle's plans to make Milwaukee stronger include improving access to affordable health care, ensuring quality education, creating good-paying jobs, enhancing the public infrastructure and reinvesting in our city neighborhoods, and making unprecedented commitments to higher education and economic and workforce development.

Quality Education

- Create the Office of the Wisconsin Covenant and increase financial aid by \$44 million to prepare for the day the first Covenant scholars enter Wisconsin's colleges and universities;
- Launch a \$15 million partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools to support student math achievement initiatives, increase graduation rates, and keep kids competitive;
- Provide property tax relief to Milwaukee taxpayers by supporting 100 percent of the cost of new students in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program; and
- Provide \$500,000 to support after school programs at school-based sites of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee.

Reducing Crime

- Provide more than \$4 million to put more police officers on the street and put more kids to work;
- Provide an increase of \$27 million in youth aids over the biennium;
- Increase support for Milwaukee circuit courts by \$3.5 million over the

biennium, along with \$180,000 for court interpreters; and

- Provide \$1 million to Mayor Tom Barrett's Summer Jobs Program, creating more than 450 jobs.

Focusing on Children and Families and Making Health Care More Affordable

- Streamline services for children and families by merging child welfare, child support, child care services and the W-2 program into a single, unified agency – the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families;
- Make quality health care more accessible and affordable through Governor Doyle's BadgerCare Plus program;
- Provide \$1.4 million to help pregnant women during the third trimester of at-risk pregnancies;
- Provide \$750,000 to EduCare, Inc. for early childhood intervention and ensure school readiness; and
- Provide \$500,000 to MetaHouse, Inc. to support alcohol and drug abuse treatment services for Milwaukee women.

Improving Housing

- Launch a new Partnership Neighborhood Initiative through the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) to provide reduced interest rate loans or down payment assistance to first time homebuyers in neighborhoods throughout Milwaukee.

Milwaukee Health Care Initiative

- Improve the health of children in Milwaukee by investing nearly \$2 million to help hire 24 additional school nurses;
- Ensure all eligible children are enrolled in BadgerCare Plus;
- Develop electronic health records and a health information exchange that includes schools; and
- Provide BadgerCare Plus families with educational tools to make informed choices.

Investing in Public Infrastructure

- Increase assistance for transportation for seniors, freight rail, and mass transit – including \$3.6 million for public transportation in Milwaukee;
- Invest in ongoing work on the Marquette Interchange, the I-94 North-South Corridor project, and the Zoo Interchange;
- Provide \$1 million for the KRM Commuter Rail;
- Seek federal funding to expand Amtrak Service from Chicago and Milwaukee to Madison.

Leading in Biotechnology and Medical Research

- Invest \$8 million in UW-Milwaukee's Research Growth Initiative;
- Provide \$200,000 to the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents to study the creation of a school of public health at UW-Milwaukee;
- Direct \$2.5 million to the Biomedical Technology Alliance – building on a state investment of \$35 million; and
- Invest an additional \$2.5 million for efforts by the Medical College and Children's Hospital to develop a translational research facility.

Growing Milwaukee's Tourism

- Enable the city to designate a four square-mile Premier Resort Area to raise revenues to support infrastructure and tourism in the area.

Protecting the Environment

- Provide \$17 million to leverage \$31 million in federal funds to revitalize the Kinnickinnic River and Estabrook Park.

Providing Property Tax Relief, Ensuring Fiscal Stability and Protecting Local Services

- Provide \$21 million in property tax relief to Milwaukee residents;
- Provide Milwaukee County with the ability to extend the terms of pension obligation bonds; and
- Increase shared revenue to the city from less than \$230 million in 2006 to nearly \$234 million by 2008.

Workforce Development

- Double funding for the Youth Apprenticeship Program to \$2.2 million.
- Invest in job training – increasing efforts from \$2 million to \$8 million – to help Wisconsin's technical colleges train an additional 36,000 workers.

Economic Development

- Continue to invest in industries and companies that shape Milwaukee – and Wisconsin's – future.
- Attract new investments by creating a \$2.4 million Wisconsin Venture Center and increasing angel and venture tax credits to \$23 million.
- Launch the Entrepreneurial Network to provide information and assistance to Milwaukee-area entrepreneurs;
- Create an Outreach Specialist in Milwaukee to provide assistance for minority entrepreneurs and small businesses; and
- Provide \$500,000 for the Milwaukee 7 to strengthen regional economic development in Southeast Wisconsin.

For a copy of *Growing Milwaukee for Wisconsin's Future*, go to:

<http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=10524>

Printed: 2/26/2007



Doyle's Plan to "Grow Milwaukee" Surprises the City

Local leaders weren't consulted

by Dennis Shook

February 08, 2007

A shroud of secrecy surrounded much of what Gov. Jim Doyle had planned in his program to help "Grow Milwaukee."

Until the governor referred to it in last week's State of the State speech, many of the top leaders in the city and county were unaware of Doyle's plans for the state's largest metropolitan area, or even when and where he planned to deliver details. Nor had Milwaukee's legislators or public officials been consulted about their views on what the city needs.

Milwaukee Police Chief Nannette Hegerty and District Attorney John Chisholm had not been contacted by the governor to discuss some of the fine points of his plans. But neither ruled out being part of the event. Milwaukee Public Schools Superintendent Bill Andrekopoulos failed to return calls on the subject.

While Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett was unaware of the details until Monday, he said, "There certainly appear to be more pluses than minuses."

Barrett said he had some broad conversations about the city's needs with the governor during recent months but some of the initiatives were new.

But just before press time, Doyle communications director Matt Canter shared many of the plan's details. Most of the initiative focuses on improving health care, education and employment access for low-income

people, with a special emphasis on children. Doyle is also providing \$4 million for public safety, as the city struggles to control violence.

There is also a major change in state shared revenues for local governments, with Doyle apparently set to budget for an increase of \$15 million throughout the state. Of that, around \$4 million would come to Milwaukee County and the city, if the current funding formula is followed.

"This is definitely going in the right direction," Rich Eggleston, spokesman for the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities, said of the state shared revenue hike.

Canter said many of the details would not be released prior to Doyle's speech in Milwaukee Wednesday. But property tax relief and investments in the Milwaukee Public Schools system are going to be a major part of the initiative, he said.

"The governor's three-part theme is called 'securing the basics, building on the assets, and growing a strong middle class,'" Canter said.

Milwaukee Gets Noticed

The governor has been much more vocal since his re-election in November about his intentions to help Milwaukee. In his State of the State speech last week, he addressed the problems he believes face Milwaukee.

"Whether you live in Milwaukee or Marinette, the future of our state's largest metropolitan area affects you," Doyle said. "For Wisconsin to thrive, we need a strong and growing Milwaukee. It is a great and vital city, the center of our culture and commerce, the hub of our economy."

Speaking on Jan. 30, Doyle said, "Next week, I will join with leaders in Milwaukee to announce a comprehensive strategy to help the Milwaukee metro area to succeed and thrive. From supporting kids to cracking down on violent crime to creating jobs and investing in infrastructure, I'll ask you to join me in making an investment in Milwaukee for the sake of Wisconsin."

But he really didn't ask those same Milwaukee leaders to join him, insofar as their input was concerned.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, who has gotten along rather well with Doyle despite their facing off as rivals for the gubernatorial nomination in 2002, has been largely in the dark about what Doyle was planning. The mayor, who has his own "State of the City" speech set for 8 a.m. on Monday at the Tramont Corp., 3701 N. Humboldt Blvd., had no details on Doyle's plan as late as Friday.

As of Tuesday, Police Chief Hegerty had not been contacted by Doyle.

District Attorney Chisholm said he believed he knew what the funds for his department were earmarked for, after recent conversations with Doyle, himself a former attorney general.

"I believe it's intended to help install a modern case management system in the office," Chisholm said Tuesday. "That will allow us to be more effective and transparent. It will help us track what we charge, how we charge it and what the case dispositions are."

That system, known as "Protect," is "definitely needed, as we are still a paper-based system," Chisholm said. Milwaukee is the only county in the state that does not have the system, which also connects the city to the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access Program, which provides records of circuit court actions throughout the state.

Funds for MPD, Kids, Jobs and Housing

According to Canter, highlights of the Grow Milwaukee package include the following initiatives:

Crime:

- \$1.5 million in new funding for the Milwaukee Police Department, which is a continuation of a funding boost in 2006
- \$1 million for the New Hope Project, to create transitional jobs for more than 200 recently released offenders
- \$1 million for Barrett's summer jobs program

- \$750,000 for treatment alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenders
- \$750,000 for a program to help provide judges with more information on pre-sentencing analysis
- \$50,000 for the district attorney's office, for a computerized records program
- \$13 million for youth aids, focusing on juvenile detention costs
- \$3.6 million in additional funding for circuit courts
- \$180,000 for court interpreters

Children/Families:

- \$1.4 million to provide assistance to unmarried pregnant women during the third trimester of a troubled pregnancy
- \$500,000 for alcohol and other drug assistance, directed at women
- A funding increase for the Milwaukee Home Visiting program, focusing on parent education for an estimated 700 at-risk families
- A guardianship program to allow permanent child placement with relatives, allowing family members to receive foster-care payments, affecting an estimated 650 children

Infrastructure:

- \$1 million in funding for the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail line's engineering work
- Continued funding for projects along the interstate system

Housing:

- \$1 million to support transitional housing opportunities for homeless people
- A plan to extend Tax Incremental Finance districts for a year, using the increased value to fund construction of affordable housing

Health:

- A four-point plan under the newly announced state Department of Children and Families, focusing on enrolling all children in the BadgerCare Plus state health-care program; allowing parents to make state insurance choices; providing electronic health-care records to those who need them; and providing \$2 million to ensure that all schoolchildren have access to public school nurses
- \$200,000 to provide better health-care access for people in Milwaukee who have AIDS

Other Projects:

- Funding projects to improve environmental conditions along the Kinnickinnic River and at Estabrook Park
- \$8 million to fund the collaborative research facility to be pursued by several local colleges

Canter said the governor's initiative was not just about sending money to Milwaukee, but the funding is part of a larger, overall strategy to help Milwaukee address its challenges.

All of the funding options are expected to be part of Doyle's Feb. 13 budget speech.



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FRIDAY, Feb. 23, 2007, 3:40 p.m.

By Stacy Forster

Budget's Milwaukee effort gets hearing

Madison -- A package of proposals in Gov. Jim Doyle's budget aimed at improving Milwaukee will be the subject of a legislative committee meeting next month.

Sen. Spencer Coggs (D-Milwaukee) said the Senate's Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs would hold a hearing on the so-called "Milwaukee initiative" on March 6 at 10 a.m. at the Northside YMCA in Milwaukee located at 1350 W. North Ave. The hearing will begin with an explanation of the package by state Department of Administration Secretary Michael Morgan; Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett is expected to attend, Coggs said.

"As the state's largest city, Milwaukee has unique needs that I am glad Gov. Doyle has addressed in the 2007-2009 biennial budget," Coggs said in a statement.

▼ THE REST OF TODAY'S POSTS...▼

FRIDAY, Feb. 23, 2007, 4:22 p.m.

By Greg J. Borowski

Norman may seek Muni Court recount

Jeffrey Norman, whose write-in campaign finished fifth in Tuesday's primary election, is expected to formally request a recount when the city Board of Election Commissioners meets Monday.

The panel's agenda already includes a "recertification" of the Tuesday results, since a review of the write-in tally turned up a mistake that will add about 50 votes to Norman's total of 2,964, according to Sue Edman, executive director of the city Election Commission.

Nevertheless, that will leave him far behind the top two finishers, Jennifer Havas and Phil Chavez, who are to face off April 3 in the contest for the open seat. Havas came in with the most votes, 4,460, or 23% of the total. Chavez had 4,012 votes, or 21%.

If Norman seeks the recount, it could begin as early as Tuesday. Since the margin was not close, he will have to pay for the recount. That cost is about \$3,000, Edman said.

<http://www.jsonline.com/watch/index.aspx?watch=22&date=2/23/2007&id=19559&form...> 02/26/2007



THE DAILY REPORTER

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Doyle's Milwaukee Initiative embraced

Sean Ryan,
March 7, 2007

All of the speakers at Tuesday's Senate committee hearing on the state budget in Milwaukee endorsed the governor's funding proposals for the city. But the prospect of opposition from legislators representing the 4.4 million Wisconsinites who don't live in Milwaukee County cast a shadow over the discussion. "By saying these are good things for Milwaukee, it means probably some state legislators will hear that and say, 'I'm not going to support it,'" Mayor Tom Barrett said to conclude his praise for Gov. Jim Doyle's Milwaukee Initiative to send more money to the city in the next biennial budget. Both Barrett and Sen. Spencer Cogg, chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs, echoed Doyle's assertions that what's good for Milwaukee is good for Wisconsin. The hearing was held at the Northside YMCA; among the speakers were Superintendent Bill Andreopoulos, Milwaukee Public Schools; Secretary/Treasurer Sheila Cochran, Milwaukee County Labor Council; President Ralph Hollmon, Milwaukee Urban League; Executive Director Kit McNally, Benedict Center; President Derrick Martin, Lena's Food Market president; Graef, Anhalt, Schloemer & Associates Vice President John Kissinger; and Executive Director Robert Miranda, Esperanza Unida. Doyle on Feb. 8 rolled out an extensive plan calling for, among other things, \$15 million in additional funding for Milwaukee public schools, \$8 million for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and \$4 million for the Milwaukee Police Department. Barrett called for a bigger cut of the state's shared revenue program, saying he would spend any additional money on public safety initiatives. "We as the largest city, throughout history, throughout American history ... attract a lot of people who are beginning to climb the ladder," Barrett said. "We are asked to shoulder a larger percentage of society's challenges." Sen. Glenn Grothman, who represents parts of Washington, Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties, joined the discussion. "I just got to defend some of the out-state people here," he said.

Political weapon

Republican politicians that support Milwaukee funding in the state budget often find themselves with political problems while running for re-election against Democratic challengers, Grothman said. Democratic candidates use past support of Milwaukee as an angle to criticize Republican incumbents, he said. "Maybe you can tell some of the Democrats out-state not to go after some of the Republicans who help Milwaukee," he said to Barrett. The mayor suggested that Milwaukee funding wouldn't become a political football if "a lot of Democrats, like all of them, and a lot of Republicans, like all of them," support the budget proposals. He promised to give an earful to any Democratic legislators criticizing the plan. "I don't think we should be using the funding issue as a hammer either way, because the Milwaukee property taxpayer gets hammered in the end," Barrett said. Hollmon said legislators should convince voters to support Milwaukee funding by appealing to their pocketbooks. The job-training programs in Doyle's budget would create workers who will contribute taxes to the state instead of draining law-enforcement or prison resources. "These issues that we're talking about are complex, and often people who don't live in the affected areas and the central city feel that they are not impacted," he said. "If you can't appeal to anyone in any other way, you can appeal to them in their pocketbook."

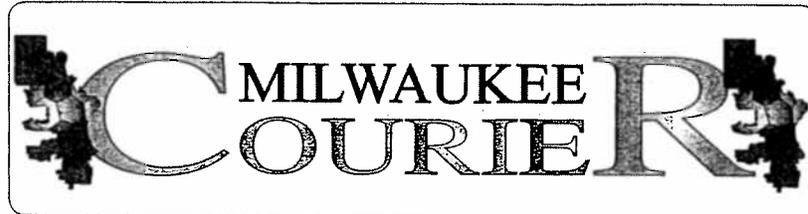
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Spencer Coggs

State Senator

March 10, 2007



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Senator Coggs holds informational hearing on Governor Doyle's plan

Growing Milwaukee for Wisconsin's future

By Lynda Jones
Editor

Senator Spencer Coggs who is the chairman of the Committee on Labor, Elections, and Urban Affairs brought his committee to Milwaukee earlier this week to hear testi-



Spencer Coggs

mony from Milwaukee citizens, local leaders and business representatives on the impact of Governor Jim Doyle's 2007-2009 Biennial Budget.

Sen. Coggs stated, "As the state's largest city, Milwaukee has unique needs that I am glad Gov. Doyle has addressed in the 2007-2009 Biennial Budget. Given the size of the state budget, I feel that

the committee charged with Urban Affairs give Milwaukee residents the opportunity to testify specifically on the important portion known as the Milwaukee Initiative."

Various speakers were invited to speak regarding the Governor's plan, Michael Morgan, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration spoke and gave an overview of the initiative, called 'Growing Milwaukee for Wisconsin's Future, a strategy to secure the basics, build on Milwaukee's assets, and grow a strong middle class. Gov. Doyle has stated that, "Whether you live in Milwaukee or Marinette, the future of our state's largest metropolitan area affects you. For Wisconsin to thrive, we need a strong and growing Milwaukee. From supporting kids, to cracking down on violent crime, to creating jobs and investing in infrastructure, I ask you to join me in making an investment in Milwaukee for the sake of all Wisconsin."

Governor Doyle's plans to make Milwaukee stronger include improving access to affordable health care, ensuring quality education, creating good-paying jobs, enhancing

the public infrastructure and reinvesting in our city neighborhoods, and making unprecedented commitments to higher education and economic and workforce development.

Mayor Tom Barrett spoke and acknowledged how the plan would benefit taxpayers and the city for example in the area of the cost for operating the Milwaukee Police department, an area that costs the city some 200 million dollars out of a 220 million dollar levy. Barrett also spoke on school choice costs to taxpayers, and how he felt that should not be a burden on individual taxpayers, and the Governor's plan picks up those costs.

Other invited guests that testified and explained how the Milwaukee Initiative would impact them were; MPS Superintendent Bill Andrekopoulos, Milwaukee County Labor Council Secretary/Treasurer Sheila Cochran, Milwaukee Urban League President Ralph Holmon, Executive Director of the Benedict Center Kit McNally, Executive Director of Esperanza Unida Robert Miranda and local businessmen, John Kissinger vice-president of Graef, Anhalt, Schloemer, & Assoc.,



Jim Doyle

and Derrick Martin, president of Lena's Food Market.

The floor later opened to Milwaukee citizens that attended the informational hearing.

One of the purposes for the hearing in addition to informing the Milwaukee community on what impact this plan has for them, but it also allows for the Senate Committee to arm themselves with input and information to take back to Madison where this plan has to be sold and approved by the state legislature. One of those Senator's who appears to be rather a skeptic is Senator Glenn Groth-

man (Rep.) of West Bend, who at one point asked why do we keep pouring money into Milwaukee with all of its problems.

His attitude is one that Milwaukee's legislators must face. Members from the community spoke endlessly on how the Milwaukee Initiative is an investment into the city that is the largest metropolitan area in Wisconsin. Mayor Barrett even noted how the income per capita for Milwaukee is \$35,000 compared to \$61,000 in Madison.

Speakers also addressed the

Continued on page 9

Governor Doyle's plan

Continued from page 1

absence of large industrial jobs that once brought workers to Milwaukee seeking work. Now, it is challenging for Milwaukeeans to find jobs, the plan looks at empowering entrepreneurs of small businesses to help fill in some of the void left behind from the lack of industrial businesses that once employed thousands in Milwaukee.

In addressing education to prepare Milwaukee youth for a more competitive employment playground, the Milwaukee Initiative addresses improving the quality of education by:

Governor Doyle's plan for Milwaukee wants to launch a \$15 million partnership with MPS to support math achievement initiatives, increase graduation rates, which has already increased to 65% from 50% according to superintendent Andrekopoulos. And keep kids competitive.

Provide property tax relief to Milwaukee taxpayers by supporting 100 percent of the cost of new students in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, a plan Mayor Barrett said worked well for him, because he thought it was unfair for taxpayers to bear that cost.

Provide \$500,000 to support after school programs at school based sites of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee.

In addressing the reduction of crime: Provide more than \$4 million to put more police officers on the street and put more kids to work;

Provide an increase of \$27 million in youth aids over the biennium; Increase support for the Milwaukee circuit courts by \$3.5 million over the biennium, along with \$180,000 for court interpreters; and provide \$1 million to Mayor Tom Barrett's Summer Jobs Program, creating more than 450 jobs.

The plan also includes the Focus on children and families and making health care more affordable; Improving Housing; Milwaukee Health Care Initiative; Investing in Public Infrastructure; Leading in Biotechnology and Medical Research; Growing Milwaukee's Tourism; Protecting the Environment; Providing Property Tax Relief, Workforce Development; and Economic Development.

For more detailed information on the Governor's Growing Milwaukee for Wisconsin's Future Initiative go to www.state.wi.us/journal.



Look who's listening to labor experts now

On national TV

Front and center. There she was in a February series on globalization on the PBS News Hour with Jim Lehrer. Its expert economic reporter, Paul Solman, had chosen the AFL-CIO policy director, Thea Lee, to dwell into the nuances as well as the organized labor view, which now matches much of the Democratic view, of what's wrong with trade deals and the US approach to globalization.

It was a provocative segment, with Solman playing devil's advocate and throwing at Lee every confrontational view that several viewers would associate with the standard justifications of transnational corporations. Lee threw every ball back harder.

The News Hour, one of the few national news programs to also deal with the House passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, customarily seeks balance on major issues. It now recognizes unions as among the balancers in the elevation of labor experts into intellectual discourse with economists and authors.

Labor leaders have quietly been radiating out to commercial network news (with the exception of FOX), sought out for comment on everything from Chinese currency to budget legislation.

The change may be temporary recognition of how much labor had to do with the takeover of Congress.

But something else may be going on, a change in a traditional media stiff-arm. Unions, still associated with street screaming and cigar-chewing strikes, are belatedly recognized as newly sophisticated, erudite and reflecting American views far broader than their 12.5% national membership.

They can talk and chew gum



Union leaders Lyle Balistreri and Sheila Cochran (right) waited to be heard by the legislative labor hearing (above) — and this time their turns came early.

at the same time. They may have insights worth looking to. Maybe there is something intellectual as well as muscular about the voice from the streets.

Why has it taken modern media so long to see that? In the past, America seemed to embrace the two sides of the labor movement - common touch and philosophical underpinnings. The same leaders who took to those streets also represented some of our most eloquent authors, essayists, historians, policy thinkers, elected officials and even judges.

Today, though, corporate PR has dominated. Yet the complexities of regulations, organizing and creating social progress have actually created a new breed of labor leaders, folks who still need people empathy to gain status but also must master a complexity of courses in economics and law.

It is almost standard to find union leaders whose self-education or formal education match in persuasion, degrees and mind power the graduates of the Harvard Business School (with a little different tilt, of course - Harvard has only recently mandated corporate ethics).

At state hearings

Even Milwaukee initiatives reflect labor's newly important



place at the legislative table. That was nowhere clearer than in the placement of union leaders March 6 at the Northside YMCA, where state legislative leaders gathered for feedback, almost universally pushed in Gov. Doyle's new two-year budget.

These are extensive \$80-\$100 million proposals to aid schools, research, workforce development and more, reflecting the long-neglected reality that improving Milwaukee improves the economy of the entire state.

With quibbles here and there -- and with Republican Sen. Glenn Grothman muttering on the sidelines to indicate that he will

business were also at the front of the testimony line.

Cochran noted with some sly amusement that it was a deep pleasure to testify before a Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs finally not chaired by a Republican but by a Democratic Milwaukee legislator and urban dweller, Spencer Coggins.

And to finally see a budget concentrated on the need for inner city jobs and growing community wages.

— D.P.N.

Rights legend leads APRIL history event

A legend in and witness to the civil rights movement and the push for full voting rights will lead a special history program and membership drive for the Milwaukee chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute on Saturday, April 14.

Nonnan Hill, president emeritus of APRIL, will join Sheila D. Cochran, chief operating officer and secretary-treasurer of the Milwaukee County Labor Council, as main speakers for "Revisiting the Past . . . Looking to the Future," scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Laborers Local 113 Hall, 6310 W. Appleton Ave.

There is both a continental breakfast and a lunch. Everyone is welcome.

create tough going where he can from other Republican out-state legislators -- the Milwaukee Initiative within the budget is an essential component of what both sides concede is the most progressive state budget in decades.

The sequence of commentators was also revealing. Shortly after Mayor Tom Barrett as opening local speaker came Sheila Cochran, secretary-treasurer of the Milwaukee County Labor Council, followed 30 minutes later by Lyle Balistreri, president of the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council, both AFL-CIO. The key stakeholders, including the Milwaukee Public Schools, housing representatives and local



MPS Superintendent responds to Governor's announcement of a budget package for Milwaukee

Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle has proposed a state funding package that includes elements regarding public school education in Milwaukee. The governor delivered his message at MPS' Elm Creative Arts School.

In response to the proposals, MPS Superintendent William Andrekopoulos issued the following statement:

"The greatest resource our community has is its children. Devoting resources to their future is a sound investment for the economic prosperity of this community.

"The governor has taken an important step in recognizing the diverse needs of the children in our community – a community that has the fourth highest level of children in poverty of any

city in the United States. The



MPS Superintendent
William Andrekopoulos

governor's budget proposal focuses on the wellness issues that face our students, both nutrition and health-care, and recognizes the additional funding that is needed to meet the needs of our

language-diverse learners and our special needs students.

"It gives us resources to support our community's public safety issues that have had an effect on our schools. Most importantly, it begins to address the funding that is needed to increase the academic achievement and reduce the achievement gaps of our students which will better prepare them in their post-secondary experiences.

"In addition, the governor's budget includes resources to support the district's educators, which will result in improvements in the classroom – the most important place in the district. Clearly, the Governor's proposed budget focuses on our district's most important core value – children come first."

MTEA President responds to Gov. Doyle's proposed budget

Governor Doyle presented highlights of his state budget proposal last week at Elm Creative Arts Elementary School in Milwaukee.

There is a significant commitment to Milwaukee schools in the Governor's proposal. MTEA President Dennis Oulahan made the following in response:

"The Governor has clearly made it his priority to make sure every child in Milwaukee has access to a high quality education in our public schools. He understands that we need to address our students' health and safety needs before we can begin to address their academic needs. His dedication to increased funding for school breakfast, the expansion of BadgerCare, and making funds available for additional school nursing positions exemplify that understanding.

"We are also pleased by the Governor's investment in student achievement initiatives in MPS. The funds will go a long way toward closing the achievement gaps in the Milwaukee Public Schools.

"His continued commitment to small class sizes, early learning opportunities, stu-



Dennis Oulahan

dents with special needs and our English language-learners is also significant and will better equip our members to serve Milwaukee children and families.

"There's no question that we need to continue to be vigilant about securing adequate funding for our public schools, so that our children can get a first-rate education. But Governor Doyle's proposal is a strong and decisive first step in that direction. We believe the Governor is committed to making sure that every child in Milwaukee has access to a high quality education.

"Milwaukee educators will do what we can to make sure these proposals are implemented."

Gov. Doyle asking state to pay for Choice School expansion in Milwaukee



Governor Jim Doyle

In a wide ranging economics package for the City of Milwaukee, Governor Jim Doyle has announced that state funding will be used to pay for the expansion of Milwaukee School Choice.

The Governor unveiled broad parameters of his plan at Elm Creative Arts Elementary School in Milwaukee last week.

Specifics details weren't mentioned, however it is believed the Governor's proposal will include an anti-crime and a job creation initiative. If approved by the

legislature, Doyle's plan purportedly will save Milwaukee residents roughly \$21 million in taxes over the next two years.

Last year, Doyle and the Legislature agreed to raise the enrollment cap in the Parental Choice Program to \$22,500. Currently enrolled in the Choice program are some 17,500 students.

Doyle suggested last week that the property tax payers from Milwaukee will benefit. That can only be done if all concerned make sure Milwaukee is positioned strategically to grow and prosper. The \$21 million dollar package, Doyle believes, helps property-tax payers of Milwaukee. If approved by the Legislature, Doyle's plan would let MPS lower future tax levies.

Nothing the Governor has proposed is set in stone and the outcome won't be known until the Legislature come to terms with Doyle's economic package for the City of Milwaukee. That will happen later this year.