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September 9, 2011

## Union violence of little interest to media

K.E. Campbell



Over 500 people "storm" private property, break [windows](#) and vandalize other property, wield baseball bats and crowbars, make death threats, and allegedly hold six guards hostage. Fifty law enforcement officers respond. U.S. Marshalls are placed on standby to enforce a related injunction issued by a federal judge.

It happened yesterday at a grain terminal at Port of Longview in southwest Washington State. The perpetrators? Members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). The local police chief was [quoted](#) as saying, "A lot of the protesters were telling us this is only the start."

Not surprisingly, the incident didn't garner much national attention. Imagine how the coverage by the so-called mainstream media would have differed had anything even remotely similar occurred at a gathering of people of a different political persuasion, say those Tea Party SOB's.

Union violence is not rare. The National Institute for Labor Relations (NILR) has [collected](#) over 9,000 reports of union violence since 1975 and the actual number is much higher--by as much as a factor of ten. Only a fraction of such offenses result in arrest and conviction.

On Monday, Teamsters Union president James Hoffa proudly declared, "The one thing about working people is we like a good fight." (Fight, not good, being the operative word.). Echoing Hoffa, ILWU President Bob McEllrath [said](#) "It shouldn't be a crime to fight for good jobs in America."

The fight crowd has certain federal legal precedent on its side of the ring. According to NILR, the

U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 [Enmons decision](#), among other factors, makes prosecution of union violence difficult. According to the [Cato Institute](#), violence "deemed to be in furtherance of "legitimate" union objectives" is exempt from prosecution under federal anti-extortion laws. Offenders can be charged and prosecuted under state and other federal laws, but the scales of "justice" in such instances, just like our federal government's overall pro-union rather than union-neutral stance, are tipped in favor of organized labor. Until that changes, we'll get more of the rot such laws and regulations have wrought.

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**bigviking0001** 09/09/2011 03:31 PM

These are just union people...you know...boys will be boys....let them play.....

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WOW, union on union violence....I guess it is just a training exercise to gear up for the convention in Charlotte, NC

**Radley** 09/09/2011 03:41 PM

The last time I checked, all of the members of the TEA party were also americans and yes, they did work. These union guys are so far off the deep end that most people stopped listening to them decades ago. So violence and calling names is all they have left...

**drbulb** 09/09/2011 03:58 PM

"According to the Cato Institute, violence "deemed to be in furtherance of "legitimate" union objectives" is exempt from prosecution under federal anti-extortion laws."

Unbelievable...

**Randy Fardal** 09/09/2011 04:07 PM

It seems hypocritical that a smiling Mr. Obama stands next to labor leaders Trumka and Hoffa, when they appear to be condoning or even ordering these acts of domestic terrorism. Consider that Mr. Obama directed the military to put a bullet through the head of Osama bin Laden without a trial. Mr. Obama also has stepped up the Bush administration policy of assassinating terrorism leaders with aerial drones in the sovereign territory of Pakistan. So far as we know, those assassinated leaders merely condoned and ordered terrorist acts rather than committing them -- precisely what Trumka and Hoffa apparently did. Yes, Trumka and Hoffa only appear to condone kidnapping, not murder (so far as we know), but under the law, there isn't much difference between the two crimes.

**theBike45** 09/09/2011 04:52 PM

You might notice that the media is unionized. Expecting them to ever publish anything negative about unions is crazy

**JamesBonner** 09/09/2011 05:25 PM

How can there not be [criminal charges](#) brought against those involved? If they weren't union members, we'd be calling this an act of terror. If the perps were of Arab descent, we'd be having a completely different conversation. If there are no consequences for disrupting, or otherwise allowing the failure of products and services because you simply want to make a point, then this tactic will never stop and we will live in chaos for the rest of our days.

**OreyGone** 09/09/2011 05:33 PM

And they will lose the heart of their own members and public support if and when they proceed. This country has no patience for this kind of behavior, especially when we have so many people out of work!

This part of the country (the left coast) has become extremely pro-union and progressive. Listening to a radio talk show in Portland a few years ago, the hosts were thrilled with the Democratic takeover, saying that the unions will thrive and "will reinvigorate the middle class just like the 1920's". Sorry, but I don't see what's so \*progressive\* about going back to the 20's. People then were very poor by today's standards. We still have a lot of the houses around that were built in that era, and they are T-I-N-Y. But more to the point, let's look at what has really happened to our middle class under Democrats--the middle class has shrunk. Businesses will move or close down rather than have to deal with these law breakers. How many of us have seen businesses close because they were unable to come to terms with the union? Too many.

**VHG** ★ 09/09/2011 06:44 PM


Perhaps if the union thugs met with some of their own medicine, the media might suddenly show an interest in the poor down-trodden union folk who make 2-3 times the salary of other unskilled labor doing the same job and not paying dues that gets laundered into the DNC

**SteelyEyedMissileMan** 09/09/2011 08:21 PM

Interesting, isn't it, how it's always other people's property these union thugs like to damage and destroy.


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**NihonFan** 09/09/2011 08:30 PM

Perhaps the Tea Parties should unionize. That way they'll get deferential treatment from the media in the future.

**Miltman** 09/09/2011 08:37 PM

The comparison has been raised before, but the the union goons are essentially Obama's and the Democrat's Brownshirts. The Teamsters, the SEIU, the Longshoremen, the UAW, and of [course](#) AFSCME have got the Administration's back no matter what. They know they can count on blatant preferential treatment and truckloads of taxpayer money looted by the Democrats. The Teamsters, in particular are emblematic of the Obama administration. That group has been a front for organized crime for decades.

**airedale** 09/09/2011 08:52 PM

Just remember about the print media. Most of the newspaper journalists and a good number of the magazine journalists are members of newspaper guilds. If you check you'll find that the newspaper guilds are part of the Communication Workers of America which is part of the AFL-CIO. It wouldn't do for reporters to criticize their union brothers and sisters now would it.

**nasigoreng** 09/09/2011 08:55 PM

What's more NOBODY got arrested in Long View WA, just like Wisconsin, where the nice union folks caused \$ 7 million of damage

**Freempg** 09/09/2011 09:27 PM

You failed to mention no one was arrested. You did point out this was typical of union violence, few are ever arrested. I wonder why that is. These clowns even took people hostage for several hours. Is the police union involved? One wonders, especially when the goons can blithely convey to the police "this is only the start". It is also curious that George Soros has been buying up a lot of grain elevators lately through his company Gaviion. It's the third largest owner behind Cargill and ADM. This dispute was about handling grain at the port. I smell a familiar DemonRat.

**CraigTX** 09/09/2011 10:11 PM

Get used to it. The rats and the cockraches (RE. the dems and the unions) are desperate and cornered creatures now that their world is collapsing around them. The electorate has become wise to the con ... witness Wisconsin ... the first "progressive" state. Holder's justice department will not enforce the law ... having justice in on the crime is part of the conspiracy. Baring some kind of manufactured crisis ... AKA tail-wags-the-dog ... we have 14 months until redemption.

**Ender** 09/09/2011 10:40 PM

If we actually had a justice department they could go after these union with the RICO laws and arrest every card carrying member as a conspirator in these crimes. But with Hoffa wanting a war and obama loving that guy, nothing will happen. So they did this attack in the morning and their union boss sat with Michelle Obama for Barry's jobs speech that night. Going to be a lot of campaign money changing hands this next year.

**wodiej** 09/10/2011 05:08 AM

Cops are unionized too and they are going to look the other way when it comes to their "own".

**rongordo** 09/10/2011 05:29 AM

Threats, hostages, violence and demands. No, no, no. Doesn't resemble terrorism at all.

**fredross5** 09/10/2011 08:08 AM

JamesBonner---if the perps were of Arab descent we wouldn't have heard anything at all about it either, or if we did, it would've been how just their grievances are.

**merrimack1** 09/10/2011 08:55 AM

Yes,they enjoy a good fight.500 against a meager security detail.All for what?They might be asked to pay a more equitable share of healthcare costs?Smash those windows,take these uninvolved rent-a-cops hostage.Now they know we mean business.After all,according to their "leader" they're the president's army.

**garyf34** 09/10/2011 03:26 PM

Nothing new with the boys, nor the non publicity. Even the White House will not comment, I'm a senior, if I went to Wal-Mart & made any type of commotion my rear would be in jail so fast. I think that I'll look for the union label and not buy~~~

**siteunseen** 09/10/2011 04:43 PM

The purpose of a Union is to mediate with the business of which they are members, so ideas and problems can be resolved across a table, with people on both sides stating their concerns in a non-violent fashion. So much has changed since the first unions were started, mainly to fend off problems with employers who did not provide proper working facilities for their employees, such as overheated warehouses, lack of time off to even go to the bathroom or you were docked for a day for doing so, children used as labor with little concern of how much they did, or how long they worked, etc., etc. Problems were legion in the early industrial eras. Much has changed since then, but now it seems the Unions are the problem, and the employers are the victims. Violence of this kind isn't discussion, it is forcing their agenda on already overburdened employers, who are dealing with this recession as well as employees. Both sides have to look at the full picture. Whoever incites people to this kind of violence should be taken out immediately as their Union Boss, and replaced, according to Law, with someone who can work with both sides. ... [show more](#)

**BigJohn555** 09/10/2011 04:57 PM

Imagine the coverage that would be given if a Tea Partier were to shoot a "spit-ball" of paper at a union thug. And Union Thugs impersonating Tea Partiers will be causing trouble at rallies soon enough. Watch the coverage.

**Public Citizen** 09/10/2011 05:03 PM

The cutting of brake lines on railroad cars is TRAIN WRECKING. This has been a FEDERAL FELONY since the Civil War. Where is the FBI? What about the kidnapped security guards? it would appear that members of the police union are colluding with the longshoremen to commit diverse felonies and mayhem.

**iStone** Yesterday 11:16 AM

I live in Longview, WA where this happened. This story is erroneous in many places. The biggest error is that SIX people were not held hostage. Only one security guard was held against his will for a time. Two windows in a small guard shack were broken, one was intentional, the other was an accident. Yes, the union members' behavior is WAY out of line, but their frustration is understandable. The grain company that promised our local area that they would hire local labor after building their new grain terminal at our local port chose to hire labor from Tacoma, WA, which is 95 miles to the north of Longview. The local unemployment rate is astronomical, and has been for a long time. For EGT (the grain company) to go back on their word and leave hundreds of local longshoremen unemployed is as inexcusable as the current behavior of the union members who have no income thanks to EGT's lies.

This little ILWU local is not a violent bunch of guys, nor do they regularly associate with thugs or mob bosses, as your article seems to suggest. The local sheriff has been patient with them, but his patience has worn... [show more](#)