

The Union Voice

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Local Lodge 733, District Lodge 70
Wichita, Kansas

TV's 'Undercover Boss': Corporate Propaganda

By Mark Brenner

The titans of industry aren't satisfied that they burned our economy to the ground and got nothing but a slap on the wrist from Washington. They want us to like them, too.

"Undercover Boss," which debuted on CBS after the Superbowl, is a corporate charm offensive. For one week the CEO of a major company goes "undercover," performing a variety of jobs at the bottom of the corporate ladder.

Over the course of an hour we discover that the CEO is really a nice guy. We see just how ready top brass is to reward hard-working employees and to clean up problems on the front lines.

The first episode featured Larry O'Donnell, president of Waste Management, the nation's largest trash and recycling company.

Thousands of Waste Management workers are represented by the Teamsters, but that, somehow, never quite gets mentioned. Must have been an innocent oversight.

In fine superhero tradition, O'Donnell adopts an alter ego (that sounds strangely like a porn star) — Randy Lawrence — and spends a day each doing various jobs at Waste Management: sorting recycling; picking up trash at a landfill; cleaning port-a-potties in an amusement park; shadowing the manager of a landfill; and riding shotgun on a residential garbage truck route.

You can't help but enjoy O'Donnell's ineptitude doing blue-collar work. He struggles to snatch cardboard off a recycling conveyor belt in Syracuse while his supervisor chuckles that he's working on the slowest line in the building. Almost on cue, O'Donnell misses a big piece and completely jams the machine, forcing everyone on

an early lunch break.

In Florida O'Donnell gets fired for the first time in his life. His supervisor, Walter, cans him after he repeatedly fails to fill a trash bag with litter in less than 10 minutes. Walter can fill two bags of trash in that time — and he's been on dialysis for more than 20 years!

And it wouldn't be reality TV without an over-the-top moment — in this case O'Donnell vacuuming out the business end of a port-a-potty. For dramatic effect, the producers blur out images of a dirty diaper that O'Donnell excavates from one toilet.

We get a good laugh but the joke's on us, because Larry O'Donnell still goes home with a \$3 million salary.

What is the viewer supposed to take from the show? CEOs are good people with families. Workers are dedicated and hardworking, and the suits in corporate can't do what they do. But, as out-of-touch as decision-makers are, when they find problems they'll fix them.

So "Undercover Boss" is really a sequel to the management fads of the 1980s and 1990s — employee involvement and team concept. Those programs told workers to "work smarter, not harder," and bosses everywhere promised to listen to workers about how to run the company.

What we learned from Corporate America's first charm offensive is that yes, management wanted workers' ideas — so they could use them to institute speed-up and tighter management control as well as to cut jobs.

Larry O'Donnell is just a tourist in the management-by-stress workplace that his predecessors perfected over the last 30 years.

Here's hoping that Waste Management workers set their sights higher than a corporate pat on the head. After 30 years of getting dumped on, U.S. workers have a right to be angry.

If a few of them break out the pitch-



forks and torches that would make for some great TV.

—The writer is director of *Labor Notes*.

Memorial Construction Begins

Construction has started on the new National Workers Memorial, located at the National Labor College campus in Silver Spring, Maryland, school officials announced.

The memorial is to be completed in time to commemorate Workers Memorial Day, April 28. Workers Memorial Day is an annual recognition of workers killed or fatally injured on the

NLRB Confirmation Voted Down

Senate Republicans have blocked the confirmation of labor lawyer Craig Becker to fill a vacancy on the National Labor Relations Board, leaving just two members on what should be a five-member panel and continuing to cripple the Board's work.

The vote was 52-33, eight short of the 60 votes needed to force final consideration of Becker's appointment. Democrats Ben Nelson (Neb.) and Blanch Lincoln (Ark.) voted with 31 Republicans to reject Becker, who had the strong backing of the labor movement.

His opponents said he was too pro-labor, while his supporters said Republicans were abusing their power to block presidential appointees because of the GOP's strong pro-business, anti-labor views.

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PLANT CHAIR REPORTS

Shaun Junkins
1st Shift Plant Chair

In the month of February our grievances are still leveled out. We did get one favorable Arbitration answer on a grievance that we heard in November. That employee is being reinstated back to their job, Great job to Rita, Becky, all the plant chairs and the shop steward in the area. This was a true team effort.

Last month I reported about what was going on in plant one. There have been a couple of employees written up for ROC 16 restricting output and ROC 21 wasting time during working hours in January. Those grievances have all been resolved in favor of the employees 100%!

In Solidarity,
Shaun Junkins



545 vs. 300,000,000,000

By Charlie Reese

Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems and then campaign against them.

Have you ever wondered, if both the Democrats and the Republicans are against deficits, WHY do we have deficits?

Have you ever wondered, if all the politicians are against inflation and high taxes, WHY do we have inflation and high taxes?

You and I don't propose a federal budget. The president does. You and I don't have the Constitutional authority to vote on appropriations. The House of Representatives does. You and I don't write the tax code, Congress does. You and I don't set fiscal policy, Congress does. You and I don't control monetary policy, the Federal Reserve Bank does.

One hundred senators, 435 congressmen, one president, and nine Supreme Court justices equates to 545 human beings out of the 300 million are directly, legally, morally, and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country.

I excluded the members of the Federal Reserve Board because that problem was created by the Congress. In 1913, Congress delegated its Constitutional duty to provide a sound currency to a federally chartered, but private, central bank.

I excluded all the special interests and lobbyists for a sound reason. They have no legal authority. They have no ability to coerce a senator, a congressman, or a president to do one cotton-picking thing. I don't care if they offer a politician \$1 million dollars in cash. The politician has the power to accept or reject it. No matter what the lobbyist promises, it is the legislator's responsibility to determine how he votes.

Those 545 human beings spend much of their energy convincing you that what they did is not their fault. They cooperate in this common con regardless of party.

What separates a politician from a normal human being is an excessive amount of gall. No normal human being would have the gall of a Speaker, who stood up and criticized the President for creating deficits. The president can only propose a budget. He cannot force the Congress to accept it.

The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, gives sole responsibility to the House of Representatives for

Welcome To Our New

Union Members

James	Kalinowski
Carol	Lipsmeyer
David	Merkle
Tung	Nguyen
Aaron	Payne
Andy	Pham

March Issue

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originating and approving appropriations and taxes. Who is the speaker of the house?

Nancy Pelosi. She is the leader of the majority party. She and fellow House members, not the

president, can approve any budget they want. If the president vetoes it, they can pass it over his veto if they agree to.

It seems inconceivable to me that a nation of 300 million cannot replace 545 people who stand convicted -- by present facts -- of incompetence and irresponsibility. I can't think of a single domestic problem that is not traceable directly to those 545 people. When you fully grasp the plain truth that 545 people exercise the power of the federal government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want to exist.

If the tax code is unfair, it's because they want it unfair. If the budget is in the red, it's because they want it in the red.

If the Army & Marines are in IRAQ, it's because they want them in IRAQ. If they do not receive social security but are on an elite retirement plan not available to the people, it's because they want it that way.

There are no insoluble government problems.

Do not let these 545 people shift the blame to bureaucrats, whom they hire and whose jobs they can abolish; to lobbyists, whose gifts and advice they can reject; to regulators, to whom they give the power to regulate and from whom they can take this power. Above all, do not let them con you into the belief that there exists disembodied mystical forces like "the economy," "inflation," or "politics" that prevent them from doing what they take an oath to do.

Those 545 people, and they alone, are responsible. They, and they alone, have the power. They, and they alone, should be held accountable by the people who are their bosses.

Provided the voters have the gumption to manage their own employees.

We should vote all of them out of office and clean up their mess!

Charlie Reese is a former columnist of the Orlando Sentinel Newspaper.

Assertive Grievance Presentation

One of the most frustrating experiences you can have as a steward is to meet with management over a good grievance, even a very strong grievance, something really important to the members -- yet management barely listens, let alone settles. Maybe the problem isn't in the strength of your grievance, but in your presentation. So, what does a good presentation sound like? Here are three basic steps. Not only will they work in grievance presentation, but in everyday life as well.

Make a simple but specific and factual statement of the issue. Firmly say how you feel about the issue and why.

Say specifically what you want done about the issue.

The goal is to be factual, direct and forceful: know what you want and get across to management in an understandable, serious way what you want to see accomplished.

Think Safety When Using Power Equipment

This is your sister coming at you from the safety committee we meet every second Wednesday in the old first aid room at plant 2 at 4:00 pm.

Well it's time to March into safety. We can see that we be can be safe by marching properly thinking and seeing that we do what is right. Doing something as simple as wearing safety glasses, gloves or even protective suits that keep the hazardous dust and paint off our clothes helps to keep us safe.

I guess I should talk about gloves again and let everybody know that when you work around high speed machines **Do Not** put your hands into or near moving parts whether you have gloves on or not. I know some of you may think that they are fast enough to grab things with their hands, but it doesn't matter how fast you are. If you get too close to a moving part it can grab your hand and it won't let go. And ladies and men also, if you are working on machines that are moving and you have long hair put your hair up to keep it out of the way.

When you March think like a soldier being aware of what is around you. You look and think ahead about what could happen if I did this or not. We have had hand injuries that were senseless. Never ever put your hand in a high powered machine. We want everyone to go home the same way they came to work.

When we think of March spring also comes to mind. The yard is starting to come back to life and we want to keep that show case yard like we had last year. Take your time and wear your safety glass's when cutting the yard or sharpening the garden tools. There have been hands and fingers cut off at home too. They make machines with guards on them. If you don't have one with a guard use the utmost caution when sharpening tools. Keep bug sprays and garden pesticides up out of the little ones reach.

Spring can be a great time for all of us. Working in your yard in the Spring can be hard work. Take your time, don't over due it, protect yourself and

your heart. You have a life time to do what ever it is you want done. With all solidarity your sister, Linda Ligons. God is good all the time all the time He is good.

The People Speak, Congress Fiddles

by Jim Hightower

Who says Americans can't find agreement on anything? All it took to bring us together in determined unity was that black-robed gang of democracy thieves sitting on the Supreme Court.

The latest national poll shows that Americans of all political stripes overwhelmingly oppose the recent 5-4 decree by the Supremes to allow unlimited corporate spending in our elections. "Holy Thomas Jefferson" shouted 85 percent of Democrats to the pollsters - "No!" Likewise, 81 percent of independents said "No way."

But get this: 76 percent of Republicans also joined in this emphatic national "uh-uh" to the Court's corporatization of our politics. Indeed, the decision was opposed by big majorities of all ages, education levels, and racial categories.

So, with eight out of ten Americans united in opposition to this gaping wound that the Court inflicted on our democracy, we can expect quick action by Congress to heal it. Right?

Uh. No. First, Republican leaders (who're ever-faithful, tail-wagging kowtowers to any whim of their corporate sponsors) have cheered this unleashing of special-interest money and will oppose any efforts to restrict it.

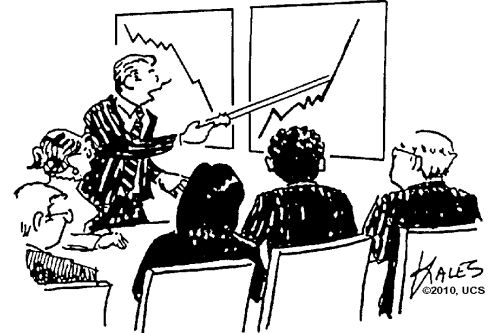
Second, the Democrats' designated leader for dealing with the court's ruling is Sen. Chuck Schumer, a notorious corporate servant whose chief skill is raising corporate campaign cash. Sending Schumer to restrain the political power of corporations is like going lion hunting with a flyswatter.

Sure enough, Schumer is not even considering a constitutional amendment to force these corporate powers out of our elections, instead offering a patchwork of regulatory bandaids to cover the wound - but not heal it. To get real action, we have to produce it ourselves. Connect with these two

grassroots coalitions:

FreeSpeechForPeople.org and MoveToAmend.org.

-Jim Hightower is a nationally syndicated radio commentator and the bestselling author of *Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow*. For more information visit www.jimhightower.com.



"As you can see, our decline in business is offset by our upsurge in bonuses."

Slavery, 2010 Style

The owners of Hawaii's second-largest fruit and vegetable farm have pleaded guilty to charges of importing laborers from Thailand to force them to work.

Aloun Farms President Alec Souphone Sou and his brother, Aloun Farms Vice President Mike Mankone Sou, admitted to conspiring with Thai labor recruiters to bring 44 Thai nationals to Hawaii, according to their plea agreements.

Many of the laborers were told not to leave the farm after work, and 11 were housed in mobile storage containers while working for Aloun, the federal government claimed. "Aloun representatives instructed the Thai workers not to socialize with outsiders, particularly Laotians, and not to leave the compound after they returned from work," the plea deals said.

The laborers each borrowed \$16,000 to pay "recruitment fees" to Thai businessmen for the Hawaii jobs, according to court records. Those debts were secured with family property and homes, which workers feared they would lose if they couldn't repay the debts.

Some workers received no net earnings for months because of payroll deductions and were told they'd be sent home to Thailand "if they were disobedient, failed to follow directions or if they tried to leave," the documents state.

Judge Bars Pratt & Whitney From Sending Jobs Overseas

A federal judge has ordered jet engine maker Pratt & Whitney to halt its plans to move 1,000 jobs from Connecticut to Japan, Singapore and the state of Georgia.

The judge issued a permanent injunction against the company, stopping its plans to shift the jobs and criticizing it for evading the spirit of its Machinists union contract requiring it to make every effort to keep the jobs in the state.

The union praised the decision. It had accused Pratt & Whitney of failing to comply with the contract that required it to do everything possible to preserve the jobs.

"This is a full win for the union," said James Parent, chief negotiator for the Machinists local.

The union said its victory was only temporary because its contract with Pratt & Whitney expires in December. "The Machinists union and its members will be gearing up for whatever fight is necessary to preserve these jobs and expand opportunities in the next contract," it said in a statement.

Under Obama, Labor Should Have Made More Progress

By Harold Meyerson

For American labor, year one of Barack Obama's presidency has been close to an unmitigated disaster.

Labor's primary priority – the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) – died when the Democrats lost their 60-vote majority in the Senate. Labor's normal priority – a functioning National Labor Relations Board – also seems out of reach, with Republicans in February blocking the appointment of Obama nominee Craig Becker (that's why Massachusetts Republican Scott Brown scurried down to Washington so fast to take his seat). Other key legislation for which labor has lobbied.

For the unions, the Senate's inability to pass EFCA is devastating and galling. Democratic senators had developed a compromise proposal that would have jettisoned the controversial "card check" process – by which

unions could be organized without a secret ballot – in favor of expediting the election process (so that management couldn't delay for months, or even years, employees' votes on whether to unionize) and stiffening the penalties for violating the rules that govern election conduct.

The compromise had a shot at winning all 60 Democratic votes. The unions, which spent more than \$300 million in the 2008 elections on Democrats' behalf, wanted a vote on EFCA last year, but Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid asked them to wait until health reform had passed. (Their requests for confirmation votes on NLRB appointees were similarly delayed.)

By my count, this marks the fourth time in the past half-century that labor's efforts to strengthen workers' ability to organize have been deferred by the Democratic presidents and heavily Democratic Congresses.

In 1965, about the only piece of Great Society legislation not enacted was the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act provision that gave states the power to block unions from claiming as members all the employees in workplaces where they had won contracts.

In 1979, as American management was beginning to invest heavily in union-busting endeavors, the first effort to reform labor law failed to win cloture in the Senate by one vote as President Jimmy Carter stood idly by.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton responded to a similar labor-backed effort by appointing a commission to recommend changes in labor law to the next Congress – which turned out to be run by Newt Gingrich.

And last year, by asking his labor supporters to wait, Obama ensured – unintentionally, of course – that the next effort to revive organizing must wait until the next overwhelmingly Democratic Congress.

Meanwhile, the percentage of American workers in unions steadily declines. When the next chance to rewrite labor law comes around, the rate of private-sector unionization

could be down to trace elements.

What will life be like in an America with almost no private sector unions or collective bargaining? We had a glimpse of that during George W. Bush's presidency, in which the unionization rate was already so low that median household incomes declined even as gross domestic product rose. It's also apparent that a deunionized private sector won't readily support – politically or economically – a unionized or expansive public sector.

In a deunionized America, it's not clear who, if anyone, will wage campaigns such as those the unions funded this year, for universal health care and financial regulation. It's also not clear who, if anyone will persuade working-class whites to vote Democratic.

No nation has ever been home to a middle-class majority absent a sizable labor movement. In their failure to advance labor's prospects, the Democrats condemn themselves to a future of fewer Democratic voters and their nation to a future of mass downward mobility.

–Harold Meyerson is a syndicated columnist at the Washington Post, from which this article is excerpted, with permission.



"That first peak is the best place to pause and look back, to see if you took the easiest route, to learn the lessons from the first climb. And it is the best place to examine the terrain ahead, to change your plans and goals, to take a deep breath and begin climbing again."

-- Michael Johnson



YEAR	Shaun Junkins		Sam Humble		Juice Bruner	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Verbal	16	3	17	5	9	7
Step I	3	0	14	6	5	0
Step II	1	0	3	6	6	2
Step III	0	8	1	3	3	0
Arbitration	0	1	0	0	1	0
Total Active	20	12	35	20	24	9
Closed	3	7	11	10	0	0

SECOND & THIRD SHIFTS				
YEAR	Joe Kniep		Donovan Walker	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
Verbal	19	5	18	1
Step I	5	0	6	1
Step II	7	1	3	1
Step III	1	1	2	0
Arbitration	1	1	0	0
Total Active	33	8	29	3
Closed	12	4	0	3

TOTALS	
2009	2010
79	21
33	7
20	10
7	12
2	2
141	52
26	24

Union Member Hailed as Hero For Response to Texas Attack

A quick-thinking member of the Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) union who happened to be driving by when a pilot with a grudge smashed his plane into a Texas building is being hailed as a hero after helping many people escape the inferno that followed the crash.

Robin De Haven, a member of IUPAT Local 1778 working as a glazer for an Austin firm, was on his way to a job site when he saw the small plane approaching the seven-story building that houses the Internal Revenue Service offices in the state capitol.

"I first assumed it was a toy plane someone was messing around with, because it was flying really low and kind of going back and forth, turning left and right," De Haven, an Iraq war veteran, told Fox News.

He soon realized the "toy" was actually a small passenger plane; moments

later, he saw black smoke billowing from the building.

"I immediately drove my truck over there, got the ladder off, went up to the side of the building and I saw people up on the second floor with their heads out the window for air because the room was filled with smoke," De Haven said.

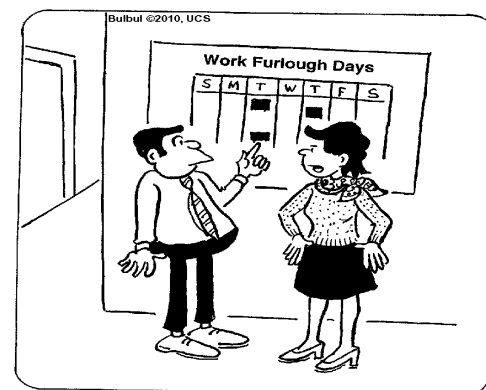
De Haven extended his ladder up to the stranded workers and tried to instruct them on how to secure it, but they were unable to. So, rather than have them climb down an unsecure ladder, he climbed up.

"I climbed inside the broken-out window into the building with them," said De Haven. "My ladder slipped a little bit actually," he added.

With the help of one of the men inside, he then broke another window near a ledge, and secured the ladder there so he could get five people out safely.

"I held onto their waists and their backs so they wouldn't fall if they slipped," he said.

But IUPAT President James Williams, who said the union is "proud to have (De Haven) in our ranks," said he is a graduate of the Helmets to Hardhats program offered by the 15 unions in the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Department.



"My rent, utilities and grocery bills are not taking a furlough."

"Happiness cannot come from without. It must come from within. It is not what we see and touch or that which others do for us which makes us happy; it is that which we think and feel and do, first for the other fellow and then for ourselves."

-- Helen Keller

Below is a Letter to Editor which appeared in the Wichita Eagle Thursday February 18th 2010

Buy American

Regarding "Could Wichita be the Detroit of aircraft?"

I think the parallels between the two cities are obvious. One generation boasted its global dominance, while a later generation suffers unemployment, stagnation and urban blight. The auto industry and the aircraft industry each depend upon the quality and reputation of their product, along with willing and able buyers for their products.

In a bad economy, it seems to me that we have forgotten the pioneer concept to "circle the wagons." Competition is normally a good thing. But our politicians and pundits have made protectionist "foreign tariffs" a taboo term. Free and fair global trade is only conducive when the playing field is level. Currently, it isn't anywhere near level.

In my view, Wichitans, Kansans and all Americans need to practice a natural stimulus by "Buying American." The American aircraft worker needs to patronize the American clothing manufacturer and so on. Detroit may never bounce back. We must ensure that Wichita will — by mentally connecting what we buy to our own sustenance and prosperity. If we don't buy local and other domestic products or services, then how do we expect someone else to buy ours?

It is time to circle the wagons and match American jobs with American consumers. Self-sufficiency should be as high a priority as national security. James A. Marples

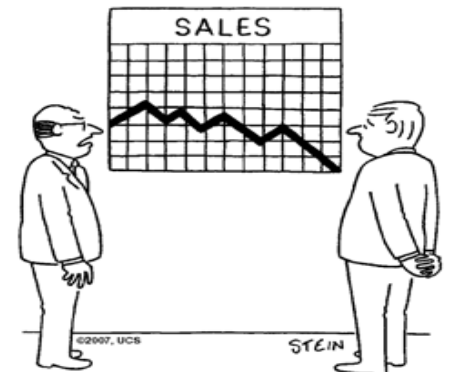
Cheating Employer Faces Jail Time

The owner of a seven-store boutique chain in Manhattan was arrested by the New York State attorney general's office in February for wage and hour violations affecting 150 workers. He faces a \$1.5 million fine and 38 differ-

ent felony charges, each of which could land him four years in jail.

The arrest came after demonstrations by the Retail Action Project, part of the Retail, Wholesale Department Store Union.

The charges say Mystique owner David Cohen paid employees \$2 below the minimum wage and they were required to work 66 hours a week with no overtime. Cohen is also charged with offering one employee \$50,000 to snitch on other employees.



"Don't just stand there -- find out what impact this will have on executive bonuses!"

Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber.

—Plato

Sorry! I Buy American Made Buy USA!!



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We are the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. We belong to Local Lodge 733 of District Lodge 70 in Wichita Kansas. We represent the workers of Hawker Beechcraft. We strive to give our members a voice on the job. Feel free to visit our website at www.I733iam.com. It is jam packed with information to help you. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact us. We have provided the numbers above.