Supreme Court of the Anited States

UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA,)

AFL-CIO-CLC

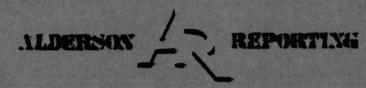
v.

NO. 81-395

EDWARD SADLOWSKI, JR., ET AL

Washington, D. C. March 31, 1982

Pages 1 thru 49



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1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
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3	UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA, :
4	AFL-CIO-CLC, :
5	Petitioner, :
6	v. : No. 81-395
7	EDWARD SADLOWSKI, JR., ET AL.
8	x
9	Washington, D. C.
10	Wednesday, March 31, 1982
11	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
12	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
13	at 10:05 o'clock a.m.
14	APPEARANCES:
15	MICHAEL H. GOTTESMAN, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of the Petitioner.
16	JOSEPH L. RAUH, JR., ESQ., Washington, D.C.;
17	on behalf of the Respondents.
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PROCEEDINGS

- 2 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: We will hear arguments
- 3 first in United Steelworkers of America against
- 4 Sadlowski. Mr. Gottesman, you may proceed whenever you
- 5 are ready

1

- 6 ORAL ARGUMENT OF MICHAEL H. GOTTESMAN, ESQ.
- 7 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER
- 8 MR. GOTTESMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice,
- 9 and may it please the Court:
- 10 At the 1978 convention of the Steelworkers
- 11 Union -- that is its highest governing body, including
- 12 several thousand delegates selected by the members of
- 13 each of its locals -- the Constitution of the union was
- 14 amended by adopting the rule that is at issue in this
- 15 case.
- 16 That rule forbids candidates and their
- 17 supporters -- candidates for office within the union,
- 18 for high office within the union -- from soliciting or
- 19 accepting campaign support from persons who are not
- 20 members of the union. The purpose of the rule was to
- 21 assure that those who got elected to high office in the
- 22 union would be beholden only to the members of the
- 23 union, and not, by virtue of the financial benefits they
- 24 had received from outsiders, be beholden to those
- 25 outsiders.

- The analogue in the federal statutes and with
- 2 respect to federal elections to the rule that the
- 3 steelworkers adopted is that provision which makes it
- 4 unlawful for any candidate for federal office to
- 5 solicit, accept or receive any contribution from a
- 6 foreign national.
- 7 The court below has held that the steelworkers
- 8 rule violates Section 101(a)(2) of the Landrum-Griffin
- 9 Act, a part of Title I of that statute. We sought
- 10 review, and this Court granted a writ of certiorari to
- 11 review two questions: first, whether that construction
- 12 of the Landrum-Griffin Act is correct; and second, if it
- 13 is, whether the Landrum-Griffin Act as thus construed to
- 14 deprive the union and its members of the right to
- 15 insulate their elections from outsider involvement,
- 16 abridges the First Amendment freedom of association of
- 17 the union's members, by taking from them the power to
- 18 determine the appropriate standard of participation by
- 19 others in its elections.
- 20 I will talk first about the statutory
- 21 construction issue. Whenever, as here, the question is
- 22 the legitimacy of a union's election rule, statutory
- 23 analysis properly begins -- though, of course, it
- 24 doesn't end -- with Title IV of the statute. That is
- 25 the title, entitled elections, which lays down election

- 1 rules with respect to union elections.
- In that title, Congress prescribed a number of
- 3 rules to govern union elections, frequency of elections,
- 4 notice of elections and the like. And one of the
- 5 subjects that Congress specifically focused on in Title
- 6 IV was the subject of campaign financing. In Title IV,
- 7 Congress expressly provided that union monies and
- 8 employer monies could not be donated to any candidate in
- 9 a union election. And in Title IV, Congress expressly
- 10 provided that every member of the union would have the
- 11 right to provide campaign support to a candidate in a
- 12 union election.
- Now, of course, there is a middle ground
- 14 between that which Congress expressly forbad and that
- 15 which Congress expressly protected. There are
- 16 non-members of the union whose capacity to contribute is
- 17 not addressed on the face of Title IV. But that does
- 18 not mean that Title IV has no relevance to that
- 19 question, because Congress in Title IV, having laid down
- 20 and mandated for unions certain rules that they had to
- 21 comply with in their elections, closed the circle; it
- 22 didn't stop with it.
- 23 It said, beyond the rules that we prescribe in
- 24 this title, unions will be free to choose their own
- 25 election rules. We have laid down certain minimum

- 1 requirements, and beyond this we expressly provide that
- 2 the choice as to any other othe election rules, not
- 3 inconsistent with those that we, the Congress, have laid
- 4 down, rests with the members of the union through their
- 5 democratic processes.
- 6 That decision is reflected in two difference
- 7 places in Title IV. First, in Section 403 which
- 8 provides that no labor organization shall be required by
- 9 law to conduct election of officers in any different
- 10 former manner than is required by its own constitution
- 11 and bylaws, except as otherwise provided by this title.
- 12 And it is provided again in Section 401(e) which is one
- 13 of the provisions that lays down the rules unions must
- 14 obey. And one of those rules is that the election shall
- 15 be conducted in accordance with the constitution and
- 16 bylaws of such organization, insofar as they are not
- 17 inconsistent with the provisions of this title.
- 18 QUESTION: What would be the situation, Mr.
- 19 Gottesman, if, let us say, the wives of ten of the
- 20 employees of the operation, either with or without
- 21 signs, but including signs, vote for one of the
- 22 candidates and they paraded up and down outside the
- 23 plant or the operation, or merely stood there with their
- 24 signs. Would that be a violation?
- 25 MR. GOTTESMAN: No, it would not be a

- 1 violation of the union's rule. It would not, Your
- 2 Honor. The rule has an express exception for
- 3 volunteered personal services, so that a non-member of
- 4 the union is free to donate his or her personal time to
- 5 supporting a candidate in a union election.
- 6 QUESTION: Now, what if they held out --
- 7 something like the Salvation Army -- some plates and
- 8 said please contribute, help elect -- help keep the
- 9 union clean or whatever it is they were trying to do.
- 10 MR. GOTTESMAN: Well, we have the same
- 11 distinction here, Your Honor, that you have in the
- 12 federal sector between expenditures and contributions.
- 13 If they took these contributions from others, who
- 14 presumably are not members of the union, and didn't give
- 15 them to a candidate, or didn't spend them in cooperation
- 16 with a candidate, the steelworkers rule would not
- 17 implicated because they --
- 18 OUESTION: I am assuming good faith on the
- 19 part of these people, that they want to get support,
- 20 voting support, they want to get money to generate
- 21 further support, and they want to get it from members of
- 22 the union, members of the public, anywhere they can get
- 23 it. Do the union rules inhibit them?
- 24 MR. GOTTESMAN: If they get the money from
- 25 non-members and then give it to a candidate, or spend it

- 1 with his cooperation, they would violate the rule. If
- 2 they got money from non-members in order to finance
- 3 activities of their own, independent of the candidate
- 4 although expressing their support for him, that would
- 5 not be a violation of the union's rule.
- 6 In that sense, the distinction between
- 7 expenditure and contribution in the union's rule is
- 8 parallel to that in the federal statutes. And indeed,
- 9 it is I think fairly obvious when you look at the union
- 10 rule and the way it is structured that those who drafted
- 11 it were not oblivious to the fact that some of these
- 12 same questions had been considered and addressed in the
- 13 federal statute, and many of the lines are the same,
- 14 including the exception for volunteered personal time.
- 15 QUESTION: Mr. Gottesman, has Section 27 of
- 16 the union constitution been amended at all since this
- 17 action was initiated?
- 18 MR. GOTTESMAN: I was amended once and that
- 19 amendment is referred to in the court of appeals'
- 20 opinion. The amendment does not relate to the issues
- 21 that are before the Court.
- 22 QUESTION: And there have been no further
- 23 amendments.
- 24 MR. GOTTESMAN: That is correct. There has
- 25 not been another union constitution since the rulings --

- 1 union convention -- since the rulings below. And the
- 2 next one is scheduled for this September.
- 3 QUESTION: And does this Court have to address
- 4 the right to sue theory, in your view?
- 5 MR. GOTTESMAN: Well, if the Court agrees with
- 6 us that the union rule does not violate 101(a)(2), it
- 7 has to address that only because respondents have
- 8 offered it as an alternative basis for invalidating the
- 9 entire rule. We did not seek review of the court of
- 10 appeals' holding that the rule violates that, because
- 11 implicit in that, in our view, would simply be an
- 12 injunction saying don't apply your rule to litigation,
- 13 which is no problem for the union because we didn't
- 14 think it applied to litigation in the first place.
- 15 But if the Court agrees with us that the rule
- 16 does not violate 101(a)(2), that other provision comes
- 17 into play only in the sense that respondents are here
- 18 saying you should use that other provision to invalidate
- 19 the whole rule. And therefore, in that sense, the Court
- 20 would possibly reach that issue and have to decide it
- 21 one way or the other.
- 22 QUESTION: Mr. Gottesman, how common a
- 23 situation is this? Are you aware of any campaigns
- 24 involving unions other than the steelworkers which --
- 25 where outside funds played a prominent part?

- 1 MR. GOTTESMAN: The briefs for respondents
- 2 recite -- the record doesn't -- that such outside funds
- 3 were contributed substantially to the election in the
- 4 mineworkers union several years ago, in which Tony Boyle
- 5 was defeated. Beyond that, I personally am not, and the
- 6 record does not show -- it certainly had been the
- 7 experience in the steelworkers in 1977. It was George
- 8 Meany's statement at that time that it was unprecedented
- 9 in the history of the AFL-CIO that any of its affiliates
- 10 had suffered an experience of an organized, concerted
- 11 outsider involvement such as had occurred in the 1977
- 12 steelworker election.
- 13 QUESTION: Apart from this one, has there been
- 14 any serious challenge to the incumbency in the
- 15 steelworkers?
- 16 MR. GOTTESMAN: There have been, yes, three
- 17 prior ones.
- 18 QUESTION: With any substantial vote?
- 19 MR. GOTTESMAN: Yes. No one has ever gotten
- 20 less than 40% of the vote in any presidential election
- 21 in the steelworkers. That is a strange statistics, but
- 22 unquestionably a correct one.
- One challenger won and defeated the incumbent,
- 24 so -- and he got 51% of the vote. The other three all
- 25 got in a range of 40% to 43%. Sadlowski got 43%, the

- 1 prior ones had gotten 41% and 40%. The statement that
- 2 appears in their briefs that he was the first serious
- 3 challenger to an incumbent is, therefore, one that comes
- 4 with some surprise.
- 5 QUESTION: I would assume, Mr. Gottesman, that
- 6 in evolving this rule, some consideration was given to
- 7 what has been the usual pattern through the public area,
- 8 the public sector, of requiring sworn statements
- 9 identifying all the contributors. If every candidate
- 10 within the union was required to file a sworn statement,
- 11 with every contribution identifying the contributor and
- 12 forbidding a the process that would preclude any
- 13 anonymous contributions, would that not satisfy this
- 14 problem?
- 15 MR. GOTTESMAN: The judgment of the union was
- 16 that it would not, Your Honor, and the reasons are
- 17 explained in our reply brief. The problem with simply
- 18 having disclosure and no ban is that you can counter
- 19 exactly what happened in the 1977 election. There was a
- 20 candidate for office in the union who was, indeed, a
- 21 very popular candidate. And who had taken a lot of
- 22 outside money, and who wound up getting substantially
- 23 less of a vote than people I think generally had thought
- 24 he would get.
- 25 And what happened was, the voters in that

- 1 union had to make a choice; they had to become one-issue
- 2 voters. They had a candidate that they would have
- 3 preferred to leave the union, but the price for having
- 4 him was going to be that they were going to have a
- 5 candidate beholden to outsiders.
- 6 Now, it seems to me -- and certainly it seemed
- 7 to the union -- that it is entitled to make the judgment
- 8 that it is not enough, either in the way of protection
- 9 or in the way of satisfying the members' interests, for
- 10 people to know that one factor about a candidate is that
- 11 he is potentially beholden to outsiders. Because they
- 12 can't adequately vindicate their concern about that
- 13 without automatically voting against him on that ground.
- And beyond that, once you have some candidates
- 15 doing this, it is inevitable they are all going to do
- 16 it, just to equalize things, and then you are going to
- 17 have a situation where the voter has no choice at all to
- 18 avoid candidates beholden to outsiders, because they
- 19 will be competing to see who can get more. And the
- 20 notion that incumbents are going to be less successful
- 21 at getting outsider money is, I think, contrary to at
- 22 least intuitive good sense. It was not the case in this
- 23 election, but it could well be the case in other union
- 24 elections.
- Now, the congressional scheme --

- 1 QUESTION: Mr. Gottesman, does the prohibition
- 2 in the Landrum-Griffin Act against contributions by
- 3 employers or unions apply only to the union which is
- 4 holding the election and only to an employer whose
- 5 employees are represented by the union?
- 6 MR. GOTTESMAN: No, Your Honor, it applies to
- 7 any union and any officer of another union. And the
- 8 defintion of employer, as construed by the Labor
- 9 Department and enforced by the Sixth Circuit, is so
- 10 broad that would encompass about 80% of the people to
- 11 whom the union's rule is addressed anyway. The Labor
- 12 Department's interpretation is that because the word
- 13 "employer" is not qualified by "interested" employer, as
- 14 it is in a different provision of the statute, it was
- 15 Congress' intent that anybody who is an employer within
- 16 the meaning -- in interstate commerce, within the
- 17 meaning of the statute, even though he has no
- 18 involvement with this union, this union does not
- 19 represent his employees, he doesn't do business with
- 20 this union in any commercial sense -- anybody who meets
- 21 the statutory defintion of an employer cannot
- 22 contribute. And that includes any managing person
- 23 cannot make personal contributions.
- So that a partner in a law firm, a dentist who
- 25 employs two assistants, the person who owns the

- 1 neighborhood bar, all of those people under the Labor
- 2 Department's regulation and the Sixth Circuit decision
- 3 are, in any event, precluded from contributing.
- 4 QUESTION: The term employer then is defined
- 5 independently of the National Labor Relations Act, as to
- 6 whether they would be subject to the National Labor
- 7 Relations Act and their --
- 8 MR. GOTTESMAN: Yes. The term employer, as I
- 9 recall it, is defined in the statute as anyone who is an
- 10 employer under any other federal labor relations
- 11 statute. So that it picks up Railway Labor, National
- 12 Labor Relations Act, and indeed, many people who aren't
- 13 covered either because they are too small but are
- 14 covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act. So it is
- 15 anybody, in essence, who employs one or more employees
- 16 can't make either an institutional or a personal
- 17 contribution.
- 18 And that much is imposed by law. And the
- 19 Sixth Circuit, the decision that I referred to, is
- 20 Marshall versus Local 20. It is 611 Fed 2d, 645. The
- 21 Sixth Circuit explained, this is what Congress
- 22 intended. It wanted these unions to be for their
- 23 members and it wanted all of these people. That case
- 24 involved a personal friend of the candidate who employed
- 25 two people; he was a dentist. And the court said that

- 1 his contribution was a violation of the statute.
- 2 So that what the union is doing is filling a
- 3 space that Congress in Title IV left open, but not such
- 4 a broad space as perhaps is suggested by the briefs of
- 5 the respondent.
- Now, in that Title IV scheme there is clear
- 7 evidence as to why it is that Congress not only laid
- 8 down certain rules but also laid down the additional
- 9 provision that beyond these rules, the union shall be
- 10 free to adopt their own and make their own choices with
- 11 respect to election rules. And what the legislation
- 12 shows is that Congress was struggling with two
- 13 objectives.
- On the one hand, the McClellan hearings had
- 15 shown without doubt that there were some undemocratic
- 16 unions, and that there were, in fact, certain statutory
- 17 necessities that were going to be required if those
- 18 unions were going to be made democratic and put back in
- 19 the hands of their union officers. And so, Congress
- 20 said we are going to lay down and mandate by federal law
- 21 those rules that we have determined are essential to the
- 22 achievement of union democracy, and those we have done
- 23 in Title IV.
- But the other congressional concern is that we
- 25 do not intrude too far on union autonomy. This was,

- 1 after all, the first time that Congress had ever
- 2 legislated with respect to internal union affairs, and
- 3 the legislative reports are replete with statements --
- 4 we are dealing here with private associations. We, by
- 5 enacting this statute, are tinkering with the mechanisms
- 6 by which the leadership of private associations are
- 7 selected, and in doing so, we want to act as limitedly
- 8 as we can. We have defined certain evils; we will
- 9 mandate the correction of those evils. Beyond that we
- 10 will not go. And more, beyond that, we will make clear
- 11 that the choice will be for the union members of what
- 12 their rules will be beyond this.
- More than that, the whole point of this
- 14 statute was to return the governance of unions to their
- 15 members, so the legislative history is replete with
- 16 statements -- we shouldn't go too far in legislating
- 17 rules of the unions, not only because we violate their
- 18 autonomy, but because we are unfaithful to the very
- 19 purpose of this statute. The purpose of this statute is
- 20 we will create minimum standards that will be sufficient
- 21 to give the union back to its members.
- 22 And certainly the record in this case shows
- 23 that the steelworkers union is in the hands of its
- 24 members. Candidates for office are defeated all the
- 25 time, incumbents are removed at a rate equal if not

- 1 exceeding that in federal elections. And we will let
- 2 the members make choices on all the matters except those
- 3 that we have specifically dictated here.
- And thus, we have in Title IV the closing of
- 5 the circle. Certain rules laid down and a specific
- 6 mandate that beyond that, the choice is for the union
- 7 members and it cannot be dictated by any provision
- 8 outside of Title IV.
- 9 QUESTION: Do you think the free speech
- 10 provision is constitutional, in the sense that -- what
- 11 if there were a union rule that would purport to limit
- 12 free speech beyond that which is guaranteed with a
- 13 statute? Do you think that --
- MR. GOTTESMAN: Oh, it would clearly --
- 15 QUESTION: Why would that be constitutional
- 16 and this -- I know your bottom line, at least one of
- 17 your bottom lines is that if construed this way, this
- 18 provision at issue here would be unconstitutional.
- 19 MR. GOTTESMAN: Right. Well, what we have got
- 20 -- I mean, the constitutional issue in any case is --
- 21 this is a private association, it has private
- 22 decision-making mechanisms, --
- 23 QUESTION: Well why couldn't the union then
- 24 just limit free speech beyond that which the statute
- 25 purports to guarantee?

- 1 MR. GOTTESMAN: At every stage the question is
- 2 whether there is a sufficient government justification
- 3 for the intrusion that it is making on the union
- 4 autonomy. And I think there is a distinction in
- 5 measuring that between a rule whose function it is, and
- 6 which is directly aimed at providing the decisionmaking
- 7 in the hands of the union's members; a rule that says
- 8 there must be elections, a rule that says there will be
- 9 notice of elections, a rule that says you will not
- 10 prevent candidates from voicing their views or other
- 11 members from voicing their views.
- 12 QUESTION: Do you think the union has to hold
- 13 elections rather than, say, appoint its officer by some
- 14 other method?
- 15 MR. GOTTESMAN: Well, certainly
- 16 Landrum-Griffin says so, and certainly the First
- 17 Amendment argument that that would be an intrusion on
- 18 freedom of association I think would be a much harder
- 19 one than the one we have got here, because there the
- 20 governmental interest would be stated and there is a
- 21 closer nexus between the governmental interest than
- 22 there is here.
- 23 QUESTION: Mr. Gottesman, you referred to a
- 24 distinction between contributions and expenditures.
- 25 Will you elaborate on that and suggest some examples of

- 1 the distinction, the way it would operate?
- 2 MR. GOTTESMAN: Yes. If a non-member of the
- 3 union wanted to support a candidate in the steelworkers
- 4 election, and wanted to take his money and go out and
- 5 buy newspaper space, wanted to go out and spend money to
- 6 do various kinds of things to advertise his views on
- 7 that subject, there is nothing -- the union is powerless
- 8 to do anything about it, but beyond that, the rule does
- 9 not purport to forbid, as it cannot, a non-member from
- 10 expending money directly, just as under the federal law
- 11 he cannot.
- 12 QUESTION: In that type of advertising or mail
- 13 campaign, is it your view that the identity of the
- 14 candidate could be specifically mentioned, rather than
- 15 --
- 16 MR. GOTTESMAN: Absolutely. As long as the
- 17 limitations in the union's rules are the same as those
- 18 in the federal rule. As long as he is acting
- 19 independently of the candidate.
- 20 QUESTION: That substantially weakens the
- 21 basic purpose of the rule as you have annunciated it,
- 22 doesn't it?
- MR. GOTTESMAN: Well, it weakens it in the
- 24 same way and to the same extent that that same
- 25 distinction was said to be weakened in Buckley by some

- 1 who thought, in dissent, that the court's -- that the
- 2 line the court drew between contributions and
- 3 expenditures --
- QUESTION: But there is no way the union could 5 stop it.
- 6 MR. GOTTESMAN: That is right, there is no way
- 7 the union could stop outside expenditures. The union
- 8 only has jurisdiction over its members. All it can do
- 9 is say to its members you will not take money from
- 10 outsiders. It cannot stop an outsider who wants to
- 11 spend money and not give it to a union member; it just
- 12 has not control, no jurisdiction over it.
- Now turning to 101(a)(2), it has to be looked
- 14 at in the context, it seems to us, of what Title IV has
- 15 done. And the question has to be -- because this really
- 16 is the question -- did Congress, when it wrote this
- 17 other title of the same statute, intend to overturn the
- 18 very decision that it made in Title IV, to leave all
- 19 other choices to the union members.
- 20 When you look at it, the first thing, the
- 21 first right it confers is the right to meet and assemble
- 22 freely with other members. Now, that is the only place
- 23 in 101(a)(2) where the associational right is addressed,
- 24 and it is expressly and in terms confined to meeting
- 25 with other members.

- Needless to say, that is the not the provision 2 the court below relied on. The court below relied on 3 the provision to express any views, arguments or 4 opinions. Senator McClellan and the others who proposed 5 that explained the purpose of that provision. It was to 6 remedy what they found to be the case -- that within 7 unions generally, people who spoke out in criticism of 8 officers got -- suffered reprisals. They might be 9 beaten up, they might be disciplined, expelled, fined. 10 He said we can't have -- we need sanctuary for the union 11 member. We can't have all these -- we have all these 12 wonderful structural titles in this bill like Title IV, 13 but if members are afraid to get up and speak because 14 they are going to be expelled if they do so, those 15 titles aren't going to work, nor will any of other 16 objectives work.
- So we need here something that tells the union
 member if you speak, if you become a candidate, if you
 do these things, you are not going to be punished for
 doing so. That was the objective of this provision.

 Now, there is, to be sure, an overlap between
 Title IV and Title I, but it is not a redundancy. If a
 member makes a campaign speech, to discipline him would
 violate both titles. But in the statutory scheme, what
 Title IV says is that violation, the remedy will be

- 1 setting aside the election. What Title I says, and what
- 2 was added by 101(a)(2) is that it is not going to be
- 3 sufficient to protect the member's freedom to say that
- 4 if he gets thrown out of the union, the election will be
- 5 set aside. We have got to give him personal
- 6 protection. And that is what 101(a)(2) does. He gets a
- 7 personal remedy, and that was designed to give him the
- 8 sanctuary that would allow him to be free to enforce his
- 9 rights and to voice his views.
- Now, that is the only purpose stated, or the
- 11 "express any views" provision in 101(a)(2). And the
- 12 emphasis I think is on the word "any". This was a
- 13 protection to members who express any views, even those
- 14 that are disapproved by the leadership of the union.
- 15 And it is not, I think, legitimate, given what Title IV
- 16 expressly says about election rules, to say that what
- 17 Congress was doing over here with those words was
- 18 creating a new campaign finance provision. There is
- 19 nothing in the language and nothing in the legislative
- 20 history that suggests that that was Congress' intention.
- 21 The sole argument on the other side is an
- 22 analogy to the Constitution. I do want to reserve some
- 23 of my time. We have dealt extensively with that
- 24 supposed analogy in our briefs and shown why we think it
- 25 to be flawed. If -- not the least of which is that it

- 1 fails to note that the constitutional analogy that is
- 2 being relied upon is one that was first articulated by
- 3 this Court 17 years after this statute was enacted, and
- 4 that it is not likely that Congress could have
- 5 conceived, even if it was intending to legislate the
- 6 First Amendment, that to do so would have carried with
- 7 it those implications.
- 8 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Very well. Mr. Rauh?
- 9 ORAL ARGUMENT OF JOSEPH L. RAUH, JR., ESQ.
- 10 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
- 11 MR. RAUH: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
- 12 please the Court:
- 13 District Judge Hart found this absolute ban on
- 14 contributions outrageous. That is not my word; that is
- 15 the district court's word. And Circuit Judge McKinnon
- 16 for a unanimous court said we cannot conceive of
- 17 anything that would do more to inhibit union democracy
- 18 than this rule.
- 19 And the American Civil Liberties Union, a
- 20 long-time supporter of unionism, has told this Court in
- 21 its amicus brief that elections will be a charade if
- 22 this continues. All these of these conclusions are
- 23 buttressed by a statute and a legislative history that
- 24 fairly bristles with Congress' overriding purpose of
- 25 union democracy.

- 1 There has only been one president ever in the
- 2 history of this union that beat an incumbent, and you
- 3 know what he was? He was the Secretary Treausurer. It
- 4 was a palace revolt and every other time there has been
- 5 a re-election, and usually like the last time, you don't
- 6 even get a contest.
- Now, we have heard a lot this morning about
- 8 Title IV. We haven't heard anything about Title I.
- 9 Title I and Title -- Title I contains two provisions,
- 10 both of which apply here. One is the right to sue
- 11 provision, that is 101(a)(4); the other is the right to
- 12 speak provision, that is 101(a)(2). The district court
- 13 outlawed the rule under 101(a)(4) the right to sue; the
- 14 court of appeals under 101(a)(2), the right to speak.
- 15 It preferred to invalidate it on that ground.
- 16 Now, Section 101(b) says you have to
- 17 invalidate. The courts have to invalidate any provision
- 18 of a constitution that violates part of the Bill of
- 19 Rights. That is exactly what both courts, all four
- 20 judges below, did.
- Now looking first at 101(a)(2), the right to
- 22 express any views, arguments or opinions without
- 23 limitation. Now, both Senator McClellan -- they say
- 24 something I have got a paucity of citations. That is
- 25 almost -- that is pretty funny if you think that we have

- 1 the man who put in the Bill of Rights, Senator
- 2 McClellan, and the man for whom the bill is named in the
- 3 House of Representatives, Representative Landrum -- it
- 4 is called the Landrum-Griffin bill -- both says, both
- 5 analogize this 101(a)(2) to the Constitution. And of
- 6 course, indeed, it is funny what they say. They admit
- 7 in their brief that 101(a)(2) recites the core of value
- 8 of the Constitution.
- 9 Well, what is the core of the constitutional
- 10 free speech? It is the right of effective speech, not
- 11 the right just to talk, without the right to solicit
- 12 funds. There can be no effective speech -- I am not
- 13 relying on anything I have ever said in my life; I rely
- 14 on what this Court has said over and over and over
- 15 again. Buckley, Bellotti, Berkeley -- and what did
- 16 Shaumberg, Justice White and Bates, Justice Blackmun --
- 17 they recited recently that these rules, they are not
- 18 just something that came down in Bellotti and Berkeley;
- 19 these rules have been here. The solicitation of funds
- 20 is part of the right to speak a speech. Without funds
- 21 -- that isn't new. That's old, and this idea that
- 22 suddenly --
- QUESTION: Mr. Rauh, if it is old, what would
- 24 you think was your strongest case before the Act was
- 25 passed? It surprises me --

- 1 MR. RAUH: Well, I go all the way back to
- 2 Patterson, NAACP in 58, go back to Cantwell in 40 I
- 3 think, Your Honor. But I will say that I take the
- 4 review that either Justice White or Justice Blackmun
- 5 made in their two recent cases, suit me fine.
- 6 QUESTION: Well, those were court opinions.
- 7 MR. RAUH: Yes, sir. But I am saying that you
- 8 made the reviews for us. I just wanted to thank you for
- 9 your courtesy of saving me a lot of time on research.
- 10 (Laughter.)
- 11 Now look, this Court has said it so often that
- 12 it is SOP, that the First Amendment has its fullest and
- 13 most urgent applications in the context of political
- 14 campaigns.
- 15 QUESTION: Mr. Rauh, your argument is based on
- 16 an assumption that the section incorporates the First
- 17 Amendment.
- 18 MR. RAUH: Not -- it incorporates the basic
- 19 core value of the First Amendment.
- 20 QUESTION: Let me just ask you why the
- 21 Congress wouldn't have used the language of the First
- 22 Amendment if that is what they intended. They used
- 23 something different.
- 24 MR. RAUH: That is correct, but both McClellan
- 25 and Landrum said it, Your Honor. And I guess I don't

- 1 believe Congress always uses historical language. They
- 2 brought in a different provision, I believe, when the
- 3 Senator said it and the man who ran the bill in the
- 4 House said it. I think that is the best evidence of the
- 5 intent. The words are very clear, if Your Honor
- 6 please. Opinion views the words are in some ways, can
- 7 be as broad or broader than the First Amendment. And
- 8 there is a case in the court of appeals where they said
- 9 it is broader than the First Amendment. But there is
- 10 certainly nothing that indicates it is not the First
- 11 Amendment.
- 12 But going back, if Your Honor please, to your
- 13 decisions of this Court, on the fullest and most urgent
- 14 application is at election time, and that goes double,
- 15 double for unions. In many instances, maybe in most,
- 16 the only time you ever get any discussion in a union of
- 17 an issue is during an election campaign. And let me
- 18 tell you, because this is personal, following your
- 19 decision in Travolidge they had an election in the
- 20 mineworkers, and with concerned outside money they
- 21 debated violence and corruption and ended the
- 22 dictatorial rule, and that would never have been ended
- 23 without concerned citizens outside.
- 24 Equally relevant is Hall against Cole. There
- 25 you said that Title I was specifically designed to

- 1 protect the union member's right to seek higher office.
- 2 This interrelates, pulls it together. Union democracy
- 3 and speech. And that was the purpose. And then you
- 4 said, oh, counsel has to be available to make speech
- 5 effective.
- 6 QUESTION: Mr. Rauh, how do you get democracy
- 7 if you get all of your money outside, ten times what
- 8 everybody else has? Would that be democracy?
- 9 MR. RAUH: No, sir.
- 10 QUESTION: So you are not for that, are you?
- 11 MR. RAUH: No, sir. And it would be a simple
- 12 rule to have -- all you would have to do, Your Honor, is
- 13 say nobody give more than \$50 or \$100, and that includes
- 14 the staff, and you would have --
- 15 QUESTION: Doesn't that affect free speech?
- MR. RAUH: What?
- 17 QUESTION: Doesn't that affect free speech?
- 18 MR. RAUH: I -- would be a reasonable rule.
- 19 What would be reasonable? You said \$1000 was reasonable
- 20 for a federal election. I am willing to go for anything
- 21 that would be reasonable. I think a lower figure for a
- 22 union election than you have, but you would have to
- 23 decide what -- they have the initiatial --
- 24 QUESTION: You think the union couldn't decide
- 25 it for itself?

- 1 MR. RAUH: Yes, it would decide it, and you
- 2 would have a right of review. But let me tell you, that
- 3 is not their point. They, in the yellow brief at page
- 4 12, they let the cat out of the bag. They are not going
- 5 after big contributions; they are going after lots of
- 6 little contributions. Their complaint, under item 2 on
- 7 page 12, is that we, in the Sadlowski group, solicited
- 8 progressive lists, and they say very -- we don't -- they
- 9 were not saying they refused the individual non-member
- 10 contribution --
- 11 QUESTION: Mr. Rauh, excuse me, I don't see a
- 12 page 12. Are we really talking about the reply brief of
- 13 petitioners?
- 14 MR. RAUH: Yes, Justice O'Connor.
- 15 QUESTION: It goes to page 10.
- 16 MR. RAUH: There is a 10 and then there is a
- 17 12. I am sorry. We can hand up another copy --
- 18 QUESTION: Well, there are two yellow briefs.
- 19 It is a little confusing -- each of them is labeled
- 20 reply brief.
- 21 MR. RAUH: Are you looking at the one on cert,
- 22 Justice O'Connor? Because there is also one on the
- 23 merits, and that would explain it. At page 12, what
- 24 they say is, it is not huge individual ones. What they
- 25 are complaining about is small, and Justice Marshall, at

- 1 the bottom of that page, what they are complaining about
- 2 is small and moderate-size contributions from
- 3 like-minded, non-members. They are not complaining
- 4 about big ones.
- 5 Coming back to Hall and Cole --
- 6 QUESTION: I am trying to find that language
- 7 on 12 that you spoke of.
- 8 MR. RAUH: At the bottom, sir.
- 9 QUESTION: I have got the right brief now.
- 10 MR. RAUH: Look at the bottom. Do you see
- 11 item 2, Your Honor?
- 12 QUESTION: Yes.
- MR. RAUH: Under that you will see, the
- 14 experience -- not one of huge individual non-member
- 15 contributions, but of nationwide solicitations of lists
- 16 of progressives. And then at the bottom, the aggregates
- 17 of small and moderate-sized contributions. They have
- 18 let the cat out of the bag. Here is a progressive who
- 19 took lists of progressives and asked them to help him
- 20 let them get money so they can get the progressive
- 21 message to the membership and let the membership
- 22 decide. It couldn't be clearer what they want. They
- 23 don't want him to have enough money to put his message
- 24 across.
- Nobody who gives a few dollars on these lists

- 1 are going to think anybody is beholden to them. This
- 2 was an effort to get the money to put the message
- 3 across, which Your Honors have been the most forceful on
- 4 saying one has a right to do.
- 5 QUESTION: What about disclosure?
- 6 MR. RAUH: Well, that is fine. You could do
- 7 disclosure, you can do a reasonable top. The reason
- 8 they don't want a reasonable top is that they are not
- 9 complaining about big contributions.
- 10 QUESTION: Well, what if the union rule had
- 11 provided that no candidate shall take more than 50% of
- 12 his money from outsiders, if it put no ceiling?
- 13 MR. RAUH: I find that a difficult question,
- 14 Your Honor. But -- I don't know. If you didn't put
- 15 another thing on the staff, it won't work, because that
- 16 can just stop what they get from the staff. What you
- 17 would have to do is combine that 50% with some staff.
- 18 You can't -- I could buy this. Put 50% on what you can
- 19 get from the outsiders and 50% on what you get from the
- 20 staff and maybe you have got a rule that will recreate
- 21 some union democracy.
- 22 QUESTION: Your answer to my question, then,
- 23 is the union couldn't do that?
- 24 MR. RAUH: If they didn't do something about
- 25 the staff, because they would then have a way of

- 1 offsetting and making it difficult. I would doubt it
- 2 would reasonable. I have never thought about that
- 3 before, but I would think that you would have to put
- 4 something together to make it really work.
- 5 QUESTION: What about limitations on not all
- 6 outside sources, but selected sources like corporations.
- 7 MR. RAUH: Well, that is already barred, Your
- 8 Honor, under the employer provision, so that is barred.
- 9 QUESTION: But partnerships, or --?
- MR. RAUH: Well, yes, a partnership would be
- 11 an employer.
- 12 QUESTION: Or political organizations that
- 13 have been formed for -- to influence the election?
- 14 Suppose there is a committee to influence the
- 15 steelworkers' next election, and they independently
- 16 raise their money and then give large sums to the
- 17 candidate?
- MR. RAUH: Well, that would be the same thing
- 19 as if Mr. Sadlowski sent out the letter. If somebody
- 20 sent out the letter for him, that would be all. But
- 21 they are saying --
- 22 QUESTION: So you would say they couldn't do
- 23 that, either.
- 24 MR. RAUH: No, I say they couldn't bar you
- 25 from going to vast numbers of people to get small

- 1 contributions. There is not going to be any beholden or
- 2 any corruption in anything like that, Your Honor. They
- 3 use lists of people and ask for money. So Mr. Sadlowski
- 4 who is a progressive, they used a progressive list,
- 5 could get his message to the membership so the
- 6 membership could decide. The membership doesn't have to
- 7 vote that way.
- 8 QUESTION: Does the present law bar, --
- 9 without this provision, does the law bar raising any
- 10 money from corporations?
- 11 MR. RAUH: Yes, because the corporation would
- 12 be an employer, Your Honor.
- 13 QUESTION: You mean any employer in whatever
- 14 industry?
- 15 MR. RAUH: In whatever industry, but I think
 - 16 it has to mean a real employer. I don't go nearly as
 - 17 far as they do that if you -- a dentist has an
 - 18 assistant, that that makes him an employer for this
 - 19 purpose, but that is not before the Court, Your Honor.
 - 20 Now, what they say --
 - 21 QUESTION: Can I ask one other question while
 - 22 you are paused, Mr. Rauh. Do you agree with your
 - 23 opponent that if a non-member, say a relative or a
 - 24 friend, decided he wanted to support your client's
 - 25 candidacy, he could spend all the money he wanted to and

- 1 there is nothing they could do about it?
- 2 MR. RAUH: No, sir. And I was surprised to
- 3 hear what was said here. On page 74 of the record, in
- 4 the regulation appears the following: Should a
- 5 non-member attempt to support a candidate without the
- 6 candidate's solicitation or cooperation, it is the
- 7 candidate's obligation to immediately contact the
- 8 non-member, reject that support and request that it be
- 9 discontinued and take whatever action is necessary to
- 10 avoid such support having an effect upon the election.
- 11 As noted above, failure to do so, will be evidence that
- 12 the support was accepted.
- 13 They have done everything in their power to
- 14 prevent the expenditures that they informed the Court
- 15 they could permit.
- The steelworkers answer -- what they are
- 17 really saying is you, challenger of the income, but you
- 18 go get it from the rank and file. That is What they are
- 19 saying. That comes with poor grace.
- 20 QUESTION: And the staff? And the staff of
- 21 the union?
- 22 MR. RAUH: Well, but for the -- as an
- 23 incumbent you are ahead of the challenger, Your Honor.
- 24 QUESTION: They are free to get it from the
- 25 staff.

- MR. RAUH: Yes, and we got 3%. They got all 2 of theirs. We are free. Can sleep under the bridge, if 3 I may put it that way, Your Honor.
- 4 (Laughter.)
- I would say it comes with poor grace for them
 to tell us to go the rank and file, and this is
 admitted. They got 90% of their funds from the staff.
 And I call your attention to the Joint Appendix
 references, 173 where we have an affidavit saying this,
 and 347 and 48 where they do not challenge it in their
 response.
- Now, if we can't -- if they can't get money

 13 from the rank and file and get 90% from their staff, how

 14 in heaven's name are we to do what they can't do? Now,

 15 as I said, the steelworkers reply brief at page 12 does

 16 let the cat out of the bag for what they -- they once

 17 used to say they were out to stop corruption, big

 18 contributions. Now they say flatly no, we are out to

 19 stop your solicition of likeminded, concerned citizens.

 20 I don't see how that could ever be squared with Title I,

 21 Section 101(a)(2.
- This is a perfect example of where moderate
 and small contributions from likeminded citizens -- it
 at a perfect example of what we did when we upset the
 Boyle thing after the Travolidge decision gave us a

- 1 chance. It is a perfect example of democracy in trying
- 2 to get funds to get your message across.
- 3 They can still say -- this is not a question
- 4 like 441(e) that was referred to. That was a wholly
- 5 different thing. That is the provision of law that
- 6 prevents a non-resident alien from giving to a federal
- 7 campaign. But that works in our favor. Resident aliens
- 8 who can't vote can give. The only reason a non-resident
- 9 alien is in there is for security reasons, people that
- 10 are abroad and also they haven't -- a non-resident alien
- 11 doesn't have the rights that a resident alien does. But
- 12 a resident alien can give, even though he can't vote.
- 13 QUESTION: But wouldn't a resident alien be
- 14 like a member of the staff? That is, interested in
- 15 union affairs, but I understand staff members can't vote
- 16 unless they are members of the union.
- 17 MR. RAUH: Yes, if they -- they all are.
- 18 QUESTION: Are they all members of the union?
- 19 MR. RAUH: Yes. And so is counsel members of
- 20 the union. That is how this comes up, you know.
- 21 QUESTION: Well, how can you qualify as a
- 22 steelworker?
- MR. RAUH: Well, you will have to ask --
- QUESTION: You don't have to work as a
- 25 steelworker --

- MR. RAUH: I know they are members of the union. You will have to ask the other side how they work that our, sir.
- I just don't see a clear case of your statute

 -- here you have got the language, right to express any

 views, arguments or opinions. The legislative history

 the parallelism to the Constitution from the two men

 who would be the most important, and the pre-eminent

 purpose of Congress is for union democracy. You know,

 sometimes I think why did they need to do this? They

 have got so many advantages on the incumbent anyway, it

 is hard to see why they had to go ahead and put this

 final nail in a challenger's coffin.
- But the purpose of this statute -- this Court

 15 has over and over again, in dealing with Landrum-Griffin

 16 said, a lot of it was written on the floor. The Bill of

 17 Rights was written on the floor. Has said well, we will

 18 look at the objectives of this statute. Well, the

 19 objective of union democracy is perfectly clear, and of

 20 course, doing this does avoid any reference to any

 21 constitutional problem.
- The steelworkers rule, based on all of this, 23 and I quote from the man who has done the most writing 24 and work, the professor who has done the most on the 25 whole subject of union democracy, Professor Clyde

- 1 Somers. His affidavit is in the record. He says, this
- 2 rule virtually guarantees that incumbents will be
- 3 insulated from electoral challenge. With every
- 4 principle of statutory construction the other way, to
- 5 knock it out, to leave it there is so clearly contrary
- 6 to Congress' intent.
- 7 QUESTION: Of course, you assume that the
- 8 election of the union is controlled by money.
- 9 MR. RAUH: A certain minimum amount is
- 10 necessary to get your message across, Your Honor,
- 11 because you have got 1,300,000 voters, you have got a
- 12 staff on one side and you have just got to have
- 13 something. I don't say -- no, I do not assume it is
- 14 controlled by money, Your Honor. I am saying a minimum
- 15 amount of money is necessary.
- 16 QUESTION: All I am trying to do is try to
- 17 warn you that you sound like it --
- MR. RAUH: Well, thank you.
- 19 QUESTION: And I know you didn't mean it.
- 20 QUESTION: A senator, for example, who has a
- 21 constituency that large, anything in this record that
- 22 would indicate what the parallel problems would be?
- 23 MR. RAUH: Well, it would be so -- many times
- 24 more, but there is nothing in the record. We did not
- 25 feel that was necessary. I don't know of anything in

- 1 the record on what an ordinary senator --
- 2 QUESTION: A million, three, did you say?
- 3 MR. RAUH: A million, three members. I don't
- 4 know how much that would mean in money, but nothing was
- 5 spent by us -- and we got as much as we could out of the
- 6 staff. We got as much as we could out of the staff,
- 7 that was nothing. We got as much as we could out of the
- 8 rank and file; that was substantial, but we did get a
- 9 lot from lists of concerned citizens, and that was the
- 10 only place we could go.
- It seems to me that it is clear --
- 12 QUESTION: Mr. Rauh, you go so far as to
- 13 suggest that there is no legitimate basis for a rule of
- 14 this kind?
- MR. RAUH: Oh, there is not in this.
- 16 QUESTION: I mean, is there no union interest
- 17 in not having the union leaderhip beholden to someone
- 18 who collects large sums of money, contributed by many
- 19 small contributors -- but a fund raiser?
- 20 MR. RAUH: Yes, I don't see any possibility.
- 21 All that it does is to get likeminded citizens to
- 22 contribute to this man so he can put his message, like
- 23 minded message, over and win or lose fairly --
- 24 QUESTION: Well, what would the difference --
- MR. RAUH: Furthermore --

- 1 QUESTION: Let me just -- what is the
- 2 difference between one fund raiser who might have great
- 3 influence, and one very wealthy supporter of the union?
- MR. RAUH: Well because, Mr. Sadlowski could
- 5 have written this letter to the -- they talk about
- 6 letters that were written by -- Sadlowski, they were
- 7 letters that Sadlowski could have written to those lists
- 8 --
- 9 QUESTION: Well, I am not really directing my
- 10 question at the facts of this particular election, but
- 11 just as a general proposition, can you conceive of any
- 12 situation in which there would be a legitimate
- 13 justification for a rule of this kind?
- MR. RAUH: I think if it wasn't so overbroad,
- 15 I think you could say -- certainly you can say you can't
- 16 give more than \$1000, and I think you can go below that.
- 17 QUESTION: Would you say you can't have one
- 18 solicitor collect more than \$1000?
- 19 MR. RAUH: If that were real -- if that were a
- 20 real danger, yes. If that were a real danger and a real
- 21 way to settle the over-breadth, yes. But I don't think
- 22 there is a real danger because the money is really being
- 23 asked for in Sadlowski's name. But if you want to say
- 24 you couldn't ask for more, so Sadlowski would have to
- 25 ask for it all himself, that wouldn't trouble me. But

- 1 if you could say there can't be a middleman in the
- 2 fund-raising, probably that is not so terrible.
- But that is not their reason. They say flatly
- 4 on page 12 of their yellow reply brief that they don't
- 5 want small contributions --
- 6 QUESTION: No, but they finished the paragraph
- 7 on page 13 with the thought that I was just expressing.
- 8 MR. RAUH: Well, your thoughts, yes. That
- 9 would be all right. This is just so broad as to -- .
- 10 Well, 101(a)(2) settles it, and it settle it
- 11 for the court below. But you could make an alternative
- 12 decision under 101(a)(4). Remember that this was aimed
- 13 at Sadlowski and his lawyers.
- 14 They say -- I could hardly believe my ears
- 15 here that there was some suggestion that they hadn't
- 16 intended litigation, to block litigation. They said,
- 17 oh, you can have personal service, but you can't use
- 18 your secretary, you can't use your office, you can't use
- 19 your supplies. How could any lawyer represent anybody
- 20 pro bono who is an insurgent and they need lawyers --
- 21 God knows they have admitted you have got to have a
- 22 lawyer in this fight. How could anybody represent them,
- 23 using your personal services, and not be able to use
- 24 your secretary, your office and your staff? And they
- 25 bar using them, in flat terms they barred using your

- 1 secretary, your staff and your office. Of course this
- 2 was aimed at stopping litigation.
- Indeed, at the same time that they did this,
- 4 they started a lawsuit to stop litigation. They sued
- 5 the Association for Union Democracy to stop litigation.
- 6 The case came to this Court two years ago, McBridge
- 7 against Rockefeller, This case was here, and this Court
- 8 denied cert. But the case was here, you saw it. They
- 9 tried to prevent any litigation because the people, you
- 10 couldn't -- funds have to be raised for the expenses.
- 11 Lawyers may feel deeply enough for union democracy that
- 12 they will work for nothing, but there are expenses. And
- 13 those were paid by these organizations and they brought
- 14 a lawsuit to prevent that. There is no question what
- 15 the purpose of this was; it was to stop that kind of --
- 16 QUESTION: But do you think that purpose
- 17 survived the opinion that former Secretary Wirtz Wrote
- 18 that is at 454 of the Joint Appendix?
- 19 MR. RAUH: I sure do.
- 20 QUESTION: You do?
- 21 MR. RAUH: Because he even went further. If
- 22 you look at that, Your Honor, they say well, if the suit
- 23 wasn't bona fide, why, that is then not permitted. Of
- 24 course, the Wirtz opinion clearly conflicts with the
- 25 clear language of the rule, with its purpose and

- 1 everything.
- 2 QUESTION: Well, that is like our saying one
- 3 of our decisions construing a statute conflicts with the
- 4 plain language of the statute.
- 5 MR. RAUH: No, you are not hand-picked and
- 6 paid by one of the litigants, Your Honor. You are an
- 7 independent body. When you make an opinion that is
- 8 determinative, but when you are a hand-picked committee
- 9 paid by one of the parties, you are a lot different.
- 10 Indeed, you said this, or the Court said this in the
- 11 steel case, where you wouldn't even let the Railroad
- 12 Adjustment Board, which is only a third union people,
- 13 make decisions because of the fact that they were a
- 14 third union controlled, and this was a union grievance
- 15 by blacks against the union.
- Now, there is only one -- as I said, 101(a)(2)
- 17 applies, 101(a)(4) applies. The question is what would
- 18 you do under 101(a)(4). Why is it you can't rewrite the
- 19 rule? Judge Hart was right. The court of appeals
- 20 preferred to put it on another ground, but Judge Hart
- 21 was right when he said that the unlawful effects of this
- 22 rule have a chilling effect. He doesn't want to rewrite
- 23 it, it can't be rewritten, and I suggest it can't be
- 24 rewritten, if Your Honor please. It can't be rewritten
- 25 because you have got all sorts of things that have to be

1 dealt with.

If the statute -- if you rewrite, do you say 3 oh, it has got to be a bona fide suit, as they 4 complained, or, it can't be intended to extract 5 political gain, as Judge McKinnon laughed at in his 6 opinion. Or, what do you say about this? They argue 7 that you can't use the money to get the word out about 8 the lawsuit. Well, suppose there is a lawsuit, and 9 suppose that lawsuit is won and suppose they had done 10 some things that were bad. You mean, that can't be told 11 to the public? You can't rewrite this rule for them. Of course, it really doesn't matter. If I am 13 right on 101(a)(2), I just think it would be better for 14 union democracy, which I am here pleading for, be better 15 for union democracy if you knocked it out on both, 16 because then people will realize that there is something 17 serious.

In conclusion, Your Honors, unions are not

19 private associations, as were made here. Congress has

20 given tremendous assistance to the building of American

21 unions since the Wagner Act 47 years ago, and it has

22 fortified unions with exclusive authority to represent

23 and require dues from even those who do not want that

24 representation. In 59, Congress realized they had to do

25 something to protect the rights of the public and to

1 make those rights count. So what did they do? They set 2 up a statute where union democracy would flourish.

1

- All four judges below have held that both the purpose in two express provisions of this bill repel the steelworkers attack on union democracy. I believe in exclusivity of union representatives. I believe in the union shop. I have worked for them. But those things bring something else. They bring a responsibility with them, and this provision, this stopping of the slightest help for those who would challenge an incumbent, those are not carrying out the responsibility and the favors and the help that the Congress of this country gave
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Mr. Gottesman, you have 15 about four minutes remaining.
- 16 ORAL ARGUMENT OF MICHAEL H GOTTESMAN, ESQ.
- 17 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER Rebuttal
- 18 MR. GOTTESMAN: Thank you, Your Honor. There
- 19 is a certain iron in this case. We are told that what
- 20 the union did here is a terrible blow to democracy. But
- 21 what the union did here is an expression of democracy.
- 22 There is no debate about the fairness of the union's
- 23 convention. Delegates elected by the members from all
- 24 over the country came, and overwhelmingly, by a ten to
- 25 one margin, said we want this rule. Now, that is

- 1 democracy.
- The question is whether Congress intended to
- 3 stifle that democratic choice, and whether it
- 4 constitutionally can do so.
- 5 Mr. Rauh has recited in the last half hour
- 6 facts about union elections that so diverge from the
- 7 facts in this record and the facts about --
- 8 QUESTION: Well, Mr. Gottesman, on that point,
- 9 we asked you about independent expenditures, and you
- 10 gave me quite a different impression than I get from
- 11 reading Joint Appendix, 74.
- MR. GOTTESMAN: Yes, I am sorry, Your Honor, I
- 13 should have made that clearer, and I had forgotten that
- 14 provision. The union cannot stop outside expenditure.
- 15 The union does want the candidate to make such efforts
- 16 as he can take to discourage them, and I apologize to
- 17 Your Honor, because I --
- 18 QUESTION: It is rather strongly worded, his
- 19 duty to stop that sort of thing.
- 20 MR. GOTTESMAN: Yes, but of course he can't --
- 21 those who do want to do it can do it. The union can't
- 22 stop them. And I apologize for having forgotten that.
- 23 It is important I think to remember the
- 24 posture of the case, and the posture of this case is
- 25 that summary judgment was granted to the respondents.

- 1 So that while Mr. Rauh recites as fact that people can't
- 2 get money from the members of the union, and the staff
- 3 always supports the incumbents, the evidence in this
- 4 record is quite the contrary. Indeed, there is
- 5 virtually nothing supporting what he is saying, but more
- 6 importantly, there is a great deal supporting the other 7 side.
- 8 QUESTION: Well, if you are talking about
- 9 summary judgment, is there really any evidence in the
- 10 record -- I mean, in the sense that you would have after
- 11 a case was tried.

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- 12 MR. GOTTESMAN: Well, there are -- it is not
- 13 the same. There are substantial affidavits that there
- 14 are numerous people who have unseated incumbents in
- 15 steelworker elections relying solely or almost solely on
- 16 member contributions.
- 17 QUESTION: Then are you saying if you win, it
- 18 should go back for a trial to the district court?
- 19 MR. GOTTESMAN: No. If we are right that
- 20 101(a)(2) doesn't create this right, we also moved to
- 21 dismiss the complaint. And of course, the complaint
- 22 didn't allege 101(a)(2), but I think we are entitled to
- 23 have it treated as amended, since that is what the court
- 24 of appeals relied on.
- 25 Our position was they don't state a claim

- 1 under the law. That is our first proposition. And if
- 2 we are right about that, dismissal is the proper
- 3 disposition. But if we are wrong about that and we are
- 4 down to fighting about whether the facts are what Mr.
- 5 Rauh says they are, there is not a fact he recited that
- 6 can be accepted in the present posture of this case.
- 7 Most of what he said has no record support; all of what
- 8 he said is flatly contradicted by affidavits that show,
- 9 as I say, that outsiders have defeated incumbents
- 10 relying on contributions within the union; that show
- 11 that Sadlowsky did not make a serious effort to raise
- 12 money from the union because he did not have to, he had
- 13 all the money he wanted from outsiders; that show that
- 14 the staff frequently supports the opponents, sometimes
- 15 unanimously supports the opponents of incumbents; that
- 16 shows that the staff are really just rank and filers,
- 17 almost all of the staff are people who worked in the
- 18 plant, worked their way up to local union positions,
- 19 went on the staff. They are members just like everybody
- 20 else. And they have the same rights to participate and
- 21 they have contractual protection against any harm being
- 22 done to them because they support whoever they choose or
- 23 choose not to support.
- 24 This record shows that 64% of the staff did
- 25 not support either candidate, at least financially in

- 1 the 1977 election. It also shows that the union has
- 2 1,300,000 members, all of whom are eligible
- 3 contributors; that other candidates have had no trouble
- 4 with in-plant solicitation. The people who run for top
- 5 office in the union -- and the record shows this --
- 6 aren't some person who doesn't know anybody. They are
- 7 people who achieved some status, as this Court said in
- 8 Buckley, they are incumbents of other offices. In that
- 9 capacity, whether local union, whether staff, in those
- 10 capacities they have gotten to know throughout this
- 11 union, they have the mechanism by which they can get
- 12 fund raising within the union going.
- 13 The record also contains evidence of elections
- 14 under this rule that successfully raised substantial
- 15 money to oppose an incumbent.
- 16 CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER: Your time has expired,
- 17 Mr. Gottesman. Thank you, gentlemen, the case is
- 18 submitted.
- (Whereupon, at 11:05 a.m. the oral argument in
- on the above-entitled matter was completed.)
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CERTIFICATION

Alderson Reporting Company, Inc. hereby certifies that the attached pages represent an accurate transcription of electronic sound recording of the oral argument before the Supreme Court of the United States in the matter of:

UNITED STEELWOPKERS OF AMERICA, AFLIO-CLC vs. EDWARD SADLOWSKI, JR.,

ET AL. # 81-395

and that these pages constitute the original transcript of the proceedings for the records of the Court.

BY Starua Agra Connelly

SUPREME COURT, U.S. MARSHAL'S OFFICE