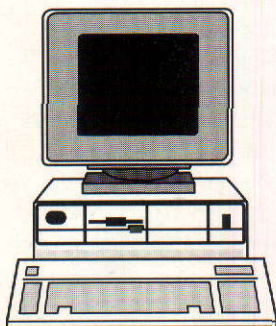


EMPLOYER ADVOCATE

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ANNOUNCING The Government Information System of The Florida Business Network

A computerized governmental information system specifically designed to enable the business community to track Florida government.

Developed by AIF to provide quick, easy access to timely and accurate information about

- *Government Officials*
- *Voting Records*
- *Analytical Summaries/Articles*
- *Bill Histories*
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- *And More...*

For additional information contact Mr. Steve Trickey, Director, Governmental Information System at (904) 224-7173.



Getting Down to Business



1953 Annual Meeting, Associated Industries of Florida

From the Roaring Twenties to a kinder gentler nation. The last seventy years have transformed Florida and the world. Prohibition, the Great Depression, a World War of massive proportions. The Space Age took us to the moon and beyond. In Europe, a Cold War began and ended. It continues across the Florida Straits.

In 1920, a group of Jacksonville businessmen formed an association to represent employers through the changing times. The organization incorporated as Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) ten years later.

AIF's 1930 Charter of Incorporation commits the association to "encourage and support the Business and Industrial Enterprises of Florida and afford a medium for their cooperation in support of constructive public policies relating to all matters affecting them and for their protection against unjust action from any source."

Since the beginning, AIF has pursued a unified, well-defined legislative agenda for

business. When a bill is proposed, AIF's legislative experts review it to ascertain its impact on the marketplace. Does the bill present a solution to a problem? Is it a workable solution? Does it represent unnecessary intrusion by government into the work place?

Excessive governmental regulation is bad for business and the public as a whole. AIF has been particularly successful in halting the passage of restrictive regulation.

As evidence, we point to recent defeats of a state minimum wage bill and comparable worth legislation. A statewide minimum wage would have done nothing for Florida but inflate wages and paperwork. Comparable worth is a doctrine that lets the state decide the wage value of innumerable professions and trades. It removes the market forces of supply and demand from employee compensation decisions. Blocking passage of these misguided ideas has saved billions for employers and consumers alike.

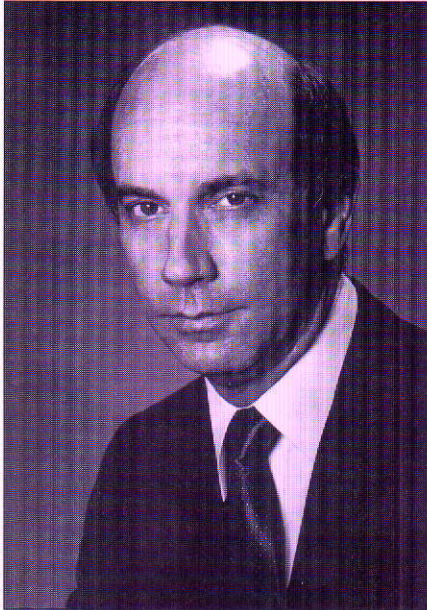
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President's Message

Leaders and Leadership

by Jon L. Shebel



Jon L. Shebel

There is little doubt that everyone admires, respects and probably even envies those who are regarded as leaders. We may not always agree with everything they do, but we respect them nonetheless.

I think it's safe to say, one of their most admirable characteristics is a willingness to take risks. Sometimes this can mean jeopardizing one's political career, business venture, or life itself. And isn't it even more admirable when his sole motivation is the well-being of others?

On occasion we call them heroes. Haven't we all had one? Perhaps it was a friend, a relative, a colleague, — maybe a national hero.

Several men come to mind. President George Bush — no mad man was going to plunder and ravage a weaker border country. Vice President Hubert Humphrey — too liberal for the nation to be elected President, but loved and admired by liberals and conservatives alike on both a personal and humanitarian basis. Boris Yeltsin — jumped up on a tank and told armed Russian soldiers to "stop" their advances on fellow citizens. Not only did he save the lives of his fellow citizens, but possibly the future of his country. Mikhail Gorbachev — changed the direction of the USSR and saw his life, as well as the life of his family, almost extinguished because of his leadership.

On a more personal note, my favorite leader of all time was Second Lieutenant Terry Graves, USMC. On an incredibly hot afternoon in February 1969, while engaged in hostile action in the Republic of Vietnam, he loaded his men, most of whom were wounded, into a helicopter and ordered the pilot to take off. Lieutenant Graves remained behind to provide covering fire to enhance the safety of his men and flight crew. Several years later, President Lyndon Johnson awarded Terry's parents a posthumous medal of honor.

As I reflect upon the actions of these leaders and those before them, it seems they all share a common trait. Their primary actions are guided by what they believe is in the best interest of others and not necessarily themselves.

This brings us to Florida's Governor, Lawton Chiles.

Governor Chiles is engaged in a battle to make Florida's government work. He is embroiled in numerous battles with entrenched bureaucracies and their private sector support groups.

It is probably to the Governor's political detriment, at least in the short-term, to do battle with these bureaucracies. And yet, he continues putting himself on the line. For who? For you and I. For us. The taxpayers.

He is simply saying that government should do more and do it better. That government should be more efficient in carrying out its functions. Haven't we all been asking the same thing for a long time?

Florida now has a leader who is trying to accomplish just that. I think he deserves a little vocal support from those of us who have complained for so long.

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

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When it comes to major business cost items, AIF has truly led the way. Years ago, AIF helped draft the state's unemployment compensation taxing structure. We monitor it to this day. The result is a healthy U.C. trust fund and some of the lowest unemployment taxes in the country. AIF is the major force behind suppression of repeated efforts to index the state maximum weekly benefit amount.

On the other hand, none of us are happy with the state of workers' compensation. The system's legitimate purpose is to supply employers with a method to compensate workers injured on the job. Over the years, it has become a method to compensate lawyers and medical providers. The fight over workers' compensation is one of the toughest faced by employers. AIF has taken it to rate hearings to contest unjustified increases sought by insurance carriers and to endorse rate increases when justified. AIF has battled and prevailed in the Supreme Court. When required, AIF has presented its challenge to administrative rules, medical reimbursement schedules and attorney's fees.

Wages, taxation, unemployment compensation, and workers' compensation are just some of the issues that AIF confronts for employers. Over the years employers have enjoyed many victories engineered by Associ-

