



**JAY GOULD - RAILROAD
ROBBER BARON 1886**

*"I can hire one-half the
working class to kill the
other half."*

*"If a Guaranteed Income
were instituted, labour
would still be performed,
but employers would lose
much of their leverage to
exploit workers and
devastate communities."*

Stanley Aronwitz, former union or-
ganizer, The Progressive, Sept. 1985



New Technology & Retail Jobs

"Already common in secu-
rity systems and toll-
booths, radio frequency
identification tags and

readers stand poised to take over many processes
now accomplished by human toil." Scientific
American, Jan. 2004.

"Think of RFI tags as high-tech bar codes, but with
two very important differences. First, bar codes
need to be held a few inches from a scanner, and
need to be visible—but RFID tags only need to
come within about 10 to 30 feet of a reader and
don't have to be pointing a certain way." Andrew
Kantor, USA Today, 13/19/03

"it's time to make a choice: Luddism, barbarism or
a universal basic income guarantee. Without a clear
strategic goal of a humanity freed from work
through the gradual expansion of automation and
the social wage, all policies short of Luddite bans
on new technology will have disappointing and
perverse effects. If liberals and the left do not
re-embrace the end of work and the need to give
everyone income as a right of citizenship, **uncon-
nected to employment**, they will help usher in a
much bleaker future of growing class polarization
and widespread immiseration. " Dr. James Hughes,
Betterhumans.com

**Want to learn more? go to
www.livableincome.org**

**Livable Income
For Everyone (LIFE)**
Box 8441 Victoria BC V8W 3S1
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GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME

Labour Perspectives



*"There are several advantages of
a basic income that trade
unionists and progressives
should surely wish to promote...*

*...it would tend to strengthen a
sense of social solidarity. The
need to strengthen this cannot
be over-emphasized... it has
never been more
threatened or fragile."*

Guy Standing, Why Unions should
campaign for a basic income,
TRANSFER Review, 2004

**prepared by
Livable Income For Everyone**

South Africa



LABOUR SUPPORTING GUARANTEED INCOME

Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)

COSATU is a member of the South Africa Basic Income Grant Coalition.

"BIG would be a universal grant, a right extended to all citizens regardless of their age or status... a streamlined system, not means-tested, thereby avoiding the hazards of maladministration, corruption, or arbitrary bureaucratic decision-making. While the grant would be universal, wealthier South Africans would cross-subsidise it through a 'solidarity tax'. Research commissioned since 1998 has shown that a BIG is both economically viable as well as financially sustainable."

Goals:

- Provide everyone with a minimum level of income,
- enable the nation's poorest households to better meet their basic needs,
- stimulate equitable economic development,
- promote family and community stability,
- affirm and support the inherent dignity of all.

www.big.org.za

Guy Standing, International Labour Organization

"Trade unionists, as well as all those who count themselves as egalitarians and advocates of social solidarity, should support a basic income as a right of a good society in which dignified work could flourish... A basic income would also enhance real freedom.... It would encourage people to gain greater personal control over how they use their time. Anybody who counts himself or herself as on 'the left' should be keen for the poor and the vulnerable gaining more control over the key assets of society and time is one of them. By the same token, granting a basic income would help to legitimize forms of work other than labour, such as care work and community work... There is a huge opportunity to develop a new progressive vision, if we have the courage to take it and have open minds... A basic income should be part of that."

*Why unions should campaign for a basic income.
European Trade Union Institute, Review 04/2004*

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/ses/index.htm>

Jim Smith, editor, LA Labour News

"Labor and our emerging anti-corporate alliance, must begin to define an acceptable living standard – including food, shelter, recreation, health care, and education – below which no one, and no family, can fall. This guaranteed annual income would apply to all, including low-wage workers, the unemployed, homeless, disabled and retired. It would give a measure of security to millions on the edge of hopelessness or homelessness. It would serve to replace competition among workers with unity based on working to constantly improve living conditions." *Jim Smith, After Seattle - Where Do We Go From Here? 2001, LA Labour News*
http://www.lalabor.org/After_Seattle.html

Sharon Yandle, Vancouver & District Labour Council

"Guaranteed income was once a key demand of poor and working class women and it's time to put it front and centre again."

Public Forum "Seeking an End to Women's Poverty", January 16, 2004, Vancouver

<http://www.workingtv.com/endingwomenspoverty.html>

