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**October 28, 2004**

### **LABOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

#### **AFL-CIO at Center of Litigation Over Ballots**

"Finding an injury to a union member, based on the allegations of this complaint, would be to indulge in impermissible conjecture," said federal judge James King said in rejecting a flimsy suit brought by the AFL-CIO to add 10,000 voters to Florida's rolls despite the fact the voters failed to properly complete registration forms.

According to mounting press reports, the union is at the center of a coordinated campaign to file lawsuits in multiple jurisdictions over matters related to voter registration, voting, and ballot counting.

In Florida, the union is part of an effort in conjunction with the Florida Democratic Party, the People for the American Way and AFSCME which has already filed nine election-related lawsuits, according to the [Washington Times](#).

Among the more interesting claims being made:

- The Secretary of State should not throw out voter registration cards despite the fact the individual failed to check a box indicating he or she is a U.S. citizen.
- The rejection rate of voter registration cards among blacks exceeds their share of the population in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, perhaps pointing to an effort to discriminate against minority voters.

#### **AFL-CIO and SEIU to Station "Representatives" at Polling Places**

The same union whose activists invaded Bush-Cheney headquarters, destroyed property, and even injured one campaign staffer are planning to put its people outside of polling places in Ohio and elsewhere as part of a "bipartisan Election Protection" effort, according to Ohio's [Free Times](#). The "representatives" will be distributing flyers with the telephone number of a lawyer they can call to "help you vote."

#### **Massachusetts Union Officials Sending Resources to New Hampshire**

Confident of a Kerry victory in their own state, Massachusetts union officials are sending people and resources into New Hampshire to convince Granite State voters to cast their ballots against President Bush.

The effort involves the AFL-CIO, the Massachusetts Federation of Teachers, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, and other unions. Only 9.8% of New Hampshire workers are unionized, compared to 14.2% in Massachusetts. Source: [Boston Herald](#)

### **National Education Association Bus Tour Targets Presidential Battleground States**

The National Education Association union has been sponsoring a campaign bus tour of presidential battleground states featuring NEA President Reg Weaver and other union officials. The tour, which began on October 1, features a bus painted with "Vote for Great Public Schools November 2<sup>nd</sup>."

Press reports claim Weaver is not officially touting Kerry while on school property, but is doing so during offsite events in conjunction with the bus tour.

An article in the [Palm Beach Post](#) claims "although the NEA is not officially touting Kerry during the visits, which would be a no-no under school anti-campaigning rules, the association is telling teacher groups at separate functions that Kerry is its recommended candidate.

Weaver often repeats the familiar theme of railing on President Bush for failing to "fully fund" the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

The Bush Administration and Congress have increased federal education spending by 49%, more than Bill Clinton did and more than any President since Lyndon Johnson.

While the failure to "fully fund" NCLB has emerged as the most common complaint lodged by the NEA (which has endorsed every Democrat candidate for President since its first endorsement of Jimmy Carter in 1976), the union appears to chafe most seriously at the testing and accountability standards called for in the law.

While Weaver was in the state, Iowa State Education Association President Linda Nelson found time to complain that the Republican-controlled state legislature has "not stood behind education." *Interestingly Democrat Governor Tom Vilsack was **not** singled out for criticism.* [Story](#)

### **Hoffa Touring Nation for Kerry**

International Brotherhood of Teamsters President Jim Hoffa is in Dayton, Ohio tonight as part of an ongoing 11 state tour ostensibly to urge Teamsters members to vote for John Kerry.

When defending their practices of funding such political activity with union dues paid by all members, union officials claim they are merely "representing" the views of their members. *If so, why do union officials need to conduct bus tours visiting their members to urge them who to vote for? Are they merely "representing" their members – or preaching to them?*

In 2002, the Teamsters ran ads against Kerry, criticizing his support for oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. (Teamsters Advertisement, The Tampa Tribune, 2/14/02)

### **Abrupt Cancellation of Hoffa Visit Gives Appearance of Coordination with Kerry Campaign**

The CBS affiliate in Denver Wednesday reported in the same story that Teamsters president Hoffa cancelled a planned visit to the state on the very same day Kerry cancelled his own visit and pulled all his television advertising from Colorado airwaves. [Story](#)

### **Unions Deliver Bodies for Kerry Rally in Nevada**

The Nevada Teamsters and AFL-CIO pulled out all the stops for John Kerry's seventh visit to Nevada last Tuesday, according to the [Las Vegas Review Journal](#).

As Kerry supporters arrived at a Kerry rally in Jaycees Park, each was handed an AFL-CIO produced flyer with a telephone script and the names of three voters to call and encourage to vote for Kerry. The Democratic Presidential nominee was introduced by Teamsters President James Hoffa.

**Kerry "Outsources" Campaign Work to union-supported "Americans Coming Together" Group's \$125 million voter turnout program budget dwarfs Kerry campaign's general election fund**

In an effort to evade the very campaign finance reforms the left championed, forces on the left are utilizing a range of new "527" groups to mobilize voters for Kerry in key battleground states.

One of those groups, Americans Coming Together, is funded by billionaire George Soros and supported by the AFL-CIO and other unions as they coordinate voter turnout programs. The group's budget is \$125 million, according to the [Herald-Dispatch](#).

According to Chris Suellentrop reporting in [Slate](#), *"ACT's army of red-coated canvassers are Kerry's Afghan warlords: He's outsourced his base campaign, his voter-registration drives, and a healthy chunk of his get-out-the-vote operation to them. Much of the rest of the operation will be handled by the groups (including ACT) that make up America Votes, another 527 that coordinates the voter-contact and voter-turnout operations of a host of interest groups, from the AFL-CIO to Planned Parenthood, to ensure that everyone's on the same page. In a sense, America Votes does for the liberal ground game what Grover Norquist's weekly meeting does for conservative talking points."*

What Suellentrop fails to mention is that by "outsourcing" certain campaign functions to groups like ACT and America Votes and their union allies without paying for them, millions of dollars in Kerry campaign funds are freed up for other activities. Worse, the outside groups are subject to far less reporting than political parties and campaigns, cloaking their financial activity from public scrutiny.

**National Review Magazine:  
AFL-CIO is the real practitioner of "scare tactics"**

"The next time you hear Kerry whining about Republican 'scare tactics,' remember Spokane, Wash.," the national magazine National Review says in an editorial.

"There, on Oct. 11, Bush-Cheney campaign headquarters were broken into; a hole was kicked through the wall of an adjacent office, and cash was stolen. On Oct. 1, three laptops with confidential campaign information were purloined from a Bellevue, Wash., Bush-Cheney office. Gunshots pierced campaign headquarters in Knoxville, Tenn.; bullets from another drive-by, in Huntington, W.Va., narrowly missed staffers gathered to watch the president's Sept. 2 convention speech," the magazine said.

"The AFL-CIO has orchestrated invasion-and-intimidation missions against several Bush-Cheney offices in Florida — where three elderly volunteers were overwhelmed by some three dozen 'protesters' in Tampa, and where an Orlando campaign worker had his wrist fractured by labor-union goon squads, who slammed another staffer's head into a glass door.

"Anti-Republican vandalism is ubiquitous: In Madison, Wis., a Bush supporter had a swastika burned into his lawn with weed killer. Lawn signs have been stolen or defaced almost everywhere,

and cars sporting Bush-Cheney stickers are prime targets for attack. Unsurprisingly, there has been little outrage from the mainstream media, and almost no contrition from the perpetrators.

### **Samples of Federal Workers' Unions Campaigning for Kerry, Potentially Supported by Member Dues**

- The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees has pledged \$30 million for what it calls the "most aggressive mobilization program ever."
- The National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) is conducting voter turnout programs in support of Kerry in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Las Cruces, Philadelphia and Parkersburg, W. Va. All are battleground states in the presidential election.
- American Federation of Government Employees President John Gage and Colleen Kelley of NTEU have told members and the public the Bush Administration is the "worst" in memory.

Source: [Washington Times](#), [Dallas Morning News](#)

### **Union Officials "Concerned" Some Members May Support Bush**

The [Dallas Morning News](#) reported some union officials are "concerned" some of their members are supporting President Bush, despite the millions the unions are spending to convince their members otherwise. In the same sentence, the paper reported that "the leaders are working to get **Kerry supporters** to the polls next week." (Emphasis added) *It would seem that while Bush-supporting union members get to **pay** for the voter turnout programs, they're not encouraged to actually make their **own** voice heard.*

### **Summary of AFL-CIO and SEIU Campaign Programs, By the Numbers**

**Cost:** \$110 million (AFL-CIO \$45 million, SEIU \$65 million)

**"Paid" volunteers:** 7,000 (5,000 AFL-CIO, 2,000+ SEIU)

**Greatest concentration of paid staff (AFL-CIO):** 662, in Pennsylvania

**Increase in scope of program since 2000:** 300%

**"Volunteers":** 113,000 (AFL-CIO)

**Portion of the "union vote" for Gore in 2000:** 63%

**Goal for 2004:** 70% for Kerry

Source: [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), [Washington Post](#)

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