[redacted]

Sept 7, 1993

Cincinnati Ohio
45215-3148

Dear Brian:

Thank you for your every effort, along with your associates. Didn't the "Grace Commission" cover the Re-inventing Govt but Congress rejected the study. Trust me the American People have lost faith in the Pro's that run the Congress its very very sad.

The Polls on "N.A.F.T.A" by the American People opposed yet the Congress and "Clinton Gore" team all for exporting millions more jobs over seas. I believe Ross Perot he is 100% correct on "N.A.F.T.A" its the Industrial Worker that supports the U.S. Treasurey, Ohio State, Miami University yet local Govt now find them selves broke. The Ron Browns Robt Reich Labor Sec they work for the Elite.

The one Book That Explains what is going on is William Greider's Book "Who Will Tell The People." His Book Should Be Required Reading of every Business Economic Student Across America; in High Schools And every College. But inch By inch The American People Just may Be Seeing The Light. That We The People Have Lost Control of The Govt, Congress, White House.

Had The U.S. Labor Backed Gov Jerry Brown During The Primary He would Be in The White House. A Change was Coming on Election Day, The Money The Press The Elite Put The Money Behind Clinton. As "Mike Royko" Said Brown was The Best Man of The Lot, Do you Recall he Told The American People How The game Plan Works.

It is my Thinking That America is in A Economic Slide Simply Forces Working That This Govt Can not Control. I Hope I am wrong But The Trend is in Place. When I See Young College graduates Working in Truck Stops At $5.00 Bucks An Hour, I've Talked With Them From "Penn State" "Bowling Green" University, Clemson University Just To name A Few. I Transport New School Buses Coast To Coast North & South Then Fly Home Via "Delta." My Background Though was Working For The General Foods Corp in Sales And Marketing. When Proctor & Gamble closes Plants Across America move To Mexico $1.50 An Hour Labor it Kind of Wakes You up out of your Slumber. I'll Be over in Lafayette Oct 23 For The Ohio State Purdue game.

Most Sincerely,
Ernie Hawkins

Labor Day plea from the AFL-CIO: spike the free trade pact

By V. Daniel Radford

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) would be a disaster for the United States. A nation that hopes to lead the world into the next century with a high-skill, high-tech economy cannot afford to take the low-wage road paved by this ill-conceived treaty. NAFTA affects all Americans but it was developed behind closed doors in the Bush administration with only one special interest involved: the large corporations who alone stand to gain against the interest of all other Americans.

The agreement would help U.S. companies invest more freely in Mexico, essentially to allow multinationals to exploit that country's cheap labor and lax environmental enforcement. It is an investment agreement, not a trade agreement, that would destroy jobs and depress wages in the industrialized U.S. and Canada while doing nothing to advance the poverty-level wages and living conditions paid by U.S. employers to Mexican workers.

That has been the experience of the "maquiladora plants" owned by U.S. companies like General Motors, which have moved out of the U.S. into Mexico and now employ more than 500,000 Mexican workers. These workers, who average 60 cents to $1 per hour in wages, make less than other Mexican

In other words

V. Daniel Radford is executive secretary-treasurer of the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council.

workers. They live in poverty and amidst horrifying environmental pollution.

Not only does NAFTA promise to turn all of Mexico into a huge maquiladora, it would be the death knell for U.S. manufacturing. More companies would follow GE (13 plants in Mexico, 15,000 jobs lost here through 1992 and thousands more in 1993), Ford (six plants in Mexico, 2,000 jobs lost here), AT&T (four plants in Mexico, 22,000 jobs lost here), and General Motors (50 plants in Mexico, 25,000 jobs lost here).

NAFTA represents an unprecedented, high-risk experiment in which countries at vastly different stages of economic development and democratic rights attempt to merge their economies. Mexico's poverty rate is 40 percent, its unemployment rate more than 20 percent and its gross national product 1/20 that of ours. The average Mexican family cannot afford to buy consumer goods, period, much less those made in the U.S. With more than 33 percent of our population, Mexico has only 5 percent of our buying power.

The only reason we currently enjoy a trade surplus with Mexico is because of all the machinery exported to Mexico to start up the maquiladoras and the production of intermediate goods, which in 1991 accounted for 85 percent of all imports by Mexico. In other words, the growth in trade is largely in multinationals trading within themselves exporting jobs to Mexico to get cheap labor. American manufacturers ship components to Mexico for assembly, and then import the finished products back to the U.S. market.

Under NAFTA, once the export platform is fully established (when Mexico has attracted enough investment in the form of new plants and equipment), the vast majority of products will flow tariff-free across the border to the U.S. and the trade surplus will become a deficit. China, a country like Mexico with a large population and low per capita income, first imported capital goods. Now China enjoys a $15 billion trade surplus with the U.S.

The "fast-track" railroading with NAFTA stands in stark contrast to the European Community's efforts at economic integration, which included a carefully developed 20-year plan to narrow the economic gap among the 11 countries with billions of dollars in "structural adjustment funds" to help the poorer nations. EC nations also signed a "Social Charter" to ensure that prosperity from increased trade would be shared with workers. By contrast, the North American governments only agreed to address the overlooked issues of labor rights and standards and the environment after their presidents signed the 2,000-page agreement, and then only after a change in U.S. presidents.

The resulting "side agreements" are not only inadequate but useless. They provide no effective remedy to protest worker rights and labor standards, in revealing contrast to NAFTA's very specific protections for investors. In fact, they limit the scope of labor complaints and effectively scuttle remedies available under current U.S. trade laws, creating in the process a bureaucratic nightmare that would endlessly tie up complaints. This will only exacerbate another problem: Mexico's almost nonexistent enforcement of environmental laws and labor standards.

More important, the side agreement negotiations never addressed the dilemma of integrating the economies of countries at such different levels of economic development and democratic freedom.

The U.S. has an obligation and a self-interest to assist in the development of Mexico. But that should start with a program of debt relief so that Mexico can invest at home to improve the living standards of its people.

Consideration of workers was not in the mix when NAFTA was drawn up to help the rich get richer, and the resulting agreement would decidedly make the poor much poorer. What is most damaging to us, however, is that the middle class is further eroded by the loss of good-paying manufacturing jobs. When will our large corporations learn not to sacrifice long-term gain for short-term profits? If you eliminate the jobs that produced a middle class in this country, and you take those jobs to a country with an average annual income of $2,490, who in either country is going to buy all the goods so cheaply produced? And how can we possibly maintain the standard of living and quality of life that has made our country great and has allowed these same corporations to grow rich?

On this Labor Day 1993, let us remember our children who have yet to enter the labor force. Where are the jobs now and where will they be if NAFTA passes?

The North American Free Trade Agreement, with its single, obsessive focus on the interests of the U.S.-based multinational corporations, is nothing more than the latest version of the failed policy of trickle-down economics at the expense of American workers, the U.S. economy and the American way of life.

Guido Discepoli

of kidney failure at Good Samaritan Hospital.

"He always looked at the possibilities that life presented him rather than the problems," said his son Ronald of White Oak.

Mr. Discepoli came to Cincinnati from his native Italy at age 6 in 1911. He used his experience as a drug store clerk as encouragement to graduate from the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy in 1927.

After working as a pharmacist for six years, he decided to open his own store in 1933, Discepoli's Pharmacy in Carthage. He also designed drug stores and sold drug store fixtures.

"He was a very enthusiastic individual," his son said. "He had great enthusiasm for life, especially for his work."

Mr. Discepoli built up his business so much that he owned six drug stores by the mid 1950s. He later sold many of those stores to the pharmacists who managed them, helping them start their own businesses.

He sold his last store in 1982. At the age of 73, he went back to school, earned his real estate license and began selling property.

"He was always a salesman, even when he was in the drug store business," his son said. "That's the way he liked it. He preferred to stay busy all the time."

Mr. Discepoli's daughter, Barbara Rish of Springfield Township, said her father left his family an important lega-

at the St. James Church, 3565 Hubble Road, White Oak.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the Hodapp Funeral Home, 6041 Hamilton Ave., College Hill.

Memorials may be made to the Kidney Foundation, 2330 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati 45206.

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LULA MAE KIDD, 68, of English Woods, died Tuesday. She was a cook. Services: 8 p.m. Tuesday, New Prospect Baptist Church, Over-the-Rhine. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the church. Arrangements: Hall-Jordan Funeral Home.

GERTRUDE M. DYKES, 89, of Ocala, Fla., and formerly of Cincinnati, died Wednesday. Mrs. Dykes was the retired director of teacher replacement at the University of Cincinnati. Services: 1 a.m. today, Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church, Ocala. Visitation: 10 to 11 a.m. today at the church. Arrangements: Roberts Funeral Home, Ocala.

IRIS RABE COTTRILL, 89, of Milford, Ohio, died Wednesday. Mrs. Cottrill was a member of the Zoological Garden Club and past president of the Young Women's Republican Club. Services: 11 a.m. Saturday, Walnut Hills Christian Church. Visitation 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, W. Mack Johnson and Anderson Funeral Home, Walnut Hills.

SHELIA MORTON DAVIDSON, 35, of Felicity, Ohio, died Wednesday. Mrs. Davidson was a homemaker. Services: 9 a.m. Saturday, Charles H. McIntyre Funeral Home, Felicity. Visitation: 6 to 9

SISTER MARITA STICH, 84, of the Sisters of St. Francis Oldenburg, Ind., died Wednesday. Sister Marita taught in many Indiana and Ohio Catholic schools. Services: 1 a.m. EST Saturday, Sisters of St. Francis Motherhouse, Oldenburg. Visitation: 9 to 11 a.m. EST Saturday at the Motherhouse Chapel. Memorials: Sisters of St. Francis.

SISTER DOLORITA CARPER, 82, of the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, Ind., died Wednesday. Sister Dolorita taught in Indiana schools. Services: 3 p.m. EST Friday, Sisters of St. Francis Motherhouse Chapel. Visitation: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Friday at the Motherhouse Chapel. Memorials: Sisters of St. Francis.

IDA MORRIS SOUDER, 65, of Felicity, Ohio, died Wednesday. She was a homemaker. Services: 1 p.m. Friday, Charles H. McIntyre Funeral Home, Felicity. Visitation: 6 to 9 p.m. today at the funeral home.

BIRDIE NORRIS, 90, of Felicity, Ohio, died Tuesday. She was a homemaker. Services: 2 p.m. Saturday, McIntyre Funeral Home, Felicity. Visitation: noon until time of service Saturday at the funeral home. Memorials: Felicity Church of Christ, P.O. Box 102, Felicity, Ohio 45120.

EDNA FIELDS, 84, of Dillsboro, Ind. died Tuesday. She was a homemaker. Services: 10:30 a.m. EDT Saturday, Rullman Funeral Home, Aurora, Ind. Visitation: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. EDT Friday at the funeral home. Memorials: Farmer's Retreat Pre-School in Farmer's Retreat, Ind.; Dillsboro United Methodist Church or Ross Manor Nursing Home, both in Dillsboro.

Anderson Funeral Home, 4619 Delhi Pk. Funeral services will be Saturday at 10 A.M. at the funeral home.

●RICHARDSON

Wade H. Sr., beloved husband of Edith (Guethlein) Richardson, father of Marcia Richardson, Amy Blunt and Wade H. Richardson Jr., grandfather of Amanda Blunt. Tuesday, August 31, 1993, age 67. Former Purchasing Agent for General Electric Evendale, Airesearch, Garrett Corp. and Tiernay Turbine, Phoenix, AZ. Army Air Force veteran, East Asian Pacific Theater of Operations. Graduate of Samuel P. Chase College of Business and Law. Resident of Scottsdale, AZ for 25 years. Burial Scottsdale, AZ, Friday.

RIEDE

Marie A. (nee Riesenbeck), beloved wife of Oscar D. Riede, devoted mother of Paul and Susan Riede, dear grandmother of Kim Blades, Kathy Bowlin, Teresa Iorfide, Kurt, Kevin and the late Kenneth Riede, great-grandmother of seven, sister of Raymond and Herman Riesenbeck. Resident of Springdale. Tuesday, August 31, 1993, age 86. Friends may call at the Imwalle Memorial, 4811 Vine St., St. Bernard, Friday, from 11 A.M. until 12 noon followed by Mass of Christian Burial, St. Peter in Chains Cathedral at 1 P.M. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cincinnati.

ROEKPKEN

Richard Donald Lewis, beloved husband of Edith Roepken (nee Schoenborn), devoted father of Robyn Roepken, dear master of Madame and Nicky. August 31, 1993. Residence Anderson Township. Services at T. P. White & Sons Funeral Home, 2050 Beechmont Ave., Mt. Washington, on Saturday, September 4, at 11 A.M. Friends may call on Friday, 5 P.M. to 9 P.M. with Kilwinning Lodge 356 F.& A.M. and Scottish Rite Ring Services on Friday at 7:30 P.M.

brother Henry Morris and sisters Margaret Humphrey and Peggy Collins. Funeral services by Charles H. McIntyre Funeral Home, Felicity, OH, Friday, September 3, 1 P.M. Visitation Thursday, September 2, 6-9 P.M. Burial Point Isabel Cemetery.

SPINNER

Walter J., husband of the late Lenora Spinner (nee Tinker), friend and former husband of Ethel Spinner (nee Allen), father of Clara Dean Chmielewski, Debbie Smithers, Ruth Roehm, Kathy Blazek, Joan Jacobson, Sandra Carter, Louise Ammons, Chuck, John and Ed Spinner, Jim and Rob Klaty, Ralph and Rick Jennings, brother of Estell Ehrman, Rita Lienenbrink, Louis Spinner, the late Lawrence Spinner and Clara Dehner, 26 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. September 1, 1993, age 70. Funeral service Saturday, September 4, 10 A.M. at the Schmidt-Dhonau Funeral Home, 10980 Reading Rd., Sharonville. Visitation Friday from 5-8 P.M.

SPRINGER

Melvin R., beloved husband of Mary Springer (nee Jefferson), dear father of Jamel Bayless, dear grandfather of Christopher and Mandy, dear brother of Florence Smith and Raymond Springer of Cincinnati and Louis Springer of Columbia, SC and the late Gilbert Springer and Dorothy Moore. Past Master of Buckeye Masonic Lodge #150 New Richmond, OH and Member of Scottish Rite. Died Wednesday, September 1, 1993, age 67, residence New Richmond, OH. Friends may call at the White-E.C. Nurre Funeral Home, 200 Western Ave., New Richmond, Friday 6-9 P.M. Masonic Services Friday evening at 7:30 P.M. Funeral services 10:30 A.M., Saturday, September 4, 1993. Interment Greenmound Cemetery. If desired, memorials may be made to the Friendship Lutheran Church Building Fund.

Friday, 1 P.M. Interment Arlington Memorial Gardens. Memorials may be directed to Lutheran Church of the Cross.

WIRE

Howard C., 80, Monday, August 30, 1993, Evansville, IN formerly of Cincinnati, husband of the late Florence Zehnle Wire (died 1987), father of Daniel Wire of Cary, IL and Paul Wire of Ludlow, KY, three grandchildren. Visitation Friday 2-8 P.M., Alexander Funeral Home North Chapel, Evansville, IN. Funeral Saturday, 11 A.M., St. Theresa Catholic Church, Evansville. Burial Oak Hill Cemetery, Evansville.

#World War I Vet
●World War II Vet
*Korean Veteran
*Vietnam Veteran
**Armed Forces
■ Persian Gulf

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Mexico: Much Press, Little Real Freedom

By Richard Seid

WHAT does freedom of the press mean in Mexico? Neither the government nor the media moguls in Mexico want to talk about it. Neither understands or admits to understanding the necessity of a free press to the functioning of a democracy. As Mexico approaches full partnership in free trade with the United States and Canada, there is no real guarantee of the public's right to hear all sides of political issues, so that informed choices can be made at the polls. Canada and the US may have fully discussed the ramifications of border and tariff changes, but the Mexican public has not.

In retrospect, freedom of political expression has never existed in modern Mexico. For decades, there have been practically no openly discussed political issues. The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has been in power since 1929, is more than just the "ruling" political party. It has been virtually synonymous with the government itself. Without real political competition, how and why would freedom of the press become an issue at all?

Times are changing, but slowly. The financial crisis of the 1980s saw the rise of real political competition in some Mexican states, which culminated in the hotly contested 1988 federal election. It is creditably alleged that only election fraud kept the opposition left-center Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) from winning the presidency.

Moreover, the challenging parties had virtually no access to television, which is controlled by the PRI. During its decades in power the PRI has secured almost complete control over the rest of the media as well. This is done mainly through payments. Sometimes the process is sophisticated, but more often the payments are blatant gifts or cash given to underpaid reporters and editors, with the complete acquiescence of their employers. There has been a slight improvement: As of last month, by presidential order, government payments to the media are to be accounted for. But there has been no effort to restrain them.

THE newspapers themselves are sponsored not only by advertising, but also by government-paid articles. There are more than 20 daily newspapers in Mexico City. What looks like a vigorous press is actually heavily dependent on government money. It is doubtful that more than a handful would survive under a freely competitive system without government contributions. Thus indebted to the government for their existence, many papers are readily disposed to print the party line. The reason the government keeps all these newspapers going is so that no paper will become dominant.

Until last year, the government held the monopoly on the newsprint supply. Paper supplies could be cut off to a nonconforming publication. The paper supply has been privatized, but now if a newspaper becomes too critical, they are subject to repeated financial audits.

La Jornada, a daily known for its independence as an intellectual left-center newspaper underwent multiple audits last year until it partially buckled under by reducing its criticism. Consequently, it lost some of its best writers.

Worse than these pressures is self-censorship. Last November the only English-language daily, The News, clumsily fired a reporter for critical but accurate reporting. The owner of the paper, a staunch supporter of the PRI, was protecting his political friends. Fortunately, the firing was highly publicized. The Mexican government, trying to convince the US Congress of its commitment to a free press, was embarrassed, and it reduced its subsidy to the owner.

But self-censorship is most extreme in television journalism, from which nearly 90 percent of Mexicans get their news. The huge radio and TV conglomerate, Televisa **(See box)**, which has an overwhelming audience share, is the worst offender. The bias in newscast editing is especially notorious. Televisa's boss, Emilio Azcárraga, claims that since he is running a private enterprise, he can support whichever candidates he chooses. It just so happens, however, that Televisa favors any nominee of the governing PRI – to the extent that opposition candidates are rarely seen and never heard on any Televisa station.

For its complete loyalty to the PRI, the government allows Televisa to maintain and expand its vertical and horizontal hold on practically the entire Mexican entertainment industry. In addition, Televisa pays no Mexican taxes on its enormous income. In exchange for what would be owed, the government is given TV and radio time for "messages," which at times are indistinguishable from political commercials. The government has never addressed Televisa's unfair business practices or its evident abuse of the public trust. There is an implied governmental position that it cannot interfere in the conduct of private enterprise. Of course it does exactly this every day.

As the borders of Canada, the US, and Mexico become more porous, and as the policies and passions of free trade more tightly intermesh, the rights of all North American citizens should be equalized. Opposing abuses of freedom of expression is just as important as regulating businesses that contaminate the air we breathe. Televisa is just one example. But by denying free speech to opposing political groups, it pollutes the air as much as any smokestack.

Most important is the promise from Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari that his country is on the road to full democracy. Without the guarantee of the basic freedoms of speech and press that a democracy needs, Mexicans are hardly full partners in the politics and policies of the approaching years.

■ *Richard Seid is an American lawyer who has lived in Mexico for the past 21 years.*

Televisa's Media Realm Keeps Growing

TELEVISA, technically an independent company, is big and getting bigger. It is widely thought to be attempting to expand its Mexico City television channels and going national through existing affiliations with local channels within the states of the Mexican Republic. Televisa's radio station XEW is the oldest and most dominant in the country, and the cornerstone of its other extensive radio holdings.

In addition, Televisa controls the following: Teleguia, the equivalent of the United States TV Guide; approximately 100 other magazines; the newspaper Ovaciones; its own chain of theaters (which, of course, get free TV advertising unavailable to their competitors); 1,750 Videocentro video rental outlets (which are just now starting to face competition from the first 30 Blockbuster Video stores in the country); all the major dubbing facilities with the exception of Walt Disney studios; as well as night clubs, and its own talent school and agency.

Televisa has reentered the US market by obtaining a minority interest in Univisión, the Spanish-language network it had previously been forced to divest after losing a 1986 antitrust action. Although approved by the Federal Communications Commission, this recent purchase was hotly opposed by many Hispanics in the US who feel that Televisa's allegedly mediocre programming will now be imposed on American audiences.

– R. S.

[redacted]
Cincinnati, OH 45215

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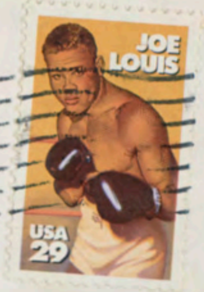

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