



Warehouse News

The Teamster Warehouse News

James P. Hoffa, General President • C. Thomas Keegel, General Secretary–Treasurer • John A. Williams, Warehouse Division Director

McCain: More of the Same

A McCain Presidency Would Amount to Third Bush Term

The next president of the United States will have his work cut out for him. The Bush administration has done all it can



to marginalize those Americans who work for a living and stack the deck for powerful corporations. The Teamsters Union has endorsed Sen. Barack Obama for president because he is the candidate who will deliver much needed change.

Knowing why Sen. Obama will be good for working families as president is as important as knowing why John McCain will be bad for working families. And there are countless reasons why, but the most important one is McCain would further the Bush policies that have been so destructive to all but the most wealthy.

“Looking at the problems facing our great nation, and the presidential candidates who will inherit eight years of disastrous policies and neglect of working families, one thing is clear: McCain is not the person who will right the wrongs of the Bush administration,” said Jim Hoffa, Teamsters General President.

“There is no doubt that McCain’s service to his country during the Vietnam War was admirable. There is also no doubt that McCain is not the ‘straight talker’ he makes himself out to be,” Hoffa said.

Again and again, McCain has made it clear that he is an advocate for the rich and powerful

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Determined at Dairyland

Drivers and Warehouse Workers Gain Recognition

Until recently, Edgar Best, a night shift warehouse worker in Bronx, New York, didn’t know his coworkers at Dairyland very well.

“We didn’t know each other closely before, but when this happened we all became one shift. It wasn’t drivers, day shift and night shift anymore. We were one,” Best said.

Recently, Best and more than 60 of his coworkers on the night shift struck Dairyland for recognition. Prior to their shift, the workers went to the bosses with a letter asking that they recognize Bronx-based Local 202 as the group’s bargaining agent. This included not only the night shift, but the day shift and drivers who wanted Teamster representation as well. When management did not agree to this, the workers made the bold decision to strike. It was not a decision made lightly, but they were determined to take a stand to join the union of their choice.

“No one wants to strike, but they did what they had to do. This is a strong group of workers who came together and made their employer realize how valuable they are to the operations of this company,” said Danny Kane, President of Local 202.

Stand Up for Your Right

“All we wanted as citizens of the United States of America was the choice to pick which union we want,” Best said.

Best and his coworkers on the night shift went on strike at five p.m. on a Thursday, a critical time for weekend deliveries for Dairyland—a distributor of food and grocery products to New York City-area restaurants, hotels and country clubs.

During the strike for recognition, the drivers and day shift workers united with their coworkers on the night shift. Within five hours, the company agreed to recognize Local

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A Message From Division Director John Williams

Time for a Change

Sen. Barack Obama did a video presentation at the Teamsters Unity Conference in May. It wasn't a taped message, but rather a live feed from Oregon where he was campaigning. He had just finished a speech to 75,000 people in Portland, but he was focused on his



Teamster audience as though he was in the hall with us. He's a great speaker and has the best focus on working family issues of any candidate I've ever seen. He speaks about this point in history where we as a nation have an opportunity to change directions and it really hits home.

Ever since Ronald Reagan fired the air traffic controllers in 1981, our economy has been for the rich to get richer. If over this period working family wages had just kept up with inflation—which has historically been low—we'd still have a thriving middle class. Our Teamsters Warehouse Division members have done better than others, but we have had to struggle to keep up not only wages, but also medical and pension benefits. Meanwhile, corporate CEOs are making 400 times what their average worker earns and that money comes right off the working family income.

This is the historic change that we are launching this election cycle. We need labor law reform so we can get a fair return for our labor. It won't be easy; one contract at a time, one organizing drive at a time. This fall we can take the biggest step forward in 75 years to reform labor law. It starts with the election of Sen. Obama. Please register to vote. **Please vote!**

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202 as the bargaining agent for all 175 workers at the facility, as well as bring back several Teamster supporters who had previously been fired.

"Management was shocked because they let us know we weren't being paid extra, but we all stayed to do more than our jobs, to help each other because there was a lot of work to catch up on," said Carl Clark, a five-year driver. "The performance and professionalism was up and we all pitched in to help each other get it done."

Jimmy Viera, a six-year employee, came together with his coworkers on the day shift to support the night crew.

"We weren't looking to close the business down; we just want a decent contract, some medical benefits for our families, and fairness," Viera said. "We showed them it's about looking out for your rights, sticking together and making it happen."

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and does not care about working people. He voted to eliminate overtime pay for 8 million American workers. He voted to allow companies to cut and eliminate pensions for their long-term employees. He voted to weaken OSHA workplace regulations designed to prevent injuries on the job.

Failed Trade Policies

The policies McCain wants to implement as president would amount to a third Bush term. Both McCain and Bush support anti-union laws that make it harder for workers to unionize. They have no meaningful plan to deal with our country's health care crisis. And they dismiss the good-paying manufacturing jobs we lost due to NAFTA and other unfair trade deals with no plans to replace them. The failed trade policies of our nation have no doubt contributed to the economic woes we're all facing now, so it's important to look at what a president McCain might do.

"If I were president, I would negotiate a free trade agreement with almost any country," McCain said in a speech in 1999.

We need to elect a new leader who is willing to break with Bush's failed policies, not someone who, while in the U.S. Senate, voted with the Bush

administration 95 percent of the time in 2007.

Anti-Worker Record

"I don't want a president who has said he 'doesn't really understand economics' or has recently said that 'the fundamentals of the economy are strong' like McCain has. I want a president who recognizes the dire straits working Americans are struggling through and won't whitewash the problems," Hoffa said.

It's also no surprise that McCain has a decidedly anti-worker voting record, for example:

- McCain voted against the Employee Free Choice Act [H.R. 800, Vote 227, 6/26/07];
- McCain voted for a National-Right-to-Work Act [S. 1788, Vote 188, 7/10/96];
- McCain voted to allow employers to hire permanent replacements during a strike [S. 55, Vote 189, 7/13/94];

Working men and women can't afford to put McCain in office in November. He will continue killing our jobs and keeping power in the hands of billionaires and Wall Street. McCain will be just more of the same.



Superb Safety

Outstanding Record for Local 671 Members

Mario Kremzar, a 21-year Teamster, gets up every morning and goes to work. And every morning he goes to a job where safety comes first. Kremzar and his fellow members of Bloomfield, Connecticut-based Local 671 work as drivers and warehousemen at xpedx, a multi-national company that supplies many industries with institutional supplies. Every day on the job is another day that these members build upon an already outstanding record of achievement.

“These workers have gone without injury or incident for the past 15 years and are to be commended for their exemplary safety and service record,” said Dave Lucas, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 671. “We are proud of our members at xpedx, a loyal and productive group who give it their all—day in, day out.”

In an industry that involves heavy lifting, maneuvering and driving, accidents are not uncommon. However, the Teamster members at xpedx are cautious and attentive to the demands and potential pitfalls of the job.

“We have a lot of safety meetings and refresher courses because we need to learn about safety with lifting, how to drive in snow and ice and deliver under those types of conditions,” Kremzar said. “I do think it makes a difference being a Teamster and knowing you have good medical insurance and job security to get the job done right.”

Bill Rajewski, a 33-year Teamster driver who is number one on the seniority list at xpedx, spends his days delivering paper, steel, inks, plastics and presses for the Middletown, Connecticut-based company. Over the years, Rajewski and his coworkers have

received multiple awards and recognition from management for their safety record.

“It’s always demanding; we’re always lifting, always pushing, always lugging,” Rajewski said. “Every move we make, we watch. We use our equipment well; we’re dedicated and we get the job done.”

Rajewski works with Parker Ganon, a driver who, in his 33 years as a Teamster, has been a member of four different Teamster locals. Ganon starts bulk deliveries for xpedx at five a.m. and enjoys his work. He attributes the excellent safety record that he and his fellow Teamsters hold to good working conditions and attentiveness to the job.

“We have a clean house—no pallets on the floor. We have good equipment and regular safety training. And we have a good, conscientious group,” Ganon said. “There’s no horseplay. We just get the job done.”

“I do think it makes a difference being a Teamster and knowing you have good medical insurance and job security to get the job done right.”

A Message from General President James P. Hoffa



Four More Years?

Across the country, working families are struggling to make ends meet because of the failed economic and trade policies of the Bush administration. It's time for a change, and the Teamsters Union believes Sen. Barack Obama can enact that change.

For all the reasons we endorsed Sen. Obama for president, there are just as many reasons why John McCain would be dangerous for American workers. The main reason, though, is simple: A McCain presidency would be the same as a third term for Bush.

So many issues important to working families and the Teamsters Union hang in the balance during this election. What's at stake? The Employee Free Choice Act. The fate of the Mexican truck program. Worker misclassification legislation. Trade policies. Aircraft maintenance outsourcing. The list goes on and on.

One thing these issues have in common is that if it's good for American workers, McCain

is against it and Sen. Obama supports it. McCain has a 16-percent voting record with labor—one of the lowest in Congress. His record after 26 years in Washington paints a portrait of a man whose ideas are stale and stuck in the past.

A unified voting bloc of 1.4 million Teamster brothers and sisters can sway this election in the right direction—toward meaningful change. With Teamsters working to get Sen. Obama and other labor-friendly politicians elected, it benefits not only our nation but our union.

To find out how you can get involved in your community, visit TeamstersForObama.org and log in using your members-only password, Obama08.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Hoffa". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.



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