

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Lyons
Kay Thomas

October 10, 1989

FROM: Tom Donahue

SUBJECT: Massachusetts AFL-CIO Convention, October 4-6

*CC: [Redacted]
T. O'Connor
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I was in Boston October 4-6 to attend meetings and events held during the annual Massachusetts AFL-CIO convention.

On Wednesday, October 4, I attended an evening reception hosted by Jim Tiernan of Urban Resources. There I met with Tiernan, Dennis Dyer and several Massachusetts labor officials. Later, I joined the following people for dinner:

- o Dennis Dyer, regional vice president, Tobacco Institute
- o Jim Tiernan, Urban Resources
- o Marty Foley, legislative director, Massachusetts AFL-CIO
- o Lilly Foley
- o Joe Joyce, Secty-Treas., Greater Boston Central Labor Council; treasurer, Sheet Metal Workers Local #17.

During the reception and dinner, I briefed Marty Foley and Joe Joyce on the Sheet Metal Workers' conference held in Hawaii last month. I explained our office's role in the conference and the prominent place which indoor air quality held on the agenda. I also told the group of the commitment to IAQ expressed and discussed by Sheet Metal Workers' President Edward Carlough.

Following dinner, we returned to the Park Plaza Hotel, site of the convention, and another reception hosted by state AFL-CIO President Arthur Osborn. I spoke during this reception to several state labor officials, including Joe Faherty, vice president of the State AFL-CIO, and Joe Leyden, president of the AFSCME locals in Massachusetts. I also spoke with Laura McCarthy, staff assistant to State Rep. Marilyn Travinsky, original sponsor of the Massachusetts IAQ legislation.

On Thursday, October 5, I attended the morning session of the convention as a guest of the state federation. I spoke with state AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Bob Haynes about the upcoming national AFL-CIO convention, and we discussed a "Massachusetts labor" dinner we are planning with Dennis Dyer to be held during that time.

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The convention also adopted several resolutions of interest to the Labor Management Committee in the following areas:

- o Indoor air quality -- strengthens existing state federation resolution and policy.
- o Anti-discrimination -- calls for support of state legislation prohibiting discrimination against workers because of conduct away from the jobsite.
- o Advertising -- calls for legislation to assure maximum revenue income from all legal sources.
- o Packaging -- directs the state federation to work only with groups which recognize the impact of packaging jobs in the state and opposes current measures aimed at restricting certain types of packaging.

In addition, an anti-excise tax resolution was referred to the State AFL-CIO Executive Board for further consideration. This action was taken at the suggestion of the state fed staff after AFSCME representatives indicated some concern with the resolution. This action does not in any way alter or lessen the status of an identical state AFL-CIO resolution on excise taxes adopted at last year's convention, which remains in effect.

On Thursday afternoon, I met with Dyer, Tiernan and Tom Gleavy, regional representative of the Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers union (BC&T). We discussed a wide range of issues, including indoor air quality, excise taxes and BC&T's participation in upcoming state labor events and projects. Gleavy offered his assistance in contacting BC&T representatives in Connecticut and New Jersey about the excise tax issue.

The state federation held its main banquet Thursday evening. I was seated as a guest of the state AFL-CIO at its table, where I joined Marty Foley, Jim Tiernan and others. Also at our table was Laura McCarthy and Terry Carlin, a visiting trade unionist from Northern Ireland.

On Friday, I joined Jim Savarese at a meeting to discuss the tax issue. Also attending the meeting was:

- o John O'Connor, Tobacco Institute
- o Dennis Dyer, Tobacco Institute
- o Jim Tiernan, Urban Resources
- o David Wilhelm, consultant.

The meeting focused primarily on tax problems in New York and New Jersey. We discussed the dynamics of New York state politics and the vital role played by organized labor in the formulation of state tax policy.

It was agreed that additional research and information-gathering is a necessary first step to any long-range labor-related tax project. Research by David Wilhelm could reveal the tax policy environment within the state as well as the key players and their respective positions. Wilhelm could also provide a "revenue options" paper which would review the current tax code and describe policy options other than excise taxes to generate state funding.

Subsequent to these research elements, a labor program would be developed and implemented. The goal of such a program would be to motivate organized labor and other liberal/progressive factions within the state to support a viable alternative to excise taxes as a means of raising revenue.

Central to the implementation of the program would be the active liaison role provided by Jim Tiernan. Tiernan already has close contacts within the leadership of the New York State AFL-CIO. O'Connor noted that, besides New York, New Jersey is a priority state within his region. Although the key unions are different in New Jersey than in New York, we suggested that the same kind of strategic document be prepared as the first step to coalition-building in New Jersey.

It was also agreed that time is a critical factor as both states proceed towards a new tax policy during their legislative sessions. At the conclusion of the meeting, O'Connor indicated that he will take the matter under consideration and discuss it further with TI representatives. We await word on how to proceed on this matter.

cc: Debbie Schoonmaker
Susan Stuntz
TIILMC representatives