



CITING OBAMACARE, 40,000 LONGSHOREMEN QUIT THE AFL-CIO



by WARNER TODD HUSTON (/COLUMNISTS/WARNER-TODD-HUSTON) | 2 Sep 2013 | 3423
 POST A COMMENT (/BIG-GOVERNMENT/2013/09/01/CITING-OBAMACARE-40-000-LONGSHOREMEN-QUIT-THE-AFL-CIO?UTM_SOURCE=TWITTERFEED&UTM_MEDIUM=TWITTER#COMMENTS)



In what is being reported as a surprise move, the 40,000 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) announced that they have formally ended their association with the AFL-CIO, one of the nation's largest private sector unions. The Longshoremens cited Obamacare and immigration reform as two important causes of their disaffiliation.

In an [August 29 letter](http://www.scribd.com/doc/164542066/ILWU-Disaffiliation-8-29-2013) (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/164542066/ILWU-Disaffiliation-8-29-2013>) to AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, ILWU President Robert McEllrath cited quite a list of grievances as reasons for the dissolution of their affiliation, but prominent among them was the AFL-CIO's support of Obamare.

"We feel the Federation has done a great disservice to the labor movement and all working people by going along to get along," McEllrath wrote in the letter to Trumka.

The ILWU President made it clear they are for a single-payer, nationalized healthcare policy and are upset with the AFL-CIO for going along with Obama on the confiscatory tax on their "Cadillac" healthcare plan.

The Longshoreman leader said, "President Obama ran on a platform that he would not tax medical plans and at the 2009 AFL-CIO Convention, you stated that labor would not stand for a tax on our benefits." But, regardless of that promise, the President has pushed for just such a tax and Trumka and the AFL-CIO bowed to political pressure lining up behind Obama's tax on those plans.

McEllrath also went on to say that they support stronger immigration reform than the AFL-CIO is supporting.



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One ILWU committeeman was even harsher on both the AFL-CIO and the President. ILWU Coast Committeeman Leal Sundet criticized the AFL-CIO telling [LaborNotes.com](http://www.labornotes.org/2013/08/longshore-union-quits-afl-cio) (<http://www.labornotes.org/2013/08/longshore-union-quits-afl-cio>) that Trumka was marching "in lockstep" with Obama both on the "Cadillac healthcare tax" as well as immigration.

Sundet slammed Obama's immigration plan saying it is "designed to give [only] highly-paid workers a real path to citizenship."

Private sector unions have fallen to an all time low participation rate in the US workforce. Unionized workers now account for only 11.3 percent (<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.nr0.htm>) of the US workforce.

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**KJinAZ** · a day ago

This may be the best effect Obamacare will have. Anytime the unions get hurt it's good for Americans.

3092 | 23 Reply Share ›

**bxarmybrat** → KJinAZ · a day ago

That is a lot of union dues that the AFL-CIO is losing, that explains Trumka's recent statement on Obamacare.

1788 | 1 Reply Share ›

**heshtesh** → bxarmybrat · a day ago

Apparently the members of the Longshorem AFL-CIO union have come to realize elections do in fact have consequences!

2207 | 1 Reply Share ›

**Loobie** → heshtesh · a day ago

Let's just wait and see if he gives them some kind of back room exemption. The freakin' media better do their job on this one.

1290 | 1 Reply Share ›

**jackejack** → Loobie · a day ago

Don't hold your breath. The main stream media just takes notes and parrots the talking points.

1046 | 1 Reply Share ›

**wolfen244** → jackejack · a day ago

what cracks me up about the lame stream media is that they ALL think they are Woodward and Bernstein. What a joke.

730 | 1 Reply Share ›

**GateKeeper** → wolfen244 · a day ago

Most journs are frauds. Total waste of time reading their drivel.

667 | 1 Reply Share ›

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As far as education departments go, education and journalism are bastions of concentrated mediocrity.

564 | Reply Share ›

**mutantbeast** → Guest · a day ago

On purpose. Most academians and so-called "journalists" are nothing more than communist ideologues. Same with many attorneys. Look at the USSC. 4 of the "justices" there are more communist ideologues than anything.

641 | 1 Reply Share ›

**CommonSenseFanatic** → aubreyfarmer · a day ago

If you take a look at Barry's unimpeded record, this has already happened.

246 | Reply Share ›

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