

has left the Republican Party in its monopolistic political position. Electoral races at the legislative district level may in the long run present opportunities for greater diversity of perspective in Nassau County government, as it has in Suffolk. That change may, in fact, encourage the development of an independent third party presence. In this regard, the attempts by the New Party to engage the electoral process in Nassau at the local and county levels may be a sign of things to come. Lastly, movement in the area of campaign reform at the national and state levels may eventually help to level the political playing field by limiting the extent to which "big money" dominates the game.

 e ne ed : It goes without saying that the print and electronic news outlets have tremendous impact on shaping the public's consciousness. Through commentary and reportage, they signify the important issues by what they do and do not inform the public about. Thus the relative visibility of labor and the economic and social issues of concern to working people in the news media is an important factor affecting the opportunities to promote workers' interests.

It is unfortunate, therefore, that labor's visibility tends to be so low. For example, Long Island's principal newspaper, Newsday, has no separate labor section to complement its business section (the latter even includes a separate pull-out "Business Report" with each Monday edition). It reports on the events of business, both large and small, from small-business successes and executive hires and promotions to corporate contracts, profits, takeovers and mergers. Labor finds its way into the paper generally only when reporters cover a disruptive strike by a labor union or alleged criminal activity by one or another union official. The practices of the electronic media mirror that of print journalism. Evening newscasts routinely report on business developments and the daily stock market figures. Little if anything is featured on a regular basis that is directly relevant to labor and employees.

The under-reporting of events in the labor sphere ensures that labor issues remain far back in the public's mind. Coverage that tends to focus on the more socially disruptive and negative aspects of organized labor further distances the public in its thought and sentiment. Much that organized labor does in the public interest goes unrecorded and unrecognized. Many of the key issues that should concern most people who work, whether on salary or for hourly wages, are ignored and overlooked. Better representation in print and electronic news media are going to be required in order to bring about a more favorable labor climate.

C o n y n d p c n e r e o r n z o n : There are numerous organizations and associations on Long Island that attempt to deal with one or more pressing issues facing people in the region. All too often such organizations do their work in relative isolation from one another; often unaware of the presence of others with quite similar concerns and goals. As a result, the same ground frequently gets trod by different feet, and activists needlessly seek to re-invent the wheel. At other times, such organizations, unfortunately, come to view one another as competitors for the allegiance of members and volunteers. What is missed in this is the

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