

Title of Session: LOC Learning Page Chat - Labor in America

Moderator: Leni Donlan

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Room: After School Online Room

LeniD: David, BJ and Michael...would you like to see the resources I planned to share...or should we call it a night.

BJ: I would like to see the resources you have, Leni

JeffC joined the room.

BJ waves hi to Jeff

LeniD: Bless you, BJ I'm ready to share when you are

LeniD: LOL...as I said earlier, we have a nice "family" gathering.

JeffC didn't know there *was* labor in America... thought it was all outsourced to Mexico, India and the rest of Asia.

MichaelH: now, Jeff, don't tell me that, I have a child majoring in "new media"

LeniD: Aha! You stole my fire, Jeff That was my first question...

MaryanneC joined the room.

LeniD: What are the "hot" topics about "labor" in the U.S. today?

LeniD: Hello Maryanne.

MichaelH agrees with Jeff's point about outsourcing

JeffC: That I'm unemployed but don't count as a statistic.

MaryanneC: Hi I just thought I'd listen for a bit

LeniD: You are welcome to participate in any way that is comfortable, Maryanne.

MichaelH: Maryanne, sure, we're all family, here

LeniD: So what are today's hot topics?

MaryanneC: Unemployment is definitely a big issue

LeniD: Outsourcing is certainly one!

MaryanneC: Though I am employed

MichaelH: high cost of employee benefits, such as health insurance

LeniD: ah, yes.

JeffC: In fact... lost benefits because Oregon had a neat trick on how even though they have the highest rate in the country, their "unemployment statistic" dipped below a magical number, and "voila!" ... no need to pay unemployment benefits.

LeniD: Ouch!

MaryanneC: Oh my

JeffC: But as long as everything is rosy in Bushcoland...

LeniD: How about the job market itself?

MaryanneC: Well I just moved to Saipan

LeniD: We are outsourcing many jobs, but many jobs are just disappearing, as well.

LeniD: Computerized solutions are replacing many middle level service jobs.

MaryanneC: What jobs are being outsourced and then I think we have to rethink the US job market

LeniD: We are talking about current "issues" in the labor market, today.

LeniD: Outsourcing, loss of health benefits, computer solutions...

MichaelH: how about the fact that a lot of jobs created in the Bush economy have been low paying jobs?

LeniD: Exactly.

DavidWe: And more people are living under the Poverty line

MaryanneC: entry level positions

DavidWe: . o O (at McDonald's)

LeniD: There are "specialized jobs" requiring higher education and advanced training...

JeffC: That's me

LeniD: but the service jobs that still exist are at the McDonald's level, as David so wisely points out

JeffC: And... as a support person in education... I'm one of the first cuts.

DavidWe thinks Jeff should be one of the first HIRES!

LeniD: Do you think many of these concerns were problems in centuries past?

MichaelH: Yes, I do...

LeniD: I agree with the Jeff sentiment, David!

LeniD: Tell us more, Michael.

MichaelH: the problem then was a surplus of labor, even skilled

DavidWe: Precisely because he is tech support...

MichaelH: workers who "rocked the boat", or who unionized could easily be replaced by immigrant labor

LeniD: Flooded job markets are tough in any century.

MichaelH: I'm not saying anything is wrong with a union... but back then there was no "Wagner Act"

DavidWe: hasn't this always been a tension in American history - we started importing laborers for building railroads, yes?

LeniD: Yes!

DavidWe: . o O (indentured servitude during the early 1800s)

MichaelH gets off his US History soapbox

MichaelH: David, of course, let's add slavery to the mix here

DavidWe puts the soapbox up higher for Michael

LeniD: There is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem.

LeniD: ~Booker T. Washington (1895)

DavidWe agrees 101%

JeffC: Right... he was a poet...

LeniD: Do our students believe this today?

DavidWe: And it is easier to eat farm produce than printed pages

LeniD: Do we?

DavidWe: . o O (although the roughage is probably similar)

LeniD: LOL...though not really very funny :->

DavidWe nods solemnly to Leni

LeniD: By working faithfully eight hours a day, you may eventually get to be a boss and work twelve hours a day.

LeniD: ~ Robert Frost (1874-1963)

LeniD: True today?

LeniD: What do we want our students to know about work, and the work force?

LeniD: What do we want them to understand about the work force in America's past and why?

MichaelH: I think that quote is absolutely true

LeniD: Frost's quote?

MichaelH: yep

LeniD: I do, too :->

LeniD: OK...buckle up...

LeniD: Let's take a look at the Library of Congress resources you can use to teach about labor. I have a LOT to show...

LeniD: Ready?

DavidWe: Sure thing, Leni

LeniD: Thanks, David

LeniD: If you want to build background information here are some excellent resources!

LeniD: films showing people at work during the late 1890s and early 1900s....

LeniD: America at Work

DavidWe: Sure, Leni

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awlhtml/awlwork.html>

JayR joined the room.

DavidWe: Is this a new page, Leni?

LeniD: Welcome Jay.

DavidWe waves to Jay

LeniD: Not new, David.

MichaelH waves to Jay

LeniD: from the Learning Page American Memory Timeline...

LeniD: Rise of Industrial America (1876-1900)

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/timeline/riseind/work/work.html>

JayR waves

DavidWe understands that the LOC has a FEW resources that he hasn't seen

LeniD: I suspect David is right!

LeniD: from the American Women collections...

LeniD: Industry and Labor Union Journals

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awgc1/industry.html>

LeniD: from the Buckaroos in Paradise collection...

LeniD: Buckaroo: Views of a Western Way of Life

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ncrhtml/crview00.html>

DavidWe: Who are the Buckaroos?

LeniD: (I LOVE that one) Ranch workers

DavidWe: Cool!

LeniD: from the Prints and Photographs division...

LeniD: Dorothea Lange's "Migrant Mother" photographs

LeniD: http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/128_migm.html

DavidWe: Oh, STOP!

DavidWe covers his mouth

LeniD: Yes, David???

DavidWe: You know that I have two versions of that picture on my computer, Leni?

DavidWe: I grew up staring at that picture...

LeniD: NO! Migrant Mother? I have it on the wall, at home.

DavidWe smiles at Leni and knows why he thinks she is very cool

LeniD: more from Prints and Photographs...

LeniD: Rosie Pictures: Select Images Relating to American Women Workers During World War II

DavidWe resists telling a part of his story...that includes Migrant Mother and Dorothea Lange

LeniD: http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/126_rosi.html

LeniD: Aha...hold that thought, David

DavidWe holds

LeniD: and don't miss the webcast from Journeys and Crossings...

LeniD: Rosie the Riverter: Real Women Workers in WWI

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/journey/rosie.html>

DavidWe thinks Leni knows WAY TOO MUCH about the LOC

LeniD: David may be right!

LeniD: from the Working in Paterson collection...

LeniD: Rosie the Riverter: Real Women Workers in WWI

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wiphtml/essays.html>

DavidWe likes posters of Rosie the Riveter*

LeniD: It's a favorite of many...though I still prefer Migrant Mother :->

LeniD: from Prints and Photographs...

LeniD: National Child Labor Committee collection

LeniD: Bringing an NCLC Photo into Focus

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/pp/nclchtml/nclcfocus.html>

LeniD: If you are looking for some "ready made" lesson plans from the Learning Page...

LeniD: for grades 6-12...

LeniD: Who Really Built America?

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/98/built/index.html>

DavidWe: Neat topic, Leni

LeniD: it's a good lesson, David.

LeniD: Child Labor in America

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/98/labor/plan.html>

DavidWe . o O (even better)

LeniD: for the middle school or high school classroom...

LeniD: United We Stand

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/00/labor/index.html>

LeniD: Brother, Can you Spare a Dime?

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/98/dime/intro.html>

DavidWe can't copy all of these websites down LONG HAND

LeniD: nope...that's the beauty of clickable links and transcripts!

DavidWe nods

LeniD: Figuring Somepin 'Bout the Great Depression

JayR: bless transcripts

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/99/migrant/intro.html>

LeniD: yes indeed, Jay!

LeniD: Here are some resources that will be of special interest to your students.

LeniD: from Exhibitions....

LeniD: Child Labor

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm032.html>

LeniD: Women's Work

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm057.html>

LeniD: It's mighty quiet out there...are you overwhelmed, in awe, or???

JayR: Very useful

LeniD: Thanks, Jay

LeniD: from Today in History...

JayR nods yes

LeniD: Congress approved the WPA

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/apr08.html>

MichaelH thinks it is awe

LeniD: I hope so, Michael

JayR: lots of awe

DavidWe knows something about the FSA - Farm Security Administration - he gets his reference materials

MichaelH it has been for a LONG time, Leni

LeniD: Good to hear...thanks

LeniD: The National Labor Union called on Congress to mandate an eight-hour workday

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/aug20.html>

LeniD: The United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC) was formed

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/aug22.html>

LeniD: And from the Wise Guide...

LeniD: Labor and Luck

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/sept03/labor.html>

JayR: Great stuff

DavidWe smiles

LeniD: And there I will stop!

LeniD: These resources and many more can be found in the Labor in America Community Center on the Learning Page...

LeniD: http://leweb2.loc.gov/learn/community/cc_labor.php

LeniD: Now...questions? Comments? And I believe David has a tale to tell!

JayR: Materials like these make me wish I was still in the classroom!

MichaelH: Jay, we still can enjoy sharing them with others, though

LeniD: Aha! We missed introductions, tonight. What are you doing these days, Jay?

JayR: Oh yes

JayR: I work with Kentucky Department of Education

LeniD: Definitely, Michael...but it does make one wish they had students to work with.

JayR: I was late

LeniD: thanks, Jay...you can share widely! Please do so.

DavidWe waves to Jay in Kentucky

LeniD: David...what's yer labor story?

DavidWe gets himself organized

JayR: The archives and LOC have such incredible materials

DavidWe pauses

LeniD: They do, Jay...and we love to share them.

LeniD: Now...sitting on the edge of my chair waiting to hear this story!

DavidWe: I'm holding (well, it is next to my hands as I type) the copy of the Migrant Mother photo that my father got from the LOC probably in the early 60s

DavidWe: It's about 7 x 9 inches in dimension

DavidWe: I've looked at this photograph on a bookshelf growing up my whole life...

DavidWe: So, Dorothea Lange born in Hoboken, NJ - about 10 miles from where I am right now

DavidWe: She took the photograph in the Central Valley of California in a place called Nipomo - it was taken at a "pea picker camp" because that is what the sign on the road said that attracted her attention

LeniD: Talk about personalizing history!

DavidWe warns that this is a bit of a long story and doesn't mind interruptions nor people who need to leave

DavidWe wishes he could type faster...

LeniD: We're hanging on every word.

DavidWe: So, part of the story goes that she was doing a lot of photography for the Farm Security Administration (FSA) and was driving back home to Berkeley, CA to her home

DavidWe: 1935 or 1936, I believe

DavidWe: She had passed this "pea picker camp" the year before...

DavidWe: She saw the sign for the 2nd time and she was tired and had lots of photographs already....

DavidWe: So, she drove on

DavidWe: 20 miles

DavidWe: and then...

DavidWe: She turned around

DavidWe: Went back

DavidWe: And found this woman with her children....

DavidWe: She took 5 or 6 photographs total (there's more to the story) but the one that we know as "Migrant Mother" was THE ONE.

DavidWe: What made her turn around and go back?

DavidWe doesn't know

DavidWe believes that Dorothea Lange is a talented photographer

DavidWe: That's one part of the story...but a pretty good one.

LeniD: Agreed! But recognizing haunting suBJects is what made her a famous photographer. Excellent story! Thanks, David.

DavidWe wonders what to do next

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: Thanks, Leni

LeniD: Take a bow, of course!

MichaelH applauds

LeniD: Much applause....

DavidWe bows very humbly and appreciates the listeners for listening

DavidWe grins

DavidWe blushes

LeniD: but seriously, it IS those personalizing stories that make history come alive for our students.

MichaelH: yes, it is

DavidWe: Well, did for me...

LeniD: We have the "stuff" at the Library, but teachers must make it live and breathe...

LeniD: its just easier when there is such good "stuff" to work from.

DavidWe nods and agrees wholeheartedly

JayR: Can't beat the documents

LeniD: Nope...they are an excellent place to start, Jay.

LeniD: Next month - same time, same place - Elections!

DavidWe congratulates Leni on a fantastic session

LeniD: Next Month!!! Oct. 21