



WHITE COLLAR

Office and Professional Employees International Union, AFL-CIO and CLC

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SOLIDARITY DAY ISSUE



*We are the only
lobby in this country
for all of the people.
We are the lobby
for the old, a lobby
for children, a
lobby for the sick
and disabled . . .*

John Kelly

Solidarity Day was a day in celebration of the Labor Movement. And, it is a "movement," not a status quo. This Labor Movement of yours is one of the rocks on which society in this country was built. It is a movement that has been in the forefront of all the good that has come to this country's citizens—public education, elimination of child labor, safety and health laws, the right to vote, both private pensions and Social Security, minimum wage and shorter working hours. All of these which we now expect as our right under the law came about because of OPEIU members and members of other unions who fought and sometimes died to get the benefits which we now enjoy.

We have been a force for good in this country. We continue to be a force for good. We are the only lobby in this country for all of the people. We are a lobby for the old, a lobby for children, a lobby for the sick and disabled. We are part of a movement—for the needy, not the greedy.

Because we support all the people, we have taken stands to support candidates who care. Back in November many of you told me I was wrong or that it really made no difference who was elected. We are now seeing that there was a reason to vote and a reason to vote for the pro-people candidates, not the candidates that slash the nation's social programs to the bone.

Cut the Fat, Not the Heart

This union and all responsible labor leaders are not supporting fat in programs. We are not supporting people who misuse programs. But, we are supporting programs that take care of people. We do not mind the fat cut out of a program. The fat *should* be cut out. But, we don't want to see the muscle or the heart cut out as well.

Fat is not Social Security, the school lunch program, or disability benefits. Fat is not the food stamp program. "Bleeding heart liberals" didn't initiate the food stamp program. It was the Nixon Administration, which attempted not only to help the poor but also the farmers who had large crop surpluses.

Can we tell a family of four with only \$211 per week in income that they are no longer eligible for food stamps because it's "fat," and then propose an additional 12 percent cut in the program?

What is the "Cause and Effect?"

The current Administration seems to have no idea of the meaning of the words "cause and effect." If fewer families receive less in nutritional needs through the food stamp or school lunch program, we are going to have more sick children in this country. And, there are statistics to prove that since the initiation of both programs, the health of the nation's young people has improved.

No, the Administration hasn't looked at "cause and effect." If the Federal Government is not willing to care for its elderly (Social Security and Medicare cuts) or its children, the obligation will certainly fall on the states and, again, us as taxpayers.

If we have less food stamps and less school lunches, we will have more malnutrition and more need for hospitals in later years. If we cut day care centers and single working parents have no centers for their children, they can't work. If they can't work, they will have to go on welfare. Again, nobody seems to understand "cause and effect."

Aid to cities and states for training programs, public transportation, centers for the elderly, schools, hospitals have all been cut. You know who will have to make up the loss—you, as state and city taxpayers.

The labor movement believes in investing in the people of America. We find the denial of education and training to be the "cause." The "effect" is crime, drug addiction, and despair.

We cannot neglect the resources of brain power any more than we can neglect energy, capital and production, employment productivity and the like.

Our humanity hangs in the balance. We must realize that spending on programs that improve health, literacy and skills are our investment in the future. It's an investment in the people of America.

That's what Solidarity Day was all about—protecting the health and well-being of people. The effect: the health and well-being of the country as a whole.

John Kelly, OPEIU President

WHITE COLLAR

Official Organ of OFFICE and PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION affiliated with the AFL-CIO, CLC

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GWEN WELLS Managing Editor



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Political Action — An All Year Responsibility

The income of our members would be seriously jeopardized if current proposals now being considered by Congress are adopted. In the May-June 1981 issue of White Collar, President Kelly made reference to the fact that the OPEIU and the American labor movement successfully defeated an attempt by the Internal Revenue Service to impose a tax on the fringe benefits of American working people. He also alerted us to the fact that the fight was not over—it is only delayed.

President Kelly's prediction has proven correct. The Federal Government is again studying a plan to make workers pay income tax on fringe benefits paid for by the employer. The OPEIU will do everything in its power to see that this and other anti-worker, anti-union legislation is defeated. But success cannot be assured unless we have the support of our Local Unions and our members.

Those groups that have traditionally opposed Unions have now chosen the political route to disrupt our activities. These groups—certain corporations, trade associations and the extreme right wing—are better organized, more lavishly funded and more closely coordinated for political action than at any time in history. They meet, plan and work together. Whatever issues might separate them, they have a determination to neutralize the strength of workers and their Unions at the job site and at the polling place.

Our political opponents are not treating 1981 as an "off year," that is, a non-election year. Already, Richard Viguier, who master-minds direct mail efforts for anti-union, anti-worker groups and candidates, claims his fundraising for 1981 is "going through the roof." The fact that his collections ran in the millions of dollars in 1980 poses a serious challenge to us in 1981.

It is a challenge that we must meet! A successful program cannot be conducted on an every-other-year basis. We can only succeed if we treat political action as an all-year, every-year responsibility. We must have enough funds available to assure the reelection of friendly candidates. To do this, we must not make the mistake of looking at 1981 as an "off year." It is therefore essential that every Local Union makes every effort to raise the maximum amount of voluntary contributions for our Voice of the Electorate, OPEIU-VOTE, political action fund.

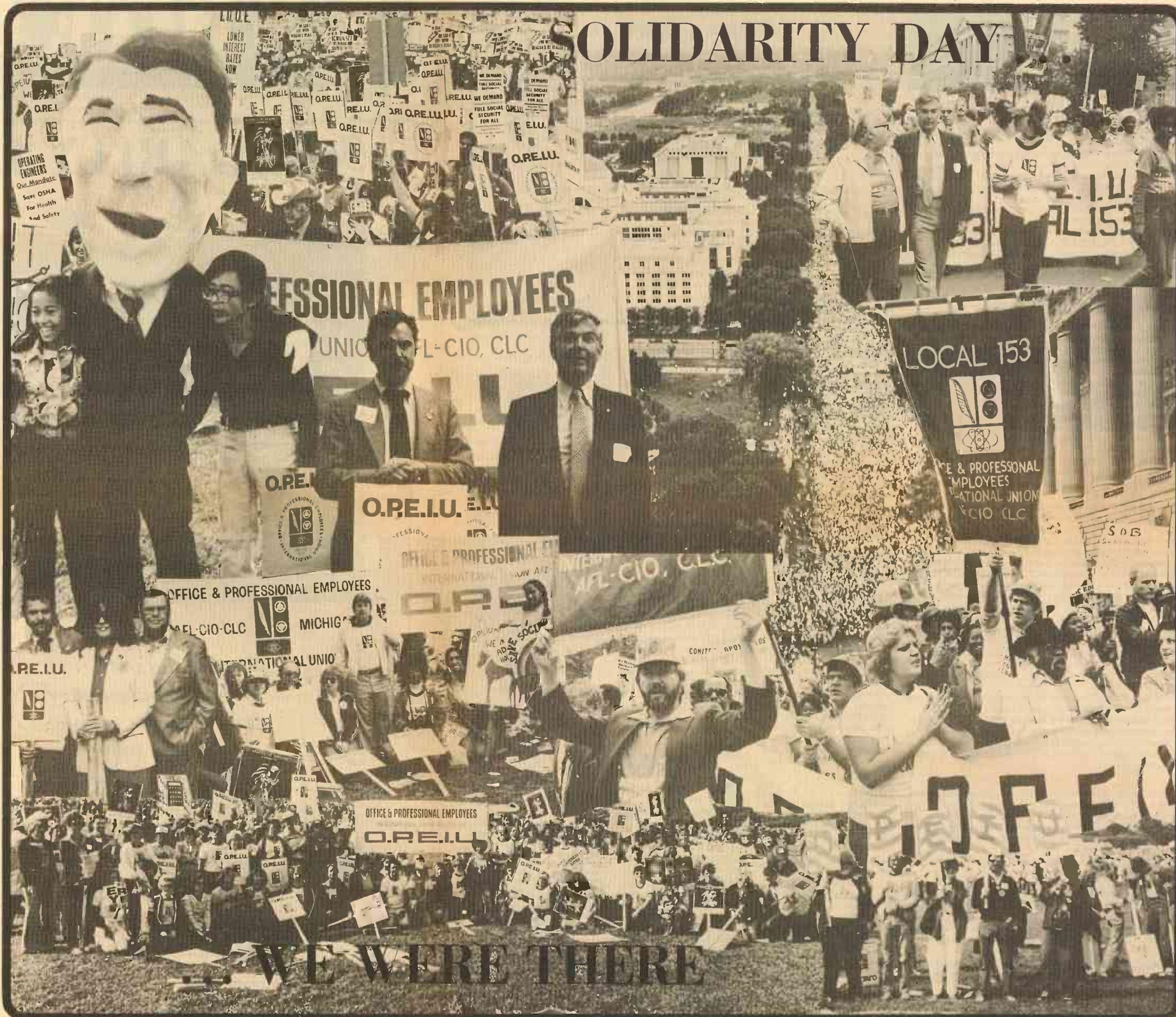
The monthly check-off has proven to be the most successful method of raising voluntary contributions for our VOTE program. For this reason, the OPEIU Executive Board urges all Locals to initiate the VOTE check-off wherever possible. Each Local in the United States has been sent a pamphlet titled "Check it Off For VOTE," which outlines in detail the recommended procedures to be followed to institute the check-off provision in their contracts for contributions from members to OPEIU-VOTE.

The International Executive Board also asks every Local Union to urge its full-time employees and members to support the "President's 100 Club." The "President's 100 Club" seeks a minimum \$100 annual contribution from International Officers and Representatives, full-time representatives of Locals and other OPEIU members and friends through check-off or lump sum contributions. We should have maximum participation in the "President's 100 Club."

Of course, there are many methods of raising voluntary contributions for VOTE. We are confident that with your imagination, initiative and leadership, the job can be done. Make certain that your Local Union appoints a VOTE committee. Stress the importance of the committee's function. Give all your members a chance to contribute. Let's make 1981, and every year thereafter, a big year for VOTE.

We must protect and preserve the benefits, interests and rights of our Members. We can do this by working together.

From an Address by OPEIU Secretary-Treasurer William Lowe to the Northeast Educational Conference



SOLIDARITY DAY

OFFICE & PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION AFL-CIO, CLC

LOCAL 153

O.P.E.I.U.

OFFICE & PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION AFL-CIO-CLC MICHIGAN

OFFICE & PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION AFL-CIO, CLC

...N OPEIU

'Today Is Just A Start...'

We are here today to reaffirm the great goals that have drawn us together, in solidarity, for 100 years.

We are here to answer a challenge to those goals and to all that we have gained together, in solidarity.

President Reagan has told us that he alone speaks for the working people of this country—and that we do not.

He has told us that he has a mandate from the people for what he wills—and that when we pursue our contrary instructions, we are simply "out of step."

The object of governance of America, we are told, is but to raise armies, to foster and nourish commercial enterprise, and to suppress those forces that might check or temper its rapacity.

If you reject the notion that only the State, through its Chief Executive, faithfully expresses your will—look about you. You are not alone.

If you do not embrace the proposition that this President has a mandate to destroy the programs that feed the roots of a decent society, look about you. You are not alone.

Behold your numbers, as far as the eye can see. Attend their spirit, vital, strong and free.

Look at your brothers and sisters, by the thousands, still marching—in solidarity—down the historic ways of their Capital City.

You are working men and women who have come here with your friends and allies because you care deeply about the course of your country.

You have given up your family days of rest and spent long and tiring hours in buses, trains and cars, from every part of this land, as an act of devotion and testimony.

Your testimony must be heard. The future course of this nation hangs upon it.

You are the people that do the work of America. You run its factories and offices, work its farms, transport its produce, maintain its buildings, teach its children, nurse its sick, clean its streets and fight in its defense.

When something goes wrong in America, you feel it first—before the politicians or the more securely placed. You know it before the pollsters take your pulse.

Something has gone wrong and you know it all too well.

Those who have risen to power in this city have set out to strip our government of any capacity to serve your needs and aspirations.

They have set out to cancel and dismantle the safeguards of a humane society and to commit us to the economic jungle.

They are sacrificing the homes, health and hopes of millions on the altar of crank economic abstractions that defy the laws of simple arithmetic and dismay even their friends on Wall Street, who never allow sentiment to blind them to the bottom line.

Their tax cuts—transferring resources from the common good to the private purses of the rich—are proving the most irresponsible fiscal act in our times—as we said they would.

Their monetary policies are causing record high interest rates—as we said they would.

They have attacked Social Security and other covenants between the people and their government—as we said they would.

Their indifference or hostility to social justice threatens voting rights, women's rights, worker's rights and human rights—and this too we warned, many months ago, would come to pass.

We were right then and we are right today. Attention should, at last, be paid.

Labor is here in its one hundredth year, to deliver a simple message to the Administration and to the Congress.

We have come too far, struggled too long, sacrificed too much, and have too much left to do, to allow all that we have achieved for the good of all to be swept away without a fight. And we have not forgotten how to fight.

We are out of step with no one but the cold-hearted, the callous, the avaricious and the indifferent.

We are out front and we shall not fall back to hide and wait for better political weather.

But the winds are changing as they always do. The winter's chill is approaching and the bloom is fading from false mandates.

Today is just a start, but Solidarity is more than just a day. As our brothers and sisters in Poland have shown the world, it is a quality of the human spirit that can never be defeated.

On this historic day of that new start let us all pledge to each other to return to our communities and to build a new mandate for a humane and just America.

From the Solidarity Day Address
of AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland

Season's Greetings

In reflecting back over the past year, OPEIU members in Canada, the U.S. and Puerto Rico can be proud of their many achievements — in negotiations, organizing the unprotected workers, legislative gains, and aid to other union struggles.

In 1982 we look forward to even greater progress for all our members — future, present and retired.

We wish each of these, as well as all OPEIU staff, sincerest season's greetings. Have a bright and prosperous New Year!

John Kelly,
President

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Solidarity Day Marchers — On Route

Hundreds of OPEIU members gathered in Washington, D.C. on September 19 to march for jobs and justice. They gathered at the Washington Monument in the Nation's Capital before marching in wave upon wave of trade unionists to the Capitol Building—the building in which the social program cuts were legislated. They came to give Congress and the Administration a message: the labor movement and working people are mobilizing to fight for the programs that aid people—jobs, training, education, health care, Social Security, safety and health legislation, and minimum wage.

Tennessee

Nearly 125 OPEIU members from seven Tennessee locals traveled 10 hours each way on buses from Knoxville. The buses left at 10 p.m. on September 18, arriving in Washington at 8:30 a.m. Solidarity Day. International Vice President Charlie Harris, who led the Tennessee troupes, said, "It was all worthwhile. We found it to be an incredibly exhilarating, if tiring, day. We would have been willing to spend an extra 10 hours in order to be part of it."

The locals taking part in the Tennessee caravan were 119, 268, 273 and 179 from the Tennessee Valley Authority; Local 144; Local 475 from East Tennessee Baptist Hospital; and Local 510 from the Department of Energy.

Kentucky

Harris also reported that four members from Kentucky joined the buses in Knoxville. These four women — Fran Smith, Joyce Wilcox, Phyllis Kelm, Mary Singleton—did add more than 10 hours to the trip.

At noon on September 18, they left Paradise Steam Plant in Drakesboro, Kentucky, to travel for six hours to Knoxville where they joined Harris and bus loads of Tennesseans bound for Washington.

Texas

And, there were those who came even farther. Joe Scully of Local 27 in Galveston; Pam Gay and Marilyn Oldham of

Local 306 in Amarillo; and Ronnie Jones of Local 277 in Fort Worth all made the long trek from the Lone Star State to march with their fellow unionists.

Although part of one movement, they found themselves easily identifiable as Texans. According to Gay: "We were buying OPEIU t-shirts in the AFL-CIO Building, when a CBS interviewer overheard our voices. For some strange reason, she recognized our Texas accents, and asked that we take part in an interview for CBS News."

That interview seen nationally went like this, as Gay reports:

Interviewer: Do you think it is worth coming all the way from Amarillo to Washington for Solidarity Day?

Marilyn Oldham: DEFINITELY! We are very much against the Social Security cuts that are being made.

Interviewer: How do you think the overall view of the people of Amarillo is about this?

Oldham: Amarillo is a very conservative area, but there are also a lot of good pro-labor people in Amarillo. And, we feel that it is time that we speak out and take our stand—FOR LABOR!

Look for more Solidarity Day stories and photos in the next White Collar.

Apologies

to OPEIU Local 153 members at Seton Hall for relocating them in our last issue. We placed the College in New York, when it is actually in New Jersey.

U.S. Price Index

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
New Base 1967 = 100

1980		
April	.....	242.6
May	.....	243.1
June	.....	247.8
July	.....	248.0
August	.....	249.6
September	.....	251.9
October	.....	254.1
November	.....	256.4
December	.....	258.7
1981		
January	.....	260.7
February	.....	263.5
March	.....	265.2
April	.....	266.8
May	.....	269.1
June	.....	271.4
July	.....	274.6
August	.....	276.5
September	.....	279.1
October	.....	279.7

Canadian Price Index

Statistics Canada
New Base 1971 = 100

1980		
April	.....	205.2
May	.....	207.6
June	.....	209.9
July	.....	211.5
August	.....	213.5
September	.....	215.4
October	.....	217.3
November	.....	220.0
December	.....	221.3
1981		
January	.....	224.1
February	.....	226.4
March	.....	229.4
April	.....	231.1
May	.....	233.2
June	.....	236.8
July	.....	238.9
August	.....	240.6
September	.....	242.4
October	.....	244.8

If you move, send your old and new address, including zip code and social security or social insurance number and Local Union number to:
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