

Dismantling Dope, Inc.— an international mandate

The founding of the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition on Dec. 18, 1978 marked the beginning of a national, coordinated fight against drugs. The initiating conference, held in Detroit, was heralded by concerned citizens groups, the medical profession, and labor leaders across the United States and internationally. The commitment and determination of the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition to win the war against drugs—and the subsequent formation of Anti-Drug Coalitions in several other states—is reflected in the support telegrams, some of which appear below, sent to that December conference.

This year my organization celebrated the 75th anniversary of our founding convention. Our union's slogan has always been "Teamsters are America," for we have led the labor movement in its struggle for economic growth, technological development, and for decent and rising standards of living for all working men and women.

Now America is faced with a drug epidemic that threatens to destroy a whole generation of our youth. Although the liberal news media tries to portray drug usage as "fashionable" and as something that is too large to be prevented, we, and the majority of American people, know this to be false and misleading.

As leaders of the American Labor Movement, we give 100 percent support to your Coalition's efforts to clean up the drug trade, and pledge our help to rid our nation of this evil disease.

Charles J. Kirschbaum, *Secretary-Treasurer*

IBT Local 147, Des Moines, Iowa

Bill Bounds, *President,*

Teamsters Joint Council 65, Springfield, Illinois

Tony Cannestro, *President,*

IBT Local 769 Miami, Florida

(affiliation for identification only)

I extend my fullest commendation and support to the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition.

It has been the proud tradition and commitment of the United Mineworkers to fight for a better life for all. Drugs and the drug culture destroy the creative and productive potential of the human mind.

We Mineworkers support the courageous actions to stop drugs in Michigan and we will work for such action all across America and all around the world, to restore dignity and progress to all humanity.

Mike Trbovich, *former National Vice President*

United Mineworkers

The National Agrarian Federation, the FANAL, which represents 120,000 peasants in Colombia, is pleased to

greet the Detroit meeting in the campaign against drugs. The FANAL wishes to express its solidarity with the Anti-Drug Coalition and reaffirms the struggle for the progress of all peoples.

Heli Arambulo, *President, FANAL*

Fausto Charris, *General Secretary, FANAL,*
Colombia

The Andean Labor Party enthusiastically supports your humanist struggle to reestablish the idea of progress among the North American people. Your Detroit meeting of the Anti-Drug Coalition, presided by the Community of Al-Islam in the West and by our fraternal party, the U.S. Labor Party, is the most important step up to now to eradicate mind-killing drugs. The real interest of the Colombian people is to export not marijuana, but rather raw materials and manufactures in return for America's highest technology.

National Executive Committee

Andean Labor Party, Colombia

The European Labor Party and its national organizations in Europe greet the powerful revival of the American tradition which is contained in your conference today. This meeting we view to be of the highest international significance, to be the awakening of the American population to affirm the purposes laid down by the Founding Fathers at a moment when some try to degrade and destroy the universal principles of the American Revolution. We understand the mass-based force which you represent to be reason reasserting itself in the USA, a fact which will be crucial to world peace in the months and years ahead....

We want you to know that the effects already achieved by the mobilization against the drug pushers and their masters here in Europe is vast. We will amplify the results of your conference to the world.

Executive Committee of the European Labor Party
Le Parti Ouvrier Européen (France)

Il Partito Operaio Europeo (Italy)

A national executive official is arranging for a Postal Workers' delegation to attend from Detroit. The executive is very exhilarated over the Coalition developments.

American Postal Workers Union

Warmest greetings to the historic meeting of the Michigan Anti-Drug Coalition. As a member of the National Board of the NAACP and activist for the NAACP since the 1920s, I am gravely concerned over the growth of drug use among our people and support every sincere effort to rid the nation of this menace. I am hopeful that your national effort needed to win this fight and look forward to contributing myself to the work you are setting in motion.

Dr. H. Claude Hudson, *Los Angeles, California*