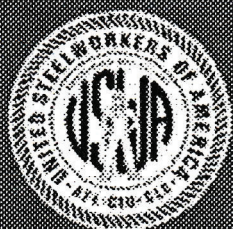


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Enemies of Labor Under Investigation

The Ohio Elections Commission is investigating charges that a committee, which includes the leaders of two companies that have a history of locking out Steelworkers, violated campaign financing laws in the November state supreme court races.

The smear campaign against an Ohio Supreme Court justice who has sided with labor's causes was financed by a secret \$3 million slush fund that included solicitations by Emmett Boyle, who locked out Steelworkers at Ravenswood Aluminum in 1990. Boyle is now heard of Ormet Corp., where Steelworkers have been working without a contract since May 31, 1999.



The CEO of AK Steel was a major supporter in a scurrilous campaign against Ohio's Supreme Court Chief Justice.

Also soliciting funds to defeat Justice Alice Robie Resnick were Richard Wardrop Jr., CEO of AK Steel Corp., who locked out Steelworkers in Mansfield 15 months ago, and Galen R. Barnes, president of Nationwide Insurance.

Resnick won reelection handily and many observers feel the campaign spearheaded by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce did her more good than harm. Steelworkers joined with other unions in Ohio to raise money to help Resnick overcome the Chamber's onslaught.

Disgraceful Smear Campaign

In that campaign, television ads suggested that Justice Resnick took bribes from special interests.

The Ohio Chamber raised \$3 million and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce kicked in \$1 million in the campaign to defeat Resnick, who has joined with three other justices on the seven-person high court to generally support workers' causes.

The Ohio Chamber was able to raise that amount of money in part because donors were assured that their contributions would be kept secret.

Some Ohio businesses also received calls from Republican Gov. Bob Taft soliciting money for the smear campaign.

Shortly after the election, the Ohio Elections Commission found "probable cause" that the chamber committee violated the state's election laws by refusing to release the names of contributors to the anti-Resnick campaign and for suggesting Resnick made decisions based on campaign contributions.

A hearing will be held sometime after the first of the year to investigate the charges further.

The ads were roundly criticized by Resnick's opponent, the chief justice of the Ohio Supreme Court and other observers as reaching a new low in mud slinging and misrepresentation.

The campaign has generated talk of starting another campaign to adopt the so-called "merit selection" of judges in Ohio. Steelworkers were instrumental in defeating a 1987 proposal by the chamber and the state bar association that would have taken away workers' rights to vote for judges of their own choosing.

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