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**Deukmejian's California is no workers' paradise**

With its Sept. 5 editorial emphasizing the similarity between the current struggles of Solidarity in Poland and the violence attending the earlier growth of American unions, the Daily News diverts attention away from serious anti-labor bias in the United States. California's Gov. George Deukmejian is a perfect case in point.

Ignoring a wide range of bipartisan advice, Deukmejian disbanded California's Occupational Safety and Health division (also called CAL-OSHA to distinguish it from the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which President Reagan tried, unsuccessfully, to abolish).

As predicted by those whom Deukmejian ignored, work-related deaths for Californians newly "protected" by the federal OSHA rose 53 percent, while deaths for those remaining under CAL-OSHA declined 40 percent. Not so coincidentally, the non-profit National Safe Workplace Institute concluded that Reagan's relaxation of OSHA standards resulted in some 5,800 work-related deaths nationwide in the first half of the decade, over and above the number expected based on pre-1980 trends.

Deukmejian's treatment of farm workers is also egregious. He packed the Agriculture Labor Relations Board with members sympathetic to California agribusiness. The board has allowed growers to flout the law while it processes complaints from the United Farm Workers Union at a glacial pace.

Deukmejian vetoed legislation that would require growers to post signs around recently sprayed crops, informing farm workers when they could safely re-enter the fields. The current UFW-sponsored grape boycott is the response to Deukmejian's disdain for the most vulnerable sector of the work force.

U.S. workers do fare better than their counterparts in many other countries, but in today's labor climate, that is not much to boast of.

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