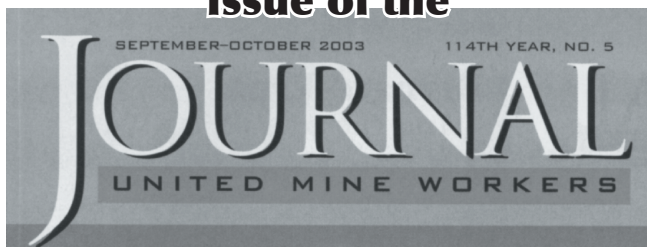


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### **SPECIAL CONVENTION — DAY TWO**

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With the vote on restructuring completed, much of the convention's second day was devoted to tributes and remembrances. The first order of business, however, was to call seven displaced Latino coal miners from the Co-Op mine in Utah to the stage, where President Roberts offered them the UMWA's full support in their bid to gain union representation (see sidebar, this page).



## **UMWA Supports Utah Miners' Struggle to Join Union**

Convention delegates cheered as President Roberts vowed to assist coal miners recently fired from C.W. Mining Company's Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah. The jobs of 74 miners—mostly from Mexico—were terminated after they protested the firing of one of their leaders for pursuing union representation.

A seven-member delegation of the Co-Op miners was saluted as honored guests at the convention. Their spokesman, Jesus H. Salazar Jr., described the workers' plight: earning between \$5.25 and \$7 per hour with "no health insurance and no benefits. We were unjustly fired for defending our rights and protesting unsafe working conditions."

"We stand with these workers in solidarity as they fight for justice and dignity," Roberts pledged. "We call on all American workers to support their struggle because 'an injury to one is an injury to all.'"

"We will fight until this mine becomes UMWA territory and we can end the exploitation we've endured," Salazar said. At press time, 75 percent of the mine's 83 hourly workers had signed a representation petition with the UMWA.

Workers struck the mine on Sept. 22 after Co-Op management suspended one of their co-workers; they were subsequently locked out. "We won't go back until we get everybody back to work," said fired miner Alyson Kennedy.

"It was heartwarming to see our union's overwhelming support of the miners' struggle," said District 22 IEB member Mike Dalpiaz.

Convention delegates contributed more than \$3,000 and pledged an additional \$2,000 to aid the Co-Op miners in their struggle for justice. **If you'd like to help, please send a contribution payable to the "Co-Op Miners Fund," to UMWA Region IV, 6525 W. 44th Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO 80033.**

