Some factual errors exist. The photograph on page 389, for instance, shows a first communion class in Fort Wayne, not Indianapolis. Francis Silas Chatard (p. 407) was not the first United States–born Roman Catholic bishop in Indiana. (Joseph Dwenger, bishop of Fort Wayne after 1872, was.) The earliest Catholic school (p. 389) was established in 1847, but the account on page 1,236 incorrectly states the date as 1859. Chatard's episcopacy began in 1878 (p. 389), not 1898 (p. 1,237). Similarly, St. John's and St. Mary's are incorrectly identified as German and Irish Catholic parishes, respectively (p. 1,236).

The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis, nonetheless, is impressive and useful. Although it is not the history that replaces Dunn's, it will doubtless benefit those who are interested in most aspects of the state capital's development and, one hopes, those who want to write its history.

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For two decades, plant closings have bedeviled manufacturing workers in the Midwest. America's industrial heartland has become a “rustbelt.” Economic ideology has depicted these closings as the inevitable consequence of impersonal market forces. Local responses have wavered between passive acceptance and desperate attempts to accommodate businesses by lowering taxes, providing infrastructure, lowering wages and benefits, and relaxing work rules. Meanwhile, family-supporting jobs have disappeared, working-class living standards have fallen, and communities have declined.

*Fighting for Jobs* offers a much-needed antidote to these economic maladies. In this little book, Bruce Nissen, a Labor Studies professor at Indiana University Northwest, provides systematic study of five cases of plant or department closings in the Hammond–Gary–East Chicago area. His analysis challenges economic orthodoxy by demonstrating that plant closings have not been caused solely—or primarily—by market forces. By exploring the dynamics of worker and community responses to closings, Nissen demonstrates that passivity and accommodation are not the only possible options. Resistance is also an option, one with a greater
likelihood of protecting jobs and living standards. But, Nissen shows, such resistance can succeed only when labor-community coalitions are solidified around strategies which shape both the public definition of the problem and the posture taken by local political officials.

Nissen's five case studies, drawn from the middle to late 1980s, show that outside corporate ownership, corporate accounting and internal management structures, and downright mismanagement play as significant a role in setting the stage for plant closings as do imports, high costs, aging equipment, and declining technologies. Broad economic factors are significant, to be sure, but they do not tell the whole story, nor do they impose insurmountable limits on worker and community efforts to save jobs.

_Fighting for Jobs_ traces the efforts of the Calumet Project for Industrial Jobs to prevent plant closings, facilitate buy-outs and reopenings, lay a foundation for worker ownership, or require corporate responsibility for severance packages, retraining, and the other costs of economic dislocation. Formed in 1984, the Calumet Project has brought union, religious, and community activists together with academics and researchers in an effort to influence the direction and pattern of economic change in northwestern Indiana.

In four of the five struggles detailed in _Fighting for Jobs_, workers and their allies had little impact on the direction of economic change. Plants closed and jobs were lost. Corporations were able to walk away from their responsibilities and leave the burden of their policies behind.

But _Fighting for Jobs_ is a hopeful book. The cumulative impact of these struggles and the persistence manifested by the Calumet Project for Industrial Jobs have influenced the public definition of the problem and the stance assumed by local political leaders. This played an important role in the victory gained in the fifth and final struggle analyzed, at LaSalle Steel in Hammond. There, union leaders successfully involved their rank-and-file membership and built an energized coalition with community activists and local residents. Together, they pressured local political structures to, in turn, put pressure on a corporation that was threatening to close a major department.

In his analysis of the case studies, Nissen identifies factors and strategies that can be utilized in future struggles. In this way, _Fighting for Jobs_ itself can be a source of hope, for it will become a valuable tool for union and community activists.