



California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY FOR: Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Contact: Steve Hopcraft, 916/ 457-5546, steve@hopcraft.com

Fred Glass, Cell phone: 510/ 579-3343 cftoakland@igc.org

**Speaker Bass, Senate President Pro Tempore Steinberg, educators,
labor leaders to unveil Miguel Contreras photo exhibit,
observe Labor History Week**

On Tuesday, March 31, Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, Senate President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg, Maria Elena Durazo of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, educators and union leaders, including representatives from the California Federation of Teachers (CFT), and the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, will launch labor history week 2009 in the State Capitol Rotunda, unveiling an exhibit dedicated to Miguel Contreras and to the role of working people and their unions. At the news conference, Durazo will also unveil the new Miguel Contreras Foundation.

The educators and labor leaders will also release a list of web sites, curricula and DVDs for use in California schools, approved by the California Department of Education. They will also comment on the governor's deletion of funding for UC labor centers, named after Contreras, the former Los Angeles labor leader who began his union activism with the United Farm Workers.

"Work, money and power are central issues for all Californians. Labor history week, and the Cesar Chavez holiday, inform Californians of the role working people and their unions play in making our lives better. Today, improvements made by and for working people are in jeopardy. A generation of young workers faces employment in big box stores, fast food restaurants, temp agencies or the outsourcing of their jobs. We want students to know how their lives improve when they join with other working people," said CFT Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Smith.

WHAT: Kickoff labor history week, unveiling of Contreras exhibit

WHEN: Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 11:15 am

**WHO: Assembly Speaker Karen Bass;
Senate President Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg;
Maria Elena Durazo, LA County Federation of Labor;
Dennis Smith, CFT Secretary-Treasurer;
Art Pulaski, California Labor Federation**

WHERE: State Capitol, Room 317, Sacramento

For more information please visit: www.cft.org