

A4 CENTRAL ILLINOIS/NATION Decatur, Illinois • Thursday, November 25, 1999

WTO: Sweeney says objectives are simple

Continued from A1

Union are more sympathetic, at least rhetorically. Their continued concern over rising national anxiety in rich nations about the pervasive disruptions to treasured lifestyles that the increasingly competitive global economy is fostering.

Perhaps most important, Sweeney believes history is on his side. Almost as one century, when the great trusts and cartels of the Gilded Era forged a national industrial economy, America faced a similar challenge.

"At that time, in this century, when the great trusts and cartels of the Gilded Era forged a national industrial economy, America faced a similar challenge. The era of sweatshops, child labor, brutal repression of workers and poisonous workplace conditions, Sweeney said, "was really in a major address about the WTO at the National Press Club in Washington."

But then big business had cops and courts to enforce the rules on its side. Union organizers were not.

But after decades of struggle, "eventually we wrote rules, including the minimum wage, a 40-hour work week, working health and safety, the right to organize, antitrust and the Fair Labor Standards Act." The era after, Sweeney said, was a growing economy in which the blessings were widely shared and the great American middle class was created. "Sweeney noted.

Just as workers' rights required legal protection in the new U.S. industrial economy of a century ago, Sweeney contends, they deserve the same now in the emerging global economy.

He also talked of global trade negotiations in terms of lower tariffs, cheaper goods, rising exports and more job. But labor leaders like Sweeney believe today a global trade rules permit big corporations to exploit cheap labor in developing countries, while U.S. workers in the advanced economies of the world cannot compete against the result, in this view, is fat profits for the corporations and losses and lost jobs for the many.

"Our objectives are simple:

Every worker deserves protection of his or her basic rights, including against child labor, slave labor, discrimination and the freedom to join together with others in a union," the AFL-CIO leader proclaimed.



NOW!...at the AVON!!!

Two Thumbs Up! - Roger Ebert

BEING JOHN MALKOVICH

"The Most Exciting Original Movie Of The Year." - Owen Gleiberman

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

FRI 8PM-9PM * SAT 5PM * SUN 5PM

Reg. \$19.99 * Now \$14.99

Reg. \$19.99 * Now \$14