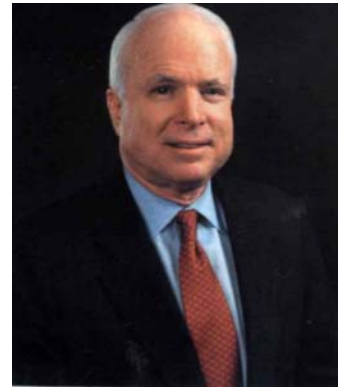


The REAL "Straight Talk" on McCain's Record

Excerpts from: International Operating Engineer Magazine-Spring 2008

- Supports Right-to-Work (for Less)

In 1996, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) promised the extremist National Right-to-Work Committee a vote on legislation establishing a federal right-to-work (for less) law. The bill would have repealed the section of the National Labor Relations Act that allows states to determine their own laws on union security agreements and replaced it with a federal mandate banning such agreements. Senator McCain voted to support a National Right-to-Work Law.



So called "right-to-work" laws don't guarantee many rights or create new jobs for workers. In fact, these laws deny workers the right to negotiate union security clauses, which require that the costs to negotiate and maintain a contract are fairly borne by all members of the bargaining unit. They are a favorite weapon of large corporations and the right wing to weaken and destroy organized labor. Because "right-to-work" laws weaken a union's position at the negotiating table, the 22 states with "right-to-work" laws now have:

30-percent lower wages
Higher fatality rates in the workplace
Lower spending levels on education
Fewer residents with health-care coverage

- Fights Against Overtime Protections

In 2005, McCain tried to limit overtime for workers by radically overhauling the Fair Labor Standards Act. He sought to eliminate overtime for 10 million workers. McCain would also require workers to put in over 80 hours in a two-week period, rather than the current over 40 hours in a one-week period in order to receive time-and-a-half under the Fair Labor Standards Act. His position would have reversed over 60 years of labor protections. It would only be a matter of time before union employers, in an effort to compete with low-road, non-union employers, would feel pressure to eliminate overtime for union members and try to cut overtime in IUOE contracts.

- Opposes Union Organizing Efforts

In 1998, Senator McCain continues his attack on unions. He supported an amendment eliminating the ability of union members to organize non-union companies by "salting" them with union members. Salting involves placing union members in non-union companies in an effort to convince their new co-workers to join the union. McCain's voting record consistently demonstrates an anti-worker, anti-union philosophy, one that is virtually the same as, or maybe even worse than, the current Bush Administration.

On June 16th, 2007, John McCain blocked a Senate vote on the Employee Free Choice Act, the most important change to labor law since the 1950's. The Employee Free Choice Act would restore workers' freedom to form unions and bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions without employer harassment.

All too often in this country, when workers try to form unions, employers routinely harass, intimidate and even fire them. H.R. 800 would free workers from employer intimidation by allowing employees to sign authorization cards seeking union representation and recognizing the workers'

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union when a majority signs cards. It would also require the employer to pay three times the amount of back pay that an employee is due if the employee is illegally fired or discriminated against during an organizational or first-contract drive.

The Employee Free Choice Act is a fair way to address the imbalance in our nation’s labor laws and Senator McCain opposes it!

- **Destroys Prevailing Wages**

Since John McCain was elected to Congress in 1982, he has consistently opposed working men and women on the nation’s prevailing wage laws, the David-Bacon and Service Contract Acts.

The Davis-Bacon Act requires that workers on federally-funded construction projects be paid no less than the wages and benefits paid in the community for similar work.

What if McCain’s 25 year attack on prevailing wages had been successful? Operating Engineers would have:

Lower Wages, Healthcare and Pension Benefits
Lower Investments in Training
Lower Standard of Living

- **Advocates Replacing Striking Workers with SCABs**

Twice in 1992 and 1994, Senator McCain blocked votes on “Strikers’ Rights” legislation. The bill, offered by the late Senator Howard Metzenbaum (D-OH), set out to fix a longstanding injustice in American Labor Law. Because these efforts were unsuccessful, despite having overwhelming majority support in the US Senate, the law still unfairly allows SCABs to undermine striking workers by permanently replace them, taking their jobs while they are out on the picket line fighting for their wages, benefits and working conditions.

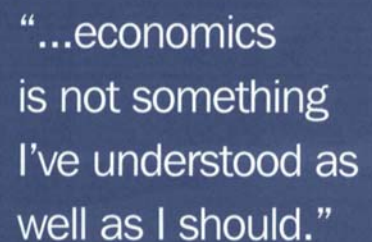
- **Refuses to Recognize Economic Failures**

At a time when the economy is the top concern for a majority of Americans, McCain has said that economic issues are something he’s “never really understood.” He did not even bother to vote on the economic stimulus legislation in January. Even though he was in the nation’s capital at the time, the vote was apparently not a high enough priority for him. Despite all of the indicators pointing to a significant economic downturn, in January Senator McCain said, “I don’t believe we’re headed into a recession.”

In the month of February, employment shrunk more than it had at any point in the last five years.

Is it a good time to elect a candidate who “never really understood” economic issues?

Throughout his long political career, John McCain clearly has opposed key worker issues—issues that protect and support Operating Engineers and their families. We must make our voices heard and our votes count!!



“...economics is not something I’ve understood as well as I should.”

- Senator John McCain
Chicago Tribune, 12/18/2007