

## **A Hearing on Recent U.S. Trade Agreements**

### **Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing**

**Friday, June 18, 2004**  
**Dirksen Senate Office Building 562**  
**10 a.m. to Noon**

**Linda Chavez-Thompson**  
AFL-CIO

Linda Chavez-Thompson is Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO, a position she has had since October 25, 1995.

A second-generation American of Mexican descent, Ms. Chavez-Thompson has thirty years of experience in the labor movement. She rose from the organizing ranks of her union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, to become the first person of color elected to an executive office of the AFL-CIO. She is the highest ranking woman in the labor movement.

Ms. Chavez-Thompson began her trade union career as union secretary for the Laborers' International Union from December 1967 through June 1971. She became an International Union Representative of AFSCME from 1971–1973. She also served in several positions with both the San Antonio Local and Texas Council of AFSCME from 1973 through 1995.

Ms. Chavez-Thompson was an International President of AFSCME from June 1988 through 1996. As Vice President of AFSCME, she directed the union's efforts in a seven-state district—Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah. Prior to her election as Executive Vice President, Ms. Chavez-Thompson served as a Vice-President of the AFL-CIO, an office she had held since 1993. She also served as a National Vice-President of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement from 1986 through 1996.

She was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve on the President's Initiative on Race, as well as to serve as Vice Chair of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

**Ron Gettelfinger**  
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace  
& Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)

Ron Gettelfinger is President of the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW). He formerly served as UAW Vice President and as Director of UAW Region 3. As Vice President, Mr. Gettelfinger was director of

the UAW Aerospace Department and the UAW Ford Department, where he led negotiations in 1999 that focused on “Bargaining for Families.”

A member of UAW Local 862 since 1964, Mr. Gettelfinger is proud of his work as a chassis line repairman. The workers at Ford's Louisville Assembly plant elected Mr. Gettelfinger to represent them as a committeeperson, bargaining chairperson, and president, as well as a delegate to the National Ford Council and Sub-Council # 2. He was also a member of the UAW national negotiating team during the 1987 Ford negotiations.

Mr. Gettelfinger is a graduate of Indiana University.

**Jerry Nowadsky**  
Monticello, Iowa

Jerry Nowadsky worked for 12 years as a machinist at Goss Graphics in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, before Goss closed all its U.S. plants and moved production to China and England. After being laid off from another manufacturing firm two years later, Mr. Nowadsky spent a year getting training in computers. He has not yet found work in that field, and currently works stocking shelves at a local grocery store at night for half the pay and no benefits.

**Robert Green**  
St. Thomas, North Dakota

Robert Green is a sugarbeet farmer from St. Thomas, North Dakota.

**Claude Barfield**  
The American Enterprise Institute

Claude Barfield is Resident Scholar and Director of Science and Technology Policy Studies and Coordinator of Trade Policy studies, at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Dr. Barfield is also a faculty member at the University of Munich and Yale University.

He has written a number of books on trade, including *Free Trade, Sovereignty, Democracy: The Future of the World Trade Organization*; *Tiger by the Tail: China and the World Trade Organization*; and is co-editor of *Expanding U.S.-Asian Trade and Investment: New Challenges and Policy Options*.

Dr. Barfield was a consultant with the Office of the United States Trade Representative from 1982 to 1985 and served as co-staff director of the President's Commission for a National Agenda for the Eighties from 1979 to 1981. At the invitation of the WTO's Economic Research and Analysis Division in December, 2001, Dr. Barfield conducted a seminar in Geneva for

representatives of WTO missions and WTO staff entitled, “Does Global Trade Need Balancing Act?”

Dr. Barfield received a B.A. from Johns Hopkins University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Northwestern University.

**John Hansen**  
Nebraska Farmers Union

John Hansen is President of the Nebraska Farmers Union, a position he has held since 1990. He also served as secretary of National Farmers Union from April 2002 to March 2004.

A sixth generation diversified grain and livestock farmer from Newman Grove, Nebraska, Mr. Hansen’s family owned and operated a small fertilizer company, a crop-hail multi-peril insurance agency, a regional seed corn and soybean distributorship, a purebred Charolais cattle herd, a commercial cattle herd, a dairy operation, a farrow-to-finish hog operation, farmed 1,500 acres of irrigated and dryland corn and soybeans, and did custom farming.

In 1994, Mr. Hansen became the first-ever Farmers Union representative to serve on the President's Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade. He served on the APAC until September of 2001, when he was made a member of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Grains, Feed, and Oilseeds.

As an advocate of fair trade and international cooperation, he has traveled to Canada, Mexico, and Brazil, and hosted delegations of farmers and government officials from Europe, Africa, South and Central America, Canada, Mexico, Southeast Asia, and the former Soviet Union. In December of 2000, he attended the World Trade Organization negotiations in Seattle, and in October 2002 visited the WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Since 1990, Mr. Hansen has been a member of the Nebraska Farm Crisis Council, which is the longest continuously serving farm crisis hotline of its kind in the nation, and recently completed three years of service as President.