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Workers at Illinois plant say Romney is outsourcing their jobs

By John Wojcik

Workers at a Bain Capital-owned company here are demanding that Mitt Romney come to Freeport, Illinois, and stop the planned shipping of their jobs overseas.

Romney, the Republican presidential candidate, owns millions of dollars worth of Bain funds. Bain holds a controlling stake in Sensata Technologies, the Massachusetts-based company that is firing 170 workers at its plant here and shipping their jobs to China.

Determined to fight back, workers began this week unfurling signs and banners outside the plant demanding that Romney come to meet with them and stop the outsourcing of their jobs.

The workers' decision to publicly expose Romney's role in their pending layoffs could be the straw that breaks the camel's back for his presidential campaign, which is reeling under increasing attacks on him as an outsourcer of jobs and a tax evader.

The developments in Freeport confirm, workers here say, that Romney is a job-killer and out of touch with ordinary Americans.

"If Romney wanted to, all he would have to do is talk to the managers he put in at Bain and say, 'Don't do this,'" said Tom Gaulrapp, who has worked at the factory for 33 years.

"This is really bad. Romney has major investments in Sensata and when they ship our jobs to China he is going to be making big money off of it, not 10 years ago, but now"

"This is a shame and it is totally unneces-



sary," Gaulrapp said.

"They were making money before and they've always made a profit in Freeport. It's just that they are greedy and that by shipping our work overseas they can make even more."

"When does their duty to a community come into play?" he asked.

"I'm 54 years old now - even if I went back to college who is going to hire me?"

"I am impressed with and proud of the workers at this plant," said Freeport Mayor George Gaulrapp, who is unrelated to the worker at the

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plant.

"They are fighting back for their jobs on their own. They decided this week to come out and make

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the connection between the loss of their jobs and the candidate Romney.”

The mayor said Romney should be targeted for what is happening to this town “because he created the model for this way to make money. Romney is the mastermind who built a model that takes apart people’s lives and he is the one who can come in here and put the pieces back together.”

“What’s really outrageous,” Shelly Griswold, Freeport’s director of community development, said, “is that Bain had the people of our town dig their own graves.

“Those 170 workers had to train their own replacements.”

The mayor commented, “They sent them in here from China to stay at a hotel and come every day to the plant to learn how to make sophisticated automotive sensors.

“Now they went back home and when the plant leaves here it will hire them overseas for a lot less.”

“This could kill our town,” plant worker Gaulrapp said.

“It means all those taxes paid by 170 well-paid workers are no longer available and a lot of small businesses here that exist on the ragged edge, whether it’s the barber shop or the restaurants, can go under. Loss of that much more business can be the end for them and the loss of still more jobs.”

Workers at the plant see what Romney’s Bain is doing here as being worse than simply stashing money overseas to avoid taxes.

“He owns at least \$8 million in Bain funds that hold more than half of Sensata’s shares,” said Freeport Mayor Tom Gaulrapp.

That matches disclosure reports Romney himself released in June.

“There can be no clearer evidence,” he said, “that Romney is profiting now from shipping our jobs out of the country.

“It is ludicrous for him to say he isn’t responsible. The orders were given by people he put in at Bain and he is making money off the deal.”



John Wojcik is PW labor editor.

Romney scandal worse than it seems

By PW Editorial Board

Defenders of Mitt Romney say that his refusal to release tax returns and his stashing of money in overseas tax shelters are nothing more than what most people would do if they were rich. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham even suggested that such behavior was the “American Way.”

This is an insult to the many millions of Americans who see paying taxes as sharing in the responsibility of maintaining a democratic society.

Many say Romney won’t release his taxes because the embarrassment over what is in them will do more damage to his campaign than keeping the returns hidden from the American people.

The important point in this controversy is that whether or not Romney broke the law is not what really matters.

In fact, it is not illegal for him to hide his money in an offshore tax shelter and that, precisely, is the problem. The law allows the rich to do this. The result is that the U.S. Treasury is denied billions of dollars each year needed to keep the country going.

The result is that working people have to pay to pick up the slack for the rich.

On the Bain Capital controversy the situation is similar.

Romney claims he has no say in what Bain does and is not responsible, therefore, as Bain continues to swallow other companies, chew up the workers and spit them out while it outsources their jobs.

The debate over when Romney technically left Bain is of little importance. First, he installed all the people now running the company. Second, Romney himself continues to profit from outsourcing carried out by Bain.

Workers in a Bain-owned company in Freeport, Ill., are battling this week as they try to hold off the outsourcing of their jobs this coming December.

Romney is a majority stockholder in the Bain-owned company doing the outsourcing. The bottom line is that as the Illinois workers get dumped this December, Romney will get richer off their pain and misfortune.

All of this is one more reason to make sure that Romney and his Republican backers go down to defeat this November. It makes no sense to take one of the architects and chief beneficiaries of the outrageously unjust system we labor under and put him in the White House.

There should be no room in the White House for a man who made his fortune by taking apart not only companies but also human lives.

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Are Asian American voters being ignored?

By Blake Deppe

A major poll of the political outlooks of Asian Americans revealed that neither Democrats nor Republicans are doing much to tap into the voting power of one of the fastest growing ethnic populations in the state of Illinois - and in the country.

The results were part of a national survey organized by the nonpartisan Asian Pacific Islander Vote and the Asian American Justice Center.

According to lead pollster David Mermin, who spoke in a news conference call on July 17, they were able to draw some conclusions about the political leanings of Asian American voters. "They are really quite solidly behind the Democratic Party," he remarked. "In particular, they think that Democrats do better than Republicans at treating all Americans fairly and equally."

Mermin cautioned, though, that Asian Illinoisans could be more prone to lean toward Republican candidates when it came to Congressional elections. Furthermore, he added, "While Democrats have a clear advantage with these voters, there is a substantial undecided vote as well." In fact, poll findings showed that nearly one quarter of Asian Americans who took part in the survey would be undecided between a GOP or Democratic candidate if a Congressional election were to be held now.

This could be partially attributed, he suggested, to the lack of outreach to this group. "The Republicans have really fallen short in their effort to communicate with these voters," said Mermin. "On the Republican side, it's up to 75 percent [of Asian Illinois residents] not getting contact." Democrats, too, have fallen behind on making contact with them, Mermin noted.

These facts, said Mermin, "suggest a need to clarify to these voters what the differences are for candidates who want to win their votes."

The dilemma will worsen over time, too, because, according to APIAVote executive director Christine Chen, 600,000 new Asian Americans have become part of the electorate since 2008, and



that number is expected to grow continuously.

Nationwide, 59 percent of Asian Americans would vote for President Obama in the election; that's an increase of three percent over those who said they would vote for him back in 2008. And that 59 percent is even more uplifting for Obama when compared to 13 percent for Romney.

The state of Nevada, meanwhile, is a bit of a wild card, the survey found. That's because there, Asian Americans were found to be highly critical of Obama, and leaned more toward Romney. Mermin noted that four in five Asian Nevada residents said they would vote this year. He underscored the fact, however, that the Democratic Party had contacted only 28 percent of them this year.

Mee Moua, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center, commented, "Not only are party leaders not paying attention to those of us who are already in their base, they're not even fighting for those of us who are independent and waiting to be wooed."

The general consensus was that more attention would have to be given to this portion of the electorate.

"The political leaders who engage the Asian American communities as part of their core strategy will be rewarded by the margin of victory they deserve," Moua concluded. "And those who ignore us...do so at their own peril."

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Thousands march to end Con Ed lockout

By Mark Gruenberg

A march of thousands from Con Ed's headquarters to New York City's Union Square, in 100-degree heat on July 17, added to the pressure on the rich utility to end its two-week-old lockout of its 8,500 union workers, members of Utility Workers Local 1-2.

The pressure was enough to force Con Ed's first concession since it locked out the workers on July 1. On July 15, it reinstated their health insurance.

Con Ed locked out the workers - right as the New York metro area suffered its worst heat wave in years - because they, and their local, refused to give in to its demands. Con Ed wants to impose shaky, 401(k) style retirement accounts on new hires. It wants present workers to take the small raises and wants to sharply raise workers' share of health insurance premiums.

Thousands marched through the broiling downtown Manhattan streets, showing solidarity with the Utility Workers. Banners from other unions, including AFSCME and UFCW, waved in the sun during the parade.

And that wasn't the last protest scheduled. Local 1-2 distributed handbills to passers-by on July 20 outside the swanky Upper East Side home of Con Ed CEO Kevin Burke, contrasting the firm's demands on the workers with Burke's \$11 million paycheck and Con Ed's \$1 billion in profits last year.

"This is a new level of (corporate) arrogance in the midst of the worst heat wave in decades," Communications Workers President Larry Cohen, one of dozens of union leaders who joined the Utility Workers in their protest, told his union's activists later.

"We need to keep Con Ed honest before we listen to any proposal. This is a marathon, not a sprint. Stay strong!" the Facebook post added.

Romney recauda más dinero que Obama en junio

Por Prensa Latina

El candidato republicano Mitt Romney recaudó en junio 15 millones de dólares más que el presidente Barack Obama, a cuatro meses de las elecciones en Estados Unidos, donde el respaldo financiero se ve como propensión de votos.

Los grupos de acción política o SuperPacs que apoyan al exgobernador de Massachussets lograron una recolección mensual de 20,7 millones de dólares, mientras que la campaña de Obama registró seis millones.

El Comité Nacional Republicano (CNR) confirmó que a mediados de año mantiene en bancos 89,4 millones de dólares, mientras que las organizaciones partidistas que siguen al mandatario demócrata disponen de 37,5 millones, cuando casi termina julio.

Voceros del CNR recordaron que Romney, al contrario que el jefe de Estado, desde febrero tuvo que gastar cientos de miles de dólares para derrotar a sus rivales republicanos en el proceso para obtener la nominación oficial del partido, prevista para agosto.

También la Asociación de Gobernadores Republicanos (AGR) confirmó una recaudación de 16,7 millones de dólares en el segundo cuarto de 2012, mientras que sus contrapartes demócratas notificaron un monto de 13 millones.

El reporte de la Asociación de Gobernadores Demócratas incluye el dinero recolectado por las sucursales independientes a la dirección central del partido azul, mientras que el informe de la AGR no lo hace.

Hay actualmente 29 gobernaciones republicanas en Estados Unidos, por 20 demócratas y una inde-

pendiente. Los correligionarios de Obama tienen ocho puestos para defender en las elecciones de noviembre, los republicanos protegerán cuatro.

En el primer cuarto del año -que concluyó en marzo- los del llamado partido rojo recibieron 12,2 millones de dólares en donaciones, y los demócratas llegaron a ocho. El candidato presidencial Mitt Romney y el Comité Nacional Republicano (CNR) superaron en mayo por primera vez a los demócratas en cuanto a recaudación de dinero electoral por un monto de 16 millones de dólares.

Romney y el CNR informaron sobre una recolección de 76 millones de dólares, mientras que Obama y los grupos de respaldo a su reelección no pasaron de 60 millones.

Obama inicia gira por cuatro estados del oeste

El presidente de Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, inició hoy una gira de tres días por los estados de Nevada, California, Oregon y Louisiana, en su campaña con vistas a las elecciones de noviembre próximo.

Su primera escala es en Reno, Nevada, donde participará en un evento oficial y después irá a Oakland, California, para presidir tres actos de recaudación de fondos.

Las ciudades de Portland, en Oregon, y Seattle, en el estado de Washington (oeste), se encuentran dentro de las paradas previstas para mañana, en las que el gobernante defenderá su plan para reactivar la economía y el rescate de la clase media.

Directivos de la campaña demócrata cambiaron el plan de la visita a Portland, al cancelar uno de los actos políticos previstos para esa ciudad.