

THIS WEEK IN LABOR HISTORY

January 31

Union and student pressure forces Harvard University to adopt new labor policies raising wages for lowest-paid workers - 2002

February 01

International Brotherhood of Firemen & Oilers merge with Service Employees International Union - 1995

February 02

Silk workers in Paterson, NJ strike for shorter work week with no cut in pay. Sixteen thousand participate over the course of the year - 1919

February 03

32,000 textile workers strike in Lawrence, Mass. for a shorter work week with no cut in pay - 1919

February 04

“Big” Bill Haywood born, leader of Western Federation of Miners, Wobblies (IWW) founder - 1869

Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man launched the 1955 Montgomery, Ala. bus boycott and the birth of the civil rights movement, is born in Tuskegee, Ala. - 1913

February 05

First daily labor newspaper, “N.Y. Daily Sentinel”, begins publication - 1830

President Bill Clinton signs the Family and Medical Leave Act. The law requires most employers of 50 or more workers to grant up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for a family or medical emergency - 1993