

The Place for Part-Timers

"America is unique among nations because of our Constitution, and the essence of the Constitution is the idea of fairness."

—Supreme Court Justice Scalia

Editor's Comment: Fair Treatment is the goal of Local 6286 at Victor Valley College. We especially want the fairness of Equal Pay for Equal Work.

What is Unionbusting?

 PTFU 6286

"Union busting is a field populated by bullies and built on deceit. A campaign against a union is an assault on individuals and a war on the truth. As such, it is a war without honor. The only way to bust a union is to lie, distort, manipulate, threaten, and always, always attack. The law does not hamper the process. Rather, it serves to suggest maneuvers and define strategies. Each "union prevention" campaign, as the wars are called, turns on a combined strategy of disinformation and personal assaults . . .

. . . there are many forms of union busting. Some labor consultants and attorneys take on unions that already represent a work force, squeezing negotiators at the bargaining table, forcing workers out on strike, harassing union officers . . . The enemy was the collective spirit. I got hold of that spirit while it was still a seedling; I poisoned it, choked it, bludgeoned it if I had to, anything to be sure it would never blossom into a united work force, the dreaded foe of any corporate tyrant."

Source: *Confessions of a Union Buster*, by Martin Jay Levitt.

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There are . . .

" . . . a long line of commercial unionbusting agencies whose efforts enabled the American business community to avoid bargaining collectively with its workforce for more than a century. Gradual progressive change ushered in with the age of muckraking and reform and later the New Deal brought greater public tolerance for labor and eventually a place at the economic table. The success of the anti-union industry in the face of these changes lay in its practitioners' ability to devise new tactics to meet their clients' changing needs. The strategies they employed, which, until recently, continued to grow in sophistication and subtlety, reflected the public's slowly evolving sympathy for labor. During the past two or three decades, however, middle-class America's empathy for organized labor has begun to wane. During this period unionbusting has come to differ little from that practiced in the first part of the [20th] century. Given this industry's lengthy track record of adapting to new economic and social environments, there is every reason to believe that anti-union agencies will continue to capitalize on American employers' hostility toward bargaining collectively with their employees."

Source: *From Blackjacks to Briefcases: A History of Commercialized Strikebreaking and Unionbusting in the United States*, by Robert Michael Smith.*

*Look for another excerpt in the next issue of Faculty Voice

Let's bring education forward, not backward!