

# We All Can Do It!

## Holding the Line: Women of Color in the Labor Movement



# Luisa Moreno



***Guatemalteca***

**Communist**

***UCAPAWA-CIO***

**Organized Calpak, Del Monte, Campbell's and Libby's**

***El Congreso de Pueblos de Hablan Española***

# *El Congreso de Pueblos de Hablan Española*



First meeting April 1938

Attracted over 1,000  
delegates, combined base  
of 70,000 people

McCarthy era

Hardly recognized  
amongst historians, Latin-  
Americanists



# Hillsborough CTA



# Emma Tenayuca



Born in San Antonio

Communist, secretary of the  
Worker's Alliance

Popular education (critical  
consciousness?) began as a  
child

First demonstration *at age 17*



# Pecan-Shellers Strike of 1938



12,000 strikers, almost all women

15% wage increase

Abysmal working conditions

# Emma Tenayuca



**Elected strike chair at *age 21***

***La Pasionaria***

**Blacklisted by House UAAC**

**San Francisco State University**

**Retired as a migrant tutor**

# Hattie Canty



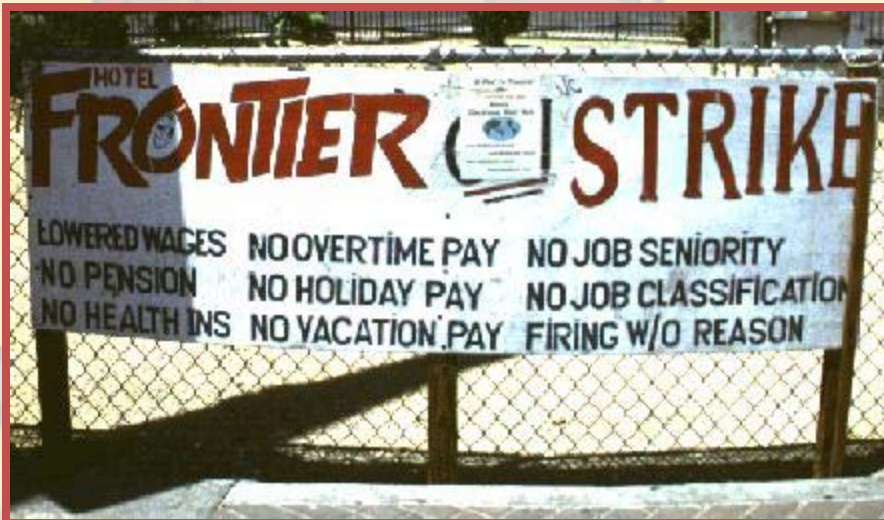
*“Coming from Alabama, this seemed like the civil rights struggle ... the labor movement and the civil rights movement, you cannot separate the two of them.” – Hattie Canty*

**Mother of 10, widowed**

**First female head of CW  
226**



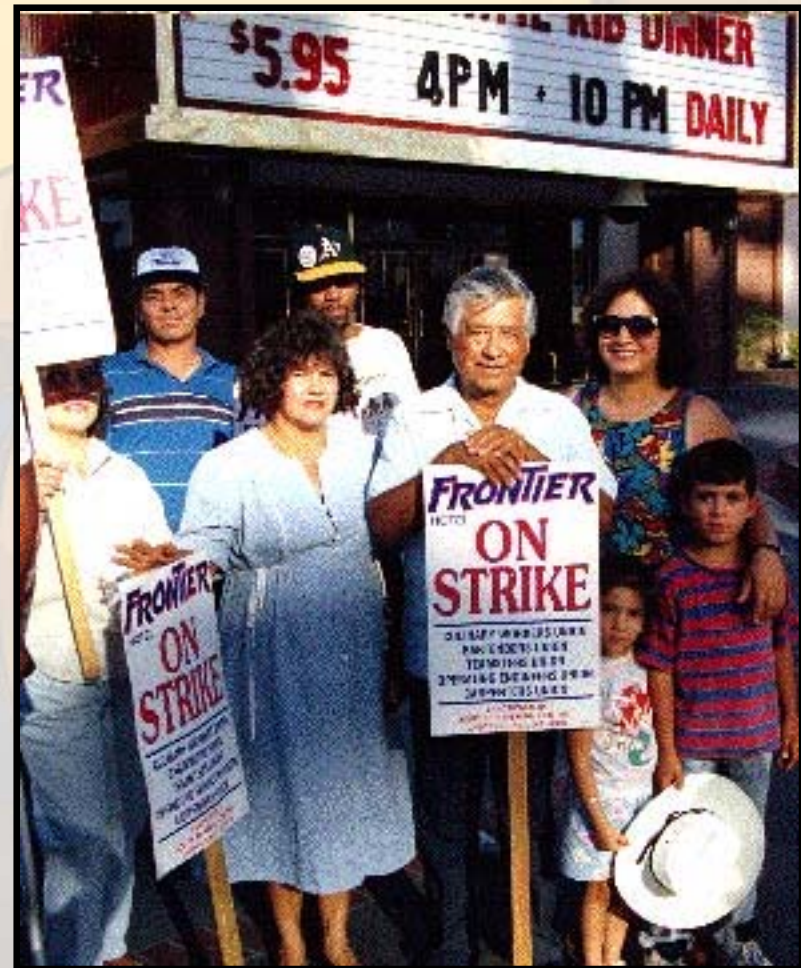
# Frontier Strike of 1991



Extremely successful

Gained back pension credits & seniority

Lasted 1991-1998



# Maids Sway the 2008 Election

## Obama gains key labor backing in Nevada

Support from UNITE HERE could soften sting after candidate's N.H. loss

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**LAS VEGAS** — Presidential candidate Barack Obama won a key national labor endorsement Wednesday, a coup that could boost the Democrat's candidacy against Hillary Rodham Clinton in Nevada's nominating contest.

Leaders of 450,000-member UNITE HERE announced the endorsement in a news conference in Las Vegas Wednesday, the day after Obama narrowly lost the New Hampshire primary to Clinton.

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## Obama gets major labor endorsement

By **ROBIN ABCARIAN**,  
LOS ANGELES TIMES STAFF WRITER

JANUARY 16, 2008

**T**he head of the politically powerful Los Angeles County Federation of Labor said Tuesday that she is endorsing Barack Obama for president.

The endorsement by Maria Elena Durazo is a coup for Obama that could help the Illinois senator in his uphill struggle against Hillary Rodham Clinton to win substantial support among Latino voters in Southern California. Obama has won the backing of other Los Angeles-area Latino leaders, but this is probably his biggest such endorsement yet, given the broad reach of the county labor federation.

Los Angeles Times  
**Nation**

This article is related to: Barack Obama, Mi  
Jobs and Workplace, Elections



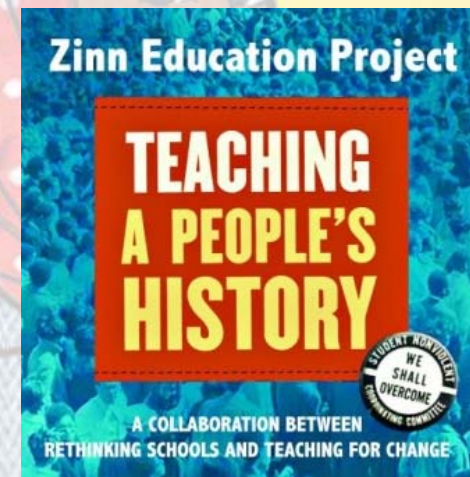
## Maria Elena Durazo



# ***TAKE IT BACK TO THE CLASSROOM!***

## **The Howard Zinn Education Project**

**[zinnedproject.org](http://zinnedproject.org)**



**“Well, if one really wishes to know how justice is administered in a country, one does not question the policemen, the lawyers, the judges, or the protected members of the middle class. One goes to the unprotected — those, precisely, who need the law's protection most! — and listens to their testimony. Ask any Mexican, any Puerto Rican, any Black man, any poor person - ask the wretched how they fare in the halls of justice, and then you will know, not whether or not the country is just, but whether or not it has any love for justice, or any concept of it. It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have.” – James Baldwin, *No Name in the Street* (1972)**