



NEWS

from the Alliance for Worker Freedom

A Project of Americans for Tax Reform

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WORKER ADVOCACY GROUP CALLS ON AFL-CIO TO END CAMPAIGN VIOLENCE

WASHINGTON – Amidst escalating violence by union members in conjunction with the national presidential campaign, a national worker advocacy group called on the leadership of the AFL-CIO to “put an immediate end to the violence.”

On Tuesday, protestors organized by the AFL-CIO violently stormed and ransacked the Orlando headquarters for the Bush-Cheney campaign. News reports indicated several “protestors” could be charged with assault and battery, and that the “protest” was staged by the union in conjunction with other such “protests” around the country.

Meanwhile, the Associated Press has reported on efforts by the union to intimidate Bush campaign workers in multiple Florida cities. One worker filed a report with the Orlando Police Department after suffering a sprained wrist in the course of attempting to keep the violent crowd from entering the building.

"I locked the door to keep them from coming in. I asked them to leave," Metzler told the Associated Press. "I told them they were trespassing, that I had called the police and that if they didn't leave I would have them prosecuted."

South Florida AFL-CIO President Fred Frost said the violent episode was “**as civil as it gets.**”

In St. Paul and other cities similar tactics were used by AFL-CIO-organized protestors who violently pushed their way into Bush-Cheney campaign offices in a campaign of disruption and intimidation.

These events come on the heels of other violent incidents connected to the national campaign. Last month union activists were caught on film ripping a campaign sign out of the hands of a three year old girl sitting on her father’s shoulders.

“The radical left, including organized labor, have actively promoted a confrontational culture among the protestors they organize that has clearly crossed the line into violence,” said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform in Washington, DC. **“Officials at the AFL-CIO and other national unions using these tactics should send a clear message that there is no place for campaign violence in America.”**

Reacting to the escalating violence, a bipartisan group of 19 Members of Congress sent a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft today asking for Ashcroft to “promptly initiate an investigation” and determine whether civil rights, conspiracy, racketeering and other federal laws were violated.

The Alliance for Worker Freedom is a project of Americans for Tax Reform to protect the rights of individual workers and promote reform and accountability in organized labor.

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