

## UNIONS UNIFICATION TALKS TO CONTINUE

Following a day and a half of talks in which labor leaders negotiated over how to create a single organization to unify labor unions, former Rep. David Bonior (D-Mich.) says that “significant progress” was made on key issues and a committee framework has been established to continue working toward an agreement. The leaders, who met at the National Labor College outside Washington, D.C., say that the committee they established will “consult among their affiliated unions and to act nationally on the critical issues facing working Americans.”

The National Labor Coordinating Committee is comprised of AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney, Change to Win Chair Anna Burger, and National Education Association (NEA) President Dennis Van Roekel, along with the presidents of six AFL-CIO affiliates and five Change to Win affiliates. The three groups represent more than 16 million workers in over 60 unions.

Bonior, who has been leading the unification effort for the last three months and will continue to chair the committee says that the committee will expand discussions beyond unification and will address reform of labor laws through the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, renewal of the economy, and passage of health care reform, among other issues.

Bonior states that the union leaders made “significant progress” during the talks over core issues related to melding the two federations and the NEA. “Some outstanding issues still being discussed” include governance and “financials” of a unified movement.

It is likely that the participants want to have an agreement in place by the end of summer.

(Source: BNA, *Daily Labor Report*, No. 65, April 8, 2009, pp. AA1-AA2.)