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Foundation Seeks Federal Investigation into Union Political Fundraising

New SEIU rule coerces workers to fund electioneering

WASHINGTON, DC – In recent weeks, National Right to Work Foundation President Mark Mix has called on the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor to open a federal investigation into the Service Employees International Union’s (SEIU) shady fundraising activities.

A brazen new requirement adopted at the SEIU’s national convention imposes financial penalties on local affiliates that fail to meet mandatory fundraising targets for the union’s political action committee (PAC) and other electioneering activities. Foundation staff attorneys believe that this requirement violates federal election law, which forbids organizations from exacting political contributions through threats of financial reprisals.

“SEIU bosses are making a mockery of federal law. It’s vital the Department of Justice and Department of Labor take action now before the damage is done,” said Mix. “We need to do everything possible to ensure the elections’ results



Radical SEIU chief Andy Stern is enforcing a new PAC fundraising mandate on local union affiliates.

aren’t tainted by unlawful union activism that violates the rights of rank-and-file workers.”

SEIU amendment threatens workers’ rights

The new union requirement could pressure local affiliates to use nonmember employees’ mandatory dues payments to cover PAC contributions and pay for the SEIU’s punitive fines. While the imposition of coercive financial penalties is illegal regardless of how the fines are spent, the undisclosed use of funds derived from nonmembers’ fees for political purposes would also violate employees’ constitutional rights, if not federal law.

Union officials are on track to spend more than \$1 billion to influence the 2008 elections, and the SEIU scheme has the potential to irreparably compromise the integrity of the electoral process.

In the letter to Attorney General

Mukasey, Mix urged the Department of Justice to take immediate action: “Not only are large numbers of employees (forced to fill SEIU coffers) harmed by this crime, but, given the close vote in recent national elections, the illegal SEIU activity effectively disenfranchises voters who follow the law... To protect the rights of workers forced to pay compulsory dues and fees, and the integrity of the November elections, I trust you will act upon this information.”

For more on the political implications of the SEIU’s illegal fundraising, a high-profile *Wall Street Journal* editorial is reprinted on page 6. ↗

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