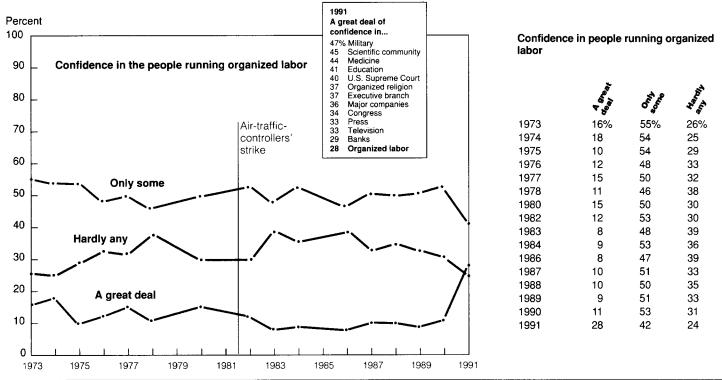
# **UNIONS:** 10 Years After the Big Strike

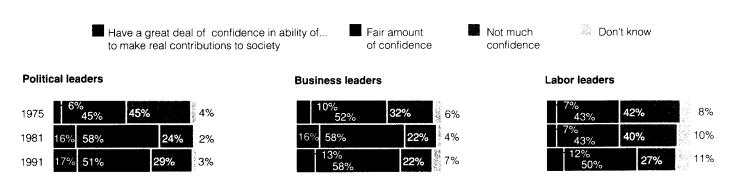
Ten years after the air-traffic-controllers' strike, there has been a slight uptick in positive marks for those running organized labor. Still, confidence is low absolutely and also when compared to other leaders.

Question: I am going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?



Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, latest that of February-April, 1991

Question: So far as their ability to make real contributions to our society is concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence in this nation's political leaders, a fair amount of confidence, or not much confidence in them? How about our business leaders? And how about our leaders in the field of labor?



Note: In a July 1989 Associated Press/Media General survey, 64% of respondents had a favorable opinion and 22% had an unfavorable opinion of management. For unions, 44% had a favorable, and 38% had

Source: Surveys by the Roper Organization (Roper Reports 91-3), latest that of February 9-23, 1991

### The Union Label

Seven out of ten say labor unions are necessary to protect the working person, but more people think unions have too much power or are too strong than say unions are too weak. Only a quarter of us would be happy about joining an AFL-CIO union if it was a requirement.

Question: Here are some statements on a different topic. Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of these statements.

Completely agree Mostly agree Mostly disagree Completely disagree Don't know

Question: Suppose you were offered a job you liked, but taking it meant you had to join an AFL/CIO union. How would you feel about having to join the union?

#### Labor unions are necessary to protect the working person



Labor unions have too much power

19%	40%	7% 26%	8%
18%	37%	10% 28%	7%

Don't know

If offered a job you liked, but taking it meant you had to join an AFL/CIO union, would be happy about it

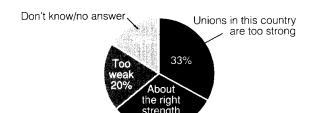
Note: Thirty percent of respondents with incomes under \$20,000 and 18 percent of those with incomes of \$50,000 and above "completely agree" that "unions are necessary for working persons." Thirty-eight percent of college graduates and 15 percent of respondents with less than a high school education said the same. The differences by income and education among respondents that "completely agree" that "unions have too much power" are small.

Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization (1987) and Princeton Survey Research Associates, Inc., latest that of May 1-31, 1990

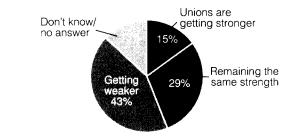
**Note:** Thirty-three percent of those with less than a high school diploma, and 12 percent of college graduates said that they would be happy if accepting a job they liked meant that they would have to join a union.

**Source:** Survey by the Roper Organization (Roper Reports 90-5). April 21-28, 1990.

Question: Generally, do you think unions in this country are too strong, too weak, or about the right strength?



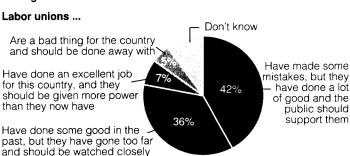
Question: Overall, do you think unions are getting stronger, getting weaker, or remaining about the same strength?



Note: Forty-two percent of those with incomes of \$50,000 or more said that "unions in this country are too strong" compared to 26 percent of respondents with incomes of \$14,999 and under. Twenty percent of those with less than a high school education and 40 percent of college graduates said the same.

Source: Survey by Associated Press/Media General, July 7-16, 1989.

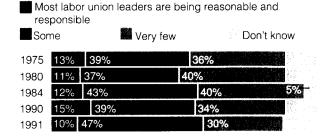
#### Question: Which of these statements comes closest to expressing your feelings?



Note: In a 1941 Roper survey for Fortune, responses were 55% (12 o'clock), 21%, 5%, 9%, and 11% for the answers shown above.

Source: Surveys by the Roper Organization (Roper Reports 91-2), January 5-19, 1991

Question: In today's times, do you feel that most labor union leaders are being reasonable and responsible, that some of them are, or that very few of them are?



Source: Surveys by the Roper Organization (Roper Reports 91-5), latest that of April 13-20, 1991.

## **Membership Changes**

As the proportion of the labor force that is unionized has plunged, the face of unionism has been transformed. Over the last decade and a half alone, union membership has become far more white-collar, college-trained, and professional. Public service employees are the one group in which unions have gained of late.

Question: Do you, or does anyone in your family living here at home belong to a labor union?

