



Alliance for Worker Freedom

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Liberal Labor Lies: DNC Convention 2004

Democratic party leaders at this week's convention in Boston had a lot to say on labor, but not much of it was true. Below is a guide to what they said, and what the real truth is:

1. *"We insisted on higher pay for working overtime..."* **Senator Ted Kennedy, Tuesday night**

The Bush Administration has proposed modernizing and enhancing overtime protections for workers. Their plan raises the amount of money a worker can earn and still expect overtime, clarifies the rules for millions of small businesses, and will reduce frivolous lawsuits. Both Senators Kennedy and Kerry oppose these reforms.

2. *"We guaranteed the right to form a union..."* **Senator Ted Kennedy, Tuesday night**

Workers have every right to form a union, but many are tricked into giving up their right to a secret ballot through "card check" schemes. Unions extort workers to sign a petition asking them to be a union. Once more than half the workers are scared into it, they're stuck with it.

3. *"We pledged a fair minimum wage, so no one who works in America has to live in poverty."* **Senator Ted Kennedy, Tuesday night**

Look at the numbers, Senator. A minimum wage employee working a full-time job will make \$10712 in 2004, more in states with a higher minimum wage. According to the Census Bureau, the poverty line for an individual is \$9573. This doesn't even count the money that worker would get from the Earned Income Tax Credit. Raising the minimum wage simply makes it more expensive to hire workers trying to start out on the jobs ladder.

4. *"We will cut wasteful government contracts..."* **Senator John Edwards, Wednesday night**

Someone ought to tell Senator Edwards that if you want to run for Vice President, you ought to know that competitively sourcing commercial, non-essential federal jobs saves money--\$1.1 billion, according to the Office of Management and Budget. Over \$12000 per federal worker competed was saved in 2003. Federal bureaucrats should either do the job effectively, or let someone from the Yellow Pages do it for them.

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Alliance for Worker Freedom is a special project of Americans for Tax Reform