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Transcript from 5/7/07
A North American Labor Assembly on Climate Crisis
UFT, New York City

Good morning. I want to just thank the good work that Sean [Sweeney, Director, Cornell Global Labor Institute] Cornell, Jill [Kubit, Assistant Director, Cornell Global Labor Institute] have done in putting this together.

I think it's significant that this conference attempts at least to be international in focus. At the [New York City] Central Labor Council, we started several years ago a collaboration with the Apollo Project, which was an attempt by the labor movement and remains an attempt, to try to struggle with the questions created by global warming. We are quite proud of our efforts, although we realize it's actually a drop in the bucket.

We believe in a couple of things though that I just want to lay out. Then I'll sit down and shut up. When we started our work on energy and the environment and positive alternatives to what we're doing, one of the first collaborations we tried to work on was the environmental justice movement. We wanted to collaborate with that element of the environmental movement. One, because they were job conscious. Two, because as a movement of working people, how we do this, both from the beginning to where things are, how they're done, how they're made, what they're designed to do, and who they're designed to serve – cannot be subsidized by the poor or by the workers. They have to be equal partners. (Applause.)

We have lived too long in a city where communities of color have taken their unfair burden of the processes that produce energy and produce goods without the benefit of the best jobs. As we transition to the new, which is not something trade unions do easily, in that our primary relationship is to defend what we have. As we transition to the new, it is at conferences like this that we have to do a major re-think. Not just of where we want to go, but how we want to get there, and who we want to get there with.

We must *insist* that the working people and the poor of the world are at the table as equal partners in the very beginning. Towards that end, I hope we have a tremendously productive conference. The Central Labor Council is happy to welcome you here. Thank you.