

“The Service Employees International Union was pleased to host the first Subcontracted Worker Initiative Strategy Forum sponsored by the National Employment Law Project and the Farmworker Justice Fund. The first Strategy Forum, held in Washington, DC in 1999, was followed by a second meeting during 2001, in Berkeley, California. Now the sponsors have issued this report, *From Orchards to the Internet: Confronting Contingent Work Abuse*.

This report makes a valuable contribution to the dedicated worker advocates who are trying to help working people as more and more companies seem to be moving toward the use of temp agencies, labor contractors, outsourcing and other mechanisms that depart from our concept of ‘standard’ employment relationships.

The report is impressive in its ambitious scope. In reviewing the history of reforming the sweatshops, it reminds us that we, as a nation, have addressed these problems before. One of the report's great values is the broad range of industries and occupations covered. Building service workers, home health care workers, farmworkers, and computer programmers may seem quite different, but it turns out that their employers are engaging in similar practices that produce problems that are also quite similar.

Most helpful is the report's examination of the strategies that workers, labor organizations, immigrants rights groups, and their allies have devised to address subcontracted workers' problems. All of us who struggle for more just and humane working conditions can benefit from this sharing of solutions and strategies. Some of our union's work is featured in the report, and we are proud of the progress that our building services and homecare members have made. By highlighting successful strategies, the report gives encouragement to further collaboration among a variety of different kinds of organizations.

The National Employment Law Project and the Farmworker Justice Fund are to be commended for an important contribution to our continuing efforts at promoting decent, safe, and fair wages and working conditions for all workers.”

**Andrew L. Stern, International President
Service Employees International Union**