



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2003

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Michigan Labor Leaders and Workers Rally to Expose Bush Administration's "No New Jobs" Record

Third Straight Week of Higher Jobless Claims Reveal Administration's "Tax Cut and Jobs" Recovery Is a Sham

After three straight weeks of rising jobless claims, the Bush administration is sending Commerce Secretary Don Evans to Michigan to try to put a positive spin on the administration's failed economic policies, according to Michigan labor leaders and the Fair Taxes for All coalition. Calling the president's tax-cutting "Jobs and Growth Plan" a failure, Michigan AFL-CIO President Mark Gaffney addressed a rally of workers gathered outside the hotel where Evans was speaking

"President Bush's tax cuts — billions of dollars worth — have done nothing to create the jobs American workers so desperately need, and they leave a legacy of debt for our children and grandchildren to pay. Since the president took office, we have lost more than 3 million private sector jobs and a stunning 2.5 million manufacturing jobs. Michigan has lost over 160,000 manufacturing jobs — one out of six," said Gaffney. Meanwhile, Gaffney noted that health care costs have exploded, workers' premiums to insure their families have grown by almost 50 percent in the last three years and eight million children in America have no health care.

"President Bush has saddled the American people — and the people of this state — with the extraordinary cost of his three massive tax cuts, which were much too deep and which primarily benefit the very wealthy. Secretary Evans is here to deliver the bill for the president's failed economic policies," said Gaffney. "This false 'jobs and growth' plan is robbing millions of their livelihood while the rich get richer, and all the White House can do is stand by and watch."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced last week that — for the third week in a row — jobless claims were on the rise, adding 3,000 more new claims and hitting the highest point in months.

"Commerce Secretary Evans is taking his turn at selling the administration's massive and reckless tax cuts," said Ralph G. Neas, president of People For the American Way, a Fair Taxes For All co-chair. "The Bush administration's destructive economic policies are hurting American workers and families and threatening to leave a weaker nation to future generations."

Evans is expected to describe how the White House plans to stimulate the creation of more manufacturing jobs. This follows an announcement that the White House will appoint a position solely to focus on manufacturing jobs, a sector which has been especially hard hit by the loss of 3 million jobs during the Bush presidency. The number of unemployed Americans stands at 8.9 million; in addition, more than a half-million workers have stopped looking for jobs altogether. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 33,000 more “discouraged workers” in August alone than there were in July.

“President Bush’s trickle-down approach to economic recovery is a disaster, and it is insulting to the American people to continue to portray tax breaks for wealthy elites as sound economic policy,” said Joan Entmacher, Vice President of Family Economic Security at the National Women’s Law Center and a Fair Taxes For All co-chair. “Poverty and desperation are increasing, but the White House refuses to help the families who need help the most.”

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The Fair Taxes For All Coalition is a massive coalition of coalitions co-chaired by People For the American Way, National Women's Law Center, AFSCME, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, USAction, and the Campaign for America’s Future. More than 300 national, state and local groups and coalitions – together representing millions of Americans – have pledged to defeat Bush Administration tax proposals that would take resources from health care, education, Social Security, and homeland security in order to give massive tax breaks to the very wealthiest Americans.