

UCSD labor expert Harley Shaiken appointed to two U.S. office of Technology Assessment panels on industrial competitiveness & U.S. technology

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UCSD LABOR EXPERT APPOINTED TO TWO U.S. OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT PANELS ON INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS & U.S TECHNOLOGY

Harley Shaiken, a national authority on labor and an associate professor of communication at the University of California, San Diego, has been appointed by the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) of the United States Congress to serve on two OTA panels to study and advise the Congress on issues related to the international competitiveness of U.S. industry.

Shaiken was invited last year to serve as a member of the advisory panel on OTA's assessment of "Multinational Firms and the U.S. Technology Base," a study undertaken at the request of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. The purpose of the study is to assess the effects that multinational corporations, both domestic and foreign-based, induce on technology development and advanced manufacturing in the United States.

Additionally, Shaiken will serve on the OTA's Technology Assessment Advisory Council (TAAC), which reviews and analyzes the OTA's scope of work and the methodology used. The OTA program areas Shaiken will study as a member of the TAAC includes the Ocean and Environment Program and the Industry, Technology and Employment Program (ITE). ITE is examining the U.S. environment industry (the industry which has grown up to assist industry as a whole to meet environmental regulations and standards), the role of multinational corporations in developing the U.S. technology base and in contributing valuable jobs to the U.S. economy, and the ability of the R&D establishment -- now dependent on defense funding -- to contribute to the civilian competitiveness and to new national goals.

Shaiken completed a study last year for the ITE's U.S.Mexico Technology, Trade and Investment Project on "The Auto and Electronic Sectors in U.S.-Mexico Trade and Investment." In this report, Shaiken challenges the conventional view of the role of the U.S. and Mexico in an international division of labor, with the U.S. as the site of sophisticated production and Mexico as the location for low tech, labor-intensive assembly.

One of the nation's most respected labor experts, Shaiken's recent research has focused on Japanese work organization and production management in the U.S. and in Mexico. His recent publications include: "Mexico in the Global Economy: High Technology and Work Organization in Export Industries;" "Japanese Work Organization in Mexico," and "Automation and Global Production: Automobile Engine Production in Mexico, the United State, and Canada." These studies have been published by UCSD's Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies.

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