

Ninth Circuit Rules Grocers' Actions During 2003-04 Strike Violated Antitrust Law



UFCW members hold the line for health care during the 2003-2004 California strike.

On August 17, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a critical decision that upholds federal antitrust law, even when companies face a strike or lockout.

In 2003, faced with a strike by thousands of UFCW members across California, the three major grocery chains in that state—Safeway, Ralph's (owned by Kroger), and Albertson's (owned by Supervalu)—entered into a mutual defense pact to aid each other in case of a strike.

The agreement allowed each employer to preserve their market share and share profits in order to keep individual companies from gaining an advantage by settling an agreement with workers.

The Ninth Circuit ruled that this conduct blatantly violates federal antitrust law. It also clarifies that it's illegal for employers to enter into anti-competitive agreements just because it advantages them in bargaining. **OP**

Grammy Winner Steve Earle Stands with Striking Mott's Workers



Grammy award winning singer and songwriter Steve Earle is publicly calling for Dr Pepper Snapple to come back to the table and bargain a fair contract with members of UFCW Local 220*, who have been on strike for 11 weeks against Mott's LLP (a wholly owned subsidiary of Dr Pepper Snapple Group) in Williamson, New York.

Earle is going to stop drinking Diet Dr Pepper until the strike is resolved. Up until now he has been an extremely enthusiastic drinker of that soda and it has been in his concert rider that Diet Dr Pepper is stocked in his dressing room at all of his performances. He is going to immediately remove that clause from his rider.

"I'm from Texas and I've been drinking DP every day since I was 10 years old but I won't touch another drop until these folks get a fair contract," Earle said.

Despite record profits (\$555 million in 2009) Dr Pepper Snapple Group has imposed a \$1.50 per hour wage cut for all workers, elimination of the pension plan, a 20 percent decrease in employer contributions to the 401K and an increase in employee contributions toward health care premiums and co-pays.

"It is a real honor as a striker and a big fan to have the support of Steve Earle. We know that when people find out about what Mott's did to us up here, they will follow



Mr. Earle's example and will choose different beverages until DPS bargains a fair contract," said Charlie Mattice, a Mott's striker and country singer/songwriter himself.
OP

Donate to the Active Ballot Club Online

UFCW ABC
WORKING AMERICA'S POLITICAL VOICE
ACTIVE BALLOT CLUB

Let's Put Government to Work for Working Americans

What Is the Active Ballot Club?
The Active Ballot Club (ABC), the UFCW's political action committee, is leading the charge to elect pro-worker candidates around the country. President Obama's historic health care legislation was nearly derailed by members of Congress that put the interests of big business over those of working families. The insurance companies and big banks outspent working people by more than 15 to 1 during the last election. Pro-worker candidates need our support to stand a chance against this wave of corporate money. By combining our resources, we can put more activists in battleground states and turn out our biggest asset: union voters. Take a stand and fight back for working families by contributing a \$5 per week. The stakes couldn't be higher: job creation, retirement security, education, workplace safety, and middle class living standards all hang in the balance.

You can help make that happen. Join ABC today!

ABC's participation and expenditure of any public funds for any purpose will always support the important work of UFCW in this country.

AUTHORIZATION FOR UFCW POLITICAL CHECKOFF

I hereby authorize my employer to deduct _____ per _____ from my paycheck as a contribution to the UFCW Active Ballot Club Political Action Committee. I understand that any question concerning amount is hereby suggested and that I am free to contribute more or less, and the Union will not favor or disadvantage me by reason of the amount I contribute or my decision not to contribute. I also understand that I have the right to contribute or not to contribute without penalty. I understand that my contributions will be used for political purposes, including the support of candidates for federal, state and local office, and speaking out on public issues.

Contributions to the UFCW Active Ballot Club Political Action Committee are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Amount other than suggested guidelines: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Last 4 Numbers of UAW: _____

Direct law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and home telephone of individual union contributors except (22) in a calendar year.

As America enters into a heated midterm election season, UFCW members across the country are getting involved and taking action to support candidates who support working families, and now they can show their support online. UFCW members and supporters can now donate to the Active Ballot Club, the UFCW Political Action Committee, online by visiting www.ufcwabc.org.

Members can also download a workplace authorization card and flyer (seen above) from that page and learn more about UFCW political efforts across the country.

This new tool is available just as the UFCW Active Ballot Contest is heating up. Members and representatives can win great prizes, like \$500 American Express gift cards, just by donating to the Active Ballot Club and signing up others to do the same. To learn more, visit www.voteufcw.org. **OP**

Social Security Marks 75 Years

August 14th was the 75th anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt signing into law the Social Security Act. One of America's most popular, successful and effective programs, Social Security was fought for and won by American union members that came before us.

In celebration of the anniversary of this important safety net for millions of Americans, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has released a list of "Top 10" facts that many don't know about the program:

- Almost half of the elderly would be poor without Social Security. Social Security lifts 13 million elderly Americans out of poverty.
- Social Security can pay full benefits through 2037 without any changes, and relatively modest changes would place the program on a sound financial footing for 75 years and beyond.

To see the complete "Top 10" and to learn more about Social Security's history and importance visit www.cbpp.org. **OP**

Second UFCW-Sponsored School Takes Shape in Haiti



Students at the St. Francois de Sales School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti pose with a Hope for Haiti/UFCW banner during classes. Their school was rebuilt with the help of funds raised by UFCW members across the country.