

PEOPLE'S WORLD

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April 25, 2015

Hillary Clinton announces: "I'm running for president!"

By John Wojcik



Hillary Rodham Clinton announced that she is running for president a second time, immediately positioning herself as the front-runner for the Democratic Party's 2016 nomination.

"Everyday Americans need a champion. And I want to be that champion," Mrs. Clinton said at the close of a two-minute video announcement on the Internet. "So I'm hitting the road to earn your vote - because it's your time. And I hope you'll join me on this journey."

The announcement began what could be an uncontested race for the Democratic nomination, a stark contrast to the 2008 primaries, when Clinton, the early front-runner, ended up losing to Barack Obama. It could also be the first time a woman captures a major party's nomination.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who has support from Democrats and others who consider Clinton either too moderate or too close to Wall Street, has said he is considering a run for the presidency but that he will only do it if he can mount a serious campaign aimed at winning. He is expected soon to make his decision. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) who also is backed by many in the Democratic Party's progressive base has always maintained that she will not run.

Other Democratic candidates that have been

mentioned include former Maryland governor, Martin O'Malley and former U.S. Senator from Virginia, Jim Webb. Both are far behind Clinton in all of the polls that have been taken.

Clinton hits the campaign trail with almost universal name recognition and a strong support base, especially among women. Millions across the country are excited about the possibility of what could be the historic election of the first woman to the presidency.

T H I S W E E K :

- **Hillary Clinton announces: "I'm running for president!"**
- **Amidst drought, grass is greener for LA's rich**
- **Workers unite in the fight for \$15**
- **Bachelet Promulga Acuerdo de Union Civil**
- **MoveOn moves to halt GOP sabotage of Iran nuke**

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Initial reaction in the labor movement shows that much of the traditional Democratic Party base of support is determined, however, to see issues it cares about come to the fore in the presidential campaign.

"Secretary Clinton has a long and distin-

Working people want to hear Secretary Clinton's ideas about how to create a Raising Wages America.

guished career in public service and has been an inspiration for millions of women in America and around the globe," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka said in a statement following the announcement. "We hope her candidacy will contribute to the critical debate in our country on how to raise wages."

Trumka said he was pleased that Clinton would begin her campaign with a "listening tour."

"We believe she and they (other presidential candidates) will hear an urgent need to reject corporate-driven agendas that produce everything from tax breaks for the wealthy to destructive trade agreements. Working people want to hear Secretary Clinton's ideas about how to create a Raising Wages America."

Progressive organizations wasted no time yesterday getting on the Internet with their reactions. Social Security Works, for example, urged everyone to get online and ask Clinton where she would stand on expanding Social Security and on the question of making it a central feature of her campaign.

Leaders of the Dream Action Coalition noted

that when President Obama took executive action last November in favor of immigrant rights Clinton tweeted, "Thanks to POTUS for taking action on immigration in face of inaction."

The main issue, according to Cesar Vargas, co director of the coalition, is "whether Secretary Clinton would take strong executive action to prevent deportations and the splitting up of families."

In Clinton's video announcement she appears after images featuring personal stories of individuals, each describing how they are getting ready to begin a new phase in their lives. The video shows a mother who says she is going back to work, a young Asian woman searching for work, two Latino brothers starting their own business and a gay couple planning to marry.

Then Clinton gets on and says: "I'm getting ready to do something too. I'm running for president."



John Wojcik is co-editor of Peoplesworld.org

Amidst drought, grass is greener for LA's rich

By Blake Deppe

During what is now California's worst drought in at least 1,200 years, agencies are ambivalent over how to convince Angelenos to cut water usage. Potential options include everything from educating residents to rationing, fines, and threats. While a recent executive order was issued by Gov. Jerry Brown requiring a 25 percent cut in water use from 2013 levels, communities are left to struggle with how exactly to achieve that goal. Part of the solution may be getting the wealthy to cooperate with working class people.

Retired resident Dorothy, 65, has lived in LA's Palms neighborhood for 11 years. She told the People's World, "For people who have a decent salary, life is quite comfortable. But we do have a big problem with the water. Unless we cut consumption by a quarter or even a third, we could end up with a real disaster. And so far, many people are not doing their part to save water, despite what they say. They're just going about business as usual. And bottled water and those types of so-

lutions are sometimes out of reach for the poor."

According to the LA Times, Escondido resident Sean McDaniel, holding his two pet poodles and gesturing at his emerald lawn, said, "I painted the lawn two days ago." One can buy a 32 oz. bottle of this lawn paint from LawnLift's website for the not-so-low price of \$45.95.

"It's all well and good that the wealthy are having their lawns painted green," Dorothy remarked, "but that's not a solution."

Newsha Ajami, director of Urban Water Policy at Stanford University's Water in the West program, said communities need to employ a wide range of conservation measures, rather than just expecting residents to act on their own. She said that levying fines for wasting water is likely a fast way to change behavior.

This drought, Dorothy lamented, "is one example of how we're all going to suffer from climate change."

Part of the solution may be getting the wealthy to cooperate with working class people.

Workers unite in fight for \$15



By Riley Winters

Mary Kay Henry, president of the Service Employees International Union, spoke to a hundred low-wage workers, adjunct faculty, students, and union members gathered on Washington University's campus, the planned date for the nation's largest-ever one-day strike by low wage workers. She said that as the Fight for 15 continues to grow it becomes clear that working people face similar issues, "whether they have a PhD or GED."

College students, who have recently joined Fight for 15, are engaged, they say: because they see the types of low-wage jobs available and that their only option is to organize and create good union jobs and an economy that promotes a high quality of life. "We have seen our professors organize and have heard from our friends who are still looking for some kind of job," said Stephanie, a Washington University senior who has applied for 49 jobs - hoping to get just one of them after graduation.

"Often you get a PhD and people ask you: what did it take for you to do that? The short answer is always that I had to read a lot of books. But if you don't mind I'd rather give you the long answer," said Dustin Ivers, adjunct professor and new union member.

"I was taught to read by an early childcare worker. Due to an unfortunate event my family ended up on

welfare. In high school I worked at McDonald's so I could pay for college. In order to support myself in college I worked as a janitor. When I was a graduate student at Washington University I worked for a professor and helped take care of his sick mother as a home health care provider. So what it took to get my PhD are the people sitting next to me. And now that I got my PhD I was able to make enough money to once again qualify for welfare."

These stories were the highlight of the evening and looking around the room one could see the connections being made among people in the audience - many of them facing similar situations in their own lives.

"I want to teach my son that hard work is good and that hard work pays off. But, I don't want him to work hard and only earn pennies!" LaShunda Moore, a home health care worker and former fast food worker made it clear that her stake in this fight was for her son. I should be able to work just one job, get a decent wage, and let my son focus on being a high schooler.

"This is a big deal," remarked Henry as she spoke to students and workers after the panel. "They have shown that these are real workers, not paid protestors like Fox would like people to believe."

As the Fight for \$15 continues to grow it becomes clear that working people face similar issues.

MoveOn moves to halt GOP sabotage of Iran nuke

Special to Peoplesworld.org

The political action director of the eight-million member Internet action organization, MoveOn.org, is warning that the Republican-led Senate could be starting down the path to a new war in the Mideast and that a handful of Democrats could join the GOP in tipping the nation over the edge.

The warning, in a statement issued late Friday, came after some media reports that the U.S. Senate is now just one vote away from a veto-proof majority on a Republican bill that could put the United States on a path to war and that it will be up to a handful of Democrats to prevent this from happening.

Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer—a front-runner to replace Sen. Harry Reid as the Senate Democratic leader—is supporting a Republican bill “that could very well undermine President Obama’s negotiations with Iran. And a small group of Democrats are joining him,” Ilya Sherman, MoveOn’s political action director, said in a statement he sent out over the Internet Friday and Saturday.

“Now, it’s possible that if even one more Democrat joins with Republicans and over-rides the president, we could be on a path to war,” he said.

To stop this march to war in its tracks, MoveOn has set an ambitious goal to get the organization’s members to withhold at least \$1 million in donations from Democrats if they undermine President Obama on Iran.

Bachelet Promulga Acuerdo de Union Civil

Rosario Alvarez

La Presidenta Michelle Bachelet promulgó esta mañana la ley de Acuerdo de Unión Civil. La norma legal, que entrará en vigencia en seis meses, crea el estado de conviviente civil tanto para parejas homosexuales como heterosexuales. Asimismo, regula los bienes de los convivientes y considera relación de parentesco entre ellos y con sus familiares.

La Mandataria señaló que todas las instituciones, públicas y privadas, deberán adaptar su funcionamiento “desde el formulario hasta el trato y el reconocimiento social”.

“Hoy es un día en que avanzamos como sociedad (...) estamos dando un paso fundamental en este camino de derechos, de justicia, y de respeto a la libertad individual. Hoy estamos promulgando una ley que reconoce y fortalece el vínculo de la convivencia, tanto entre parejas del mismo sexo como entre un hombre y una mujer. Se estima que en Chile más de dos millones de personas se encuentran conviviendo”, señaló Bachelet.

En esta línea, apuntó que “hoy entregamos la opción de que se reconozca legalmente esta unión, y con ello avanzamos en dignidad, en bienestar y en protección de todas nuestras familias”.

Bachelet remarcó que “lo que hacemos es abrir los brazos de todas nuestras instituciones que en algún momento se mostraron distantes, para acoger y proteger a aquellos y aquellas que hemos dejado de lado. Porque las instituciones de la sociedad deben estar al servicio de las realidades de las personas, y no al revés”.

“Qué les estamos diciendo a esas familias, a esas parejas, sean del sexo que sean: les decimos que el Estado las reconoce como los que son, parejas y familias.

Que este es un avance concreto en el camino de terminar con la diferencia entre parejas homosexuales y heterosexuales; que aquellos que no cristalizan su unión a través del matrimonio, que no queremos que esto vaya en desmedro de su bienestar, de su pareja o de sus hijos.

Que no queremos espacio para la desprotección, y saldamos una deuda con aquellos que por no querer o no poder casarse, han estado privados de prestaciones básicas”, aseveró la Mandataria.

Tras la promulgación, el vocero de Gobierno Álvaro Elizalde, expresó que “esto es un hito, porque se aplica para todos por igual, sin discriminar, este es un paso importante que nos tiene que hacer sentir orgullosos”.

“Hoy estamos reconociendo que existen familias diversas y esperamos que cuando en seis meses más entre en vigencia la ley sean muchos los chilenos también los extranjeros que viven en Chile que puedan acogerse a este nuevo estatuto jurídico para tener un marco de protección a sus relaciones de pareja. Hoy es un día histórico y este es un triunfo de ellos”, remarcó.

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