

Union bullying goes on

Wendell Krossa – Letter to the editor,
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Re: Protect All Workers, John Mortimer, May 18

On union intimidation and bullying: On April 26 this year, the Hospital Employees Union held a vote to accept or reject the recent B.C. government's contract offer to community living associations. The vote for one association (North Shore Association for the Mentally Handicapped) was held at the Holiday Inn in North Vancouver. The union, wanting to discourage "yes" votes, had representatives stationed outside at the entrance to the voting room, as well as -- get this -- inside the very same room. I know of at least one woman, fully intent on voting "yes," who felt pressured against doing so and felt obligated instead to suppress her own free choice and vote "no." Where is the appreciation of basic democratic rights and freedoms in such a situation? What recourse do workers have in the face of such intimidation?

This intimidation and bullying was all too common during the signing drive years before and complaints were lodged against the same union.

And what about deception or fraudulent statements made in order to get votes? During the signing drive employees were assured by union reps that they would retain shift flexibility (getting more hours compressed in a few days -- necessary for the schedules of modern working parents). However, after signing, the union did a complete about-face and refused to grant shift flexibility.

But is such deception and bullying any wonder when communications from the union are still signed "In solidarity, comrades"? See Joshua Muravchik's *Heaven On Earth* for the complete history of socialist bullying and tyranny. It is almost like an inherited trait.

Ahh, it's no wonder unions are going the way of the dinosaurs.

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