

# A union is a union is a union. Period.

## JUST A COMMENT

by Aletra Hart

If you have ever been a member of a union, I am sure you will understand after you finish this article. Then again, maybe you don't; it depends on your experience.

I recently headed a no-vote campaign for unionization where I work (a couple of my co-workers decided that being paid \$7 per hour is not enough money to sit around and socialize while placing long-distance calls).

The facts I learned while researching the effects of unionization were astounding enough to deter me from ever considering joining a union.

The no-vote campaign won; the union, after losing the election by an almost 5-to-1 margin, is furious (less money to add to its billion-dollar treasury, I suppose).

I had already experienced the instinctive uneasiness one possesses when the promises that are made exceed the feasible possibilities, all before I learned about the false promises and sales pitches labor unions use to obtain the "yes" vote. The past ten months (from the advent of the musicians' union strike through the ever-present culinary union strike) have been, to understate its impact, enlightening.

For this commentary, I draw from two negative viewpoints to present what I see as a fad (unionization) that has exhausted its welcome in our labor force.

I watched musicians as they proudly lined the Las Vegas Strip, standing for hours as they boasted those unforgettable signs, "HONK FOR LIVE MUSIC!" I watched them as they desperately and wholeheartedly fought to save live music as an art form, to keep their careers as showroom musicians from becoming artifacts of a Las Vegas past.

I also watched other union members (culinary, Teamsters) cross those picket lines. They were not on strike; they still had to feed their families, right?

I watched in despair as big-name performers, some of whom were members of the musicians' union themselves, crossed those lines and even went as far as bringing in their own musicians. I even watched as some of those performers proclaimed that because they used the side entrance to the hotel, they did not, in essence, "cross the picket line."

Not too many of the striking musicians, if any, complained as culinary union workers crossed their lines each day to earn another day's wages. Conversely, however, culinary union members seem to believe that the whole world should strike in support of their cause.

What follows is a brief article which appeared in Sherman R. Frederick's column in the Las Vegas Review-Journal recently, where Culinary Local 226 leader Jim Arnold defined the word "scab":

"A 'scab' is anyone who

crosses a picket line," he said.

Anyone?

"Yes."

Does that mean customers?

"Yes."

Does that mean union members who have a valid contract with a hotel and have to make deliveries to the hotel?

"Yes."

Does that mean culinary union workers who crossed the musicians' union picket line?

After a pause, "Yes."

What does this mean?

It means that even in the Wonderful World of Unionization exists that grotesque, inescapable concept of Double Standards.

It means that striking culinary union workers (who have of late displayed such juvenility as spray-painting "SCAB" and other pleasantries on the cars of people who cross their picket line) were very lucky to have not received the same treatment when they paid no heed to the picketing musicians.

I am sure the culinary union workers are not thinking of that now, though. It does not suit their purpose.

From another perspective, unionization is a means by which unions increase their treasuries and the union bureaucrats increase their paychecks.

A labor union operates beneath a facade of negotiating in the "best interests" of its members.

In actuality, the sole motiva-

tion for a union recruiting more union members is money. A union is a business, plain and simple.

The particular union which sought to represent our company has over \$3 billion in its national treasury. It has general funds, advertising funds, and convention funds, but it does not have a strike fund.

In other words, the organizer of a strike would still receive his normal salary (in the case of this particular union, \$74,000 per year) during a strike situation while the striking union members would sacrifice regular paychecks for a shot-in-the-dark contract negotiation. It is ironic that a union itself is not unified enough to take better care of the striking members who pay the executives' salaries with their monthly dues.

Without question, labor unions have perfected the art of persuading people to pay for a product that cannot be guaranteed. They pay for a product that may not be delivered, for a promise that may not be kept, for a negotiation that may be unacceptable.

In the very least, I am consoled by the fact that fewer people today are joining labor unions than even ten years ago. It is an encouraging trend that more of the work force is turning its back on self-serving labor unions.

Whatever reason I have, I know that I have seen enough striking, enough childish behavior and enough corruption within the ex-

ecutive ranks of labor unions in this town alone to say that those labor unions are ruining the chances of the unions which, at one time, had a decent chance of surviving.

The strengths of the smaller unions were undeniably so. For example, the musicians' union went on strike to salvage an art form, not to harass others in coercive attempts for higher pay and benefits.

What do these tactics prove to outsiders except that labor unions are desperate for victory, desperate to retain members (maintain money flow), desperate to forget that, in this world where unemployment rates are very real, they are lucky to even have jobs, much less have to live life by holding both hands out like a spoiled child, saying, "MORE! MORE! GIMME! GIMME!"

Speaking of bad manners, whatever happened to the manners these people supposedly learned as children that now enables them to forget that screaming, "MORE! GIMME!" only makes other ignore them? My only guess is mob psychology, and that is a scary concept.

Whatever a labor union is supposed to represent, it is an old attraction and a dimming light in the labor force. People are realizing that, as laborers, their real strength is within themselves, not in a business pretending to protect them.

The people are learning.

Good for them.

## The conspiracy called capitalism by Sean Higgins

While we are being trained to succeed in a capitalist society, thinking it is fair and just, we should beware of "being used" when well meaning real world types expose us only to the concerned or fair side of capitalism.

There is and has been for some time a conspiracy in this country by some of the richest people in the world (international banks) that own the money systems of the major non-communist nations.

This monopoly is protected by the power of the respective governments, and is used to perpetuate the conspiracy's vast wealth by the creation of money out of nothing, and then charging interest to the borrowing nation on money that has no base.

These international banks also finance the communist countries to create a state of turmoil that will

lead to total world control through one world government.

At the head of this government is an order called the Illuminati, founded on May 1, 1776. The all-seeing eye on the back of the dollar bill is closely associated with the Illuminati.

The Illuminati is the center of a ringed conspiracy to destroy religion and replace it with the worship of humanism, and replace all governments with a new world order. Karl Marx was a member of the league of the just in this order.

Also expanding from this same dynasty of rings of power are the Masonic order, Federal Reserve and the Trilateral Commission.

In the United States this money fraud is perpetuated through the federal reserve system, controlled by twelve private banks.

The capitalist conspiracy sur-

faces to the public in America in the form of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), designed by Colonel Edward Mandell House, who manipulated Woodrow Wilson. With him were a select few dedicated to the domination of the masses.

The CFR has dominated this nation for decades. Its members exercise control over the nation through the government, tax exempt foundations, centers of education and the mass communications media.

The Council on Foreign Relations is the unseen government of the United States.

If ours is a university that seeks the truth, perhaps it's time to lay all the facts on the table. Our generation has been deceived long enough.

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BUSH CONSIDERING CONGRESSIONAL PLAN FOR NEW TAXES