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Trumka urges white working-class men to back Warren in Mass.

By Mark Gruenberg

Using unusually strong language, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka waded into the Massachusetts U.S. Senate race between 2-year incumbent Scott Brown, Republican, and Democratic nominee Elizabeth Warren, by telling his peers - white working-class men - not to oppose Warren because she's female, because she's a Harvard professor, or for other "superficial reasons."

Trumka compared Warren's problems with the male voters to those that then-Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama had with the same group four years ago. Then, Trumka took on the race factor head-on in a speech to the Steelworkers. This time, it's gender and elitism.

"We have a problem because some voters-and let me be perfectly honest, I'm talking about voters who look just like me-have not stood up beside Elizabeth Warren to support her," he told labor campaign workers on Sept. 24 in Boston.

"Listen to me closely. I've said before that there are dozens of good reasons to vote for Barack Obama and one bad reason not to-and that's because he's black.

"Now hear me about Elizabeth Warren. I've said there are dozens of good reasons to vote for Elizabeth Warren.... But it's crazy not to vote for her because she's a woman, or because she's a college professor, or for any other superficial reason."

Trumka's remarks are an indication of the importance the labor attaches to the Brown-Warren race for the seat held for 46 years by the late



Democratic Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, a long-time labor champion.

With Obama expected to easily carry Massachusetts - Romney's present home state - the Brown-Warren matchup is the marquee race there. It's also viewed as vital for keeping Democratic U.S. Senate control.

Trumka also warned workers not to be fooled by Brown's workingclass imagery, his past record in the state legislature - or his pickup truck.

"The other bad reason to vote against her is because Scott Brown comes across like the guy

T H I S W E E K :

- Trumka urges white working-class men to back Warren
- Editorial: Victory of the refs tells a tale of two lessons
- Civilian deaths mount as U.S. drones strike Pakistan
- Campaign heats up in Arizona
- Obama ultima detalles para primer debate electoral

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some of you supported years ago... Let me be perfectly frank with you - that's not the Scott Brown who's serving in Washington today. The new Scott

With Obama expected to easily carry Massachusetts, Romney's present home state, the Brown-Warren matchup is the marquee race there.

Brown votes every time with the 1% and the Tea Party.

"This is serious, because the election hangs in the balance. You will make the difference. You have the responsibility today to have this tough conversation with your members-to educate your members. And I know you've started already, because the numbers are beginning to move in the right direction, but we've got a long ways to go and not a lot of time to get there," he added, referring to polls showing a tied race.

Warren will fight for jobs, for project labor agreements, for factory workers, for reining in Wall Street speculators, for the Davis-Bacon Act's prevailing wage guarantees, for the right to unionize, and for infrastructure, Trumka said.

Trumka admitted Brown comes across as "a buddy who'll pat us on the back" and "who wears a Bruins jersey with the boys."

But he's really "just another Wall Street lawmaker-bought and sold," Trumka said. "Scott Brown thinks his pickup truck will make you forget that he votes against you and your family not once, not twice, but every single time."

AFL-CIO interim voting records for 2012 show that on nine key votes this year, Brown agreed with labor only three times. "Scott Brown thinks he can win big by calling Elizabeth Warren an elitist. Why? Because she teaches college? Hell, she teaches college because she's smart, and she works hard!" Trumka declared.

"Scott Brown may pretend that he's no Tea Partier, but don't believe a word of it. Scott Brown is up to an old game: He's trying to divide us to conquer us. Listen, Scott Brown is no candidate for working families. Scott Brown is a fake and a fraud.

"I'm sick of it. Democrats aren't perfect. Who is? Far from it. But I've said it before and I'll say it again: Elizabeth Warren is an honest woman who'll fight for working people. She'll fight for your jobs. She'll protect your pensions. She'll fight to rebuild the American Dream. She'll fight for your hometown and my hometown. And she'll do it every single day."



Mark Gruenberg writes for PAI.

Football refs: a tale of two lessons

PW Editorial Board

The victory of the locked-out referees and millions of football fans over the greed of the team owners means much more than just a football season getting back on track. There are two big lessons to be learned.

The first is that no one is capable of doing a better job than men and women who have the training that comes with union membership and who have the voice on the job that union membership provides. Combine this with public support, and the possibility of defeating corporate greed increases enormously.

Milions watched Monday night when, in Seattle, a last-second wrong call cost the Green Bay packers a win over the Seattle Seahawks. It was a call made by an inexperienced replacement worker put there by a greedy owner determined to tear up contracts and pile up profits.

The second lesson we must learn is a bit more difficult because it requires a continued struggle to get the word out that workers all over America, have long endured similar lock outs. Those at American Crystal have been locked out for more than a year, also by greedy corporate bosses determined to roll back wages and benefits, and willing to endanger both workers and the public by replacing the trained union workers with unskilled lower-paid substitutes.

Because the lockout victims there, and in other places across the country, have no national stage, in no way means that their struggle is any less important.

Despite what misguided politicians and corporate bosses would have us believe, a Chicago teacher, a bulldozer builder, or a locked-out sugar worker is not an easily replaced commodity.

"The big difference is that 100 million people can watch the football game so the mistakes are right there to see," a leader of the American Crystal strike who has been locked out of his job in East Grand Forks, Minn. for 14 months told us. "The mistakes that the scabs are making in the factories are behind closed doors."

He tells tales of how replacement workers are making dangerous mistakes with beet slicers and screwing up the dry pulp techniques that union workers had learned only after intensive training. Explosions, fires, danger to workers, and potential harm to consumers can and do result from corporate use of lockouts to maximize profits.

Let us all celebrate the victory of the refs, the players, and the football fans. But let us also resolve to double down on our support for the many among us who are victims of lockouts - one of the ugliest tactics in the arsenal of the corporate greed machine

Combine this with public support, and the possibility of defeating corporate greed increases enormously.

Civilian deaths mount as U.S. drones strike Pakistan

By Marilyn Bechtel

Three killed in U.S. drone strike in NW Pakistan.” “Pakistan: 7 killed in car bombing in northwest.” “Pakistan: Drone strike kills 5 suspected militants.”

A small sampling of media headlines from the last month points to a problem raised repeatedly by international, peace and human rights organizations, which also became an issue this week at the UN: U.S. use of unmanned drone aircraft against “suspected militants” in Pakistan.

“No country and no people have suffered more in the epic struggle against terrorism than Pakistan,” President Asif Ali Zardari told the United Nations.

Zardari’s remarks came as a newly-released report, *Living Under Drones: Death, Injury, and Trauma to Civilians from U.S. Drone Practices in Pakistan*, contended that far more civilians, including children, have been killed in drone strikes than Washington has acknowledged.

The report, by Stanford Law School and New York University School of Law, says as many as a quarter of those killed in strikes in the last eight years were civilians, while only an estimated two percent involved “high-level” militants.

“Drones hover 24 hours a day over communities in northwest Pakistan, striking homes, vehicles, and public spaces without warning,” the report says.

In the last eight years, the report says, between 2,562 and 3,325 people have been killed in drone strikes in Pakistan, among them between 474 and 881 civilians including some 176 children.

“Real threats to U.S. security and to Pakistani civilians exist in the Pakistani border areas” and must be addressed, the authors say, but in view of the drones’ harm to Pakistani civilians and to U.S. interests, the strikes “must be carefully re-evaluated.”

The region in question, Pakistan’s Federally Administered Tribal Areas, lies along Afghanistan’s southeast border. That border, the so-called Durand Line, created in the late 19th century by the British colonial administration in India and the then-emir of Afghanistan, has never been recognized by the Pashtun peoples it divided, and is



continually crossed by both civilians and armed insurgents. The area has one of the world’s highest poverty rates.

Living Under Drones analyzes the nature of unmanned drones and their use in targeted killings following Sept. 11, 2001, and discusses legal implications and strategic considerations. It also offers gripping and dramatic accounts of the devastation wrought by the strikes.

The report calls on the Obama administration to “fundamentally” re-evaluate its drone strike policies, make public the legal basis and criteria for the attacks, ensure independent investigations of drone strike deaths, compensate civilians harmed by the strikes, and refrain from using lethal force against civilians.

It also calls on the media to stop “the common practice” of calling all people killed in drone strikes, “militants.”

The drone strikes head the agenda of a 40-member delegation organized by Code Pink and including members of Veterans for Peace. There they will meet with drone victims’ families, elected officials, tribal elders and residents of South Waziristan, part of the Tribal Areas.

Meanwhile, a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union under the Freedom of Information Act is calling on the U.S. government to make public the legal basis for the CIA’s use of predator drones in targeted killings in other countries. The suit was heard by a three-judge appeals court panel last week.

Drones hover 24 hours a day over communities in northwest Pakistan, striking homes, vehicles, and public

Campaign heats up in Arizona

By Joe Bernick

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio is running scared. The notoriously racist Tea Party darling likes to call himself “the toughest sheriff in the country,” but it seems he is afraid to openly debate his main opponent, Paul Penzone. Arpaio, however, loves to talk to the news media, or to adoring small gatherings of Republican supporters, and out-of-state contributors.

After 20 years in office, Arpaio is being challenged like never before. Public opinion polls show that Democratic candidate Penzone is slowly gaining on him to within 5.5 points, almost within the poll’s margin of error. Independent candidate Mike Stauffer, who garnered over eight percent in the poll, is being urged to withdraw from the race and throw his support to Penzone.

Arizonans don’t expect to have progressive sheriffs. Voters tend to go for “law and order” types. Arpaio played up that role to the max.

But Arpaio grew too enchanted with the TV cameras and his self-importance. He decided to jump on the anti-immigrant bandwagon and become the major enforcer of Arizona’s racist laws. While claiming to have saved the state money with his tent city prisons he has been accused of spending hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars going after political rivals, and investigating President Obama’s birth.

They have launched a new campaign called Adios Arpaio, which has strong support from labor and the Latino communities. The campaign has enlisted hundreds of youth who have registered over 22,000 new anti-Arpaio voters in Phoenix barrios - targeting “people who would not otherwise be voting,” and they intend to keep registering folks until the Oct. 9 deadline. Last Saturday demonstrators descended on Arpaio’s downtown office with packing boxes to help him “move out!”

Obama ultima detalles para primer debate electoral

By Prensa Latina

El presidente estadounidense, Barack Obama, continuará hoy su preparación en el estado de Nevada para el primer debate electoral del próximo 3 de octubre en Denver, Colorado, como parte de una semana decisiva para la campaña.

Obama, que busca la reelección en los comicios del venidero 6 de noviembre, pasó la noche en la ciudad de Henderson en dicho estado, donde proseguirá las actividades de entrenamiento con sus principales asistentes, a la vez que participa en aislados eventos de campaña en la zona.

El retiro del gobernante incluye reuniones informativas, simulacros de discusiones con el senador demócrata por Massachusetts John F. Kerry en el papel de Romney, y una revisión crítica de algunos detalles de los procedimientos a seguir en ese encuentro, informaron medios de prensa locales.

La preparación del presidente tuvo como telón de fondo el fuego de las críticas de algunos medios de prensa y de figuras republicanas durante el fin de semana en los principales programas de discusión política del país.

En ese sentido, el senador republicano por Arizona John McCain calificó de inepto e ignorante al mandatario por su respuesta a los ataques contra el consulado en Bengasi que ocasionó la muerte al embajador Christopher Stevens y a otros tres funcionarios.

Un editorial del diario The Washington Post criticó también al jefe de la Casa Blanca por los cambios en las versiones del Ejecutivo acerca de los detalles de ese incidente.

Por su parte, el candidato republicano Mitt Romney también

proseguirá este lunes sus sesiones preparatorias con sus asesores en Denver, Colorado, bajo la sombra de continuas informaciones sobre las ventajas de Obama en las encuestas y las críticas a su desempeño en la contienda.

Apenas dos días antes del debate, Romney es censurado por amigos y enemigos. Incluso, su propio compañero de fórmula, el candidato a la vicepresidencia, Paul Ryan, reconoció este domingo las deficiencias del partido rojo en esta contienda.

Según las últimas encuestas, Obama aventaja a su rival en la mayoría de los estados decisivos para los comicios, en particular en Ohio, donde el jefe de la Casa Blanca supera a Romney por nueve puntos porcentuales (51-42).

En Florida, el conteo favorece al gobernante por tres puntos (49-46) mientras a nivel nacional su primacía es de 49 a 45 por ciento.

En otras noticias, El candidato republicano a la vicepresidencia, Paul Ryan, reconoció hoy que la campaña de su partido tiene deficiencias, pero restó importancia a los resultados de las encuestas que dan ventaja al presidente Barack Obama.

En una entrevista con la televisora Fox News, Ryan citó entre los tropiezos del candidato a la presidencia, Mitt Romney, sus declaraciones en las que afirmó que el 47 por ciento de los estadounidenses apoyan a Obama porque son víctimas dependientes del gobierno.

El político dijo que Romney reconoce que esa fue una manera poco articulada de describir la preocupación republicana por el estancamiento económico bajo la administración Obama.