



US groups attacked over Mexico job moves

Robert Wright

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A video showing workers heckling a manager telling them their jobs were being moved to Mexico has highlighted what observers say is a wave of populist discontent facing US companies.

The [video](#), shot last week, shows workers shouting expletives as they are told their plant in Indianapolis, which builds air conditioners, is to be shut, with the work shifted to Monterrey, in Mexico.

It gained extra attention over the weekend after Donald Trump, frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination, vowed to end such offshoring if he becomes president.

Mr. Trump's stance on the issue reflects populist anger over US job losses that observers believe is also fueling the strong challenge from Bernie Sanders, the Vermont socialist, for the Democratic nomination.

Carrier, part of [United Technologies](#), plans to move 1,400 manufacturing jobs from Indianapolis to Mexico, while another part of the company, United Technologies Electronic Controls, plans to close a nearby plant and move 700 jobs to Mexico.

Controversy over the decision comes as [Ford](#) faces opposition over [plans to move some US manufacturing jobs](#) to its Mexican plants. Nabisco has also faced controversy over plans to move baking of Oreo cookies south of the border.

Scott Lincicome, an adjunct scholar at the free-market Cato Institute dealing with trade policy, said it was undeniable that the Carrier video would resonate with the public.

“I think it will be difficult for businesses going forward — at least through the election — to undertake any sort of business decision like this that could reflect poorly on the company,” Mr Lincicome said.

Clyde Prestowitz, president of the Economic Strategy Institute, a Washington-based think-tank, said Mr. Sanders' campaign had generated far more energy than might have been expected.

"Part of the energy . . . is over a question of what should corporate ethics be," Mr. Prestowitz said. "That's something that will have a continuing effect."

Commenting on the video on Facebook on Friday, Mr. Trump wrote: "We cannot allow this to keep happening! It WILL NOT happen under my watch!"

The decision by Carrier is part of chief executive Greg Hayes' drive to boost returns at United Technologies, which he said after taking over in 2014 were "not very good". The company sold its Sikorsky helicopter division as part of those efforts.

Carrier said the relocation decision had been reached following a "thorough evaluation" of manufacturing operations.

"Because our segment is very competitive and continues to evolve, we are always looking for ways to operate more efficiently and at lower costs," the company said.

Mike Simonton, head of US corporates for Fitch, the rating agency, said the low growth for US companies since the financial crisis had kept them more focused on costs than was typical for this stage of the economic cycle.