

With due apologies to the board members who will read this memo along with the other organizers, I will say clearly and without equivocation that any on the staff who believes the deck was stacked, the decision predetermined, and the process not real in every respect, s/he is full of bulls**t and has opted out on an experience which is the lifeblood of this staff and what separates it from many others now and for the last 10 years. Internal staff process is not a game here, but a means of affecting fundamental directions in the course of the organization where the staff is allowed to offer input into leadership decisions.

My recommendation to the board and to Mr. McDonald will not be final, but it will be clear.

I will report to Mr. McDonald that the preconditions for organizing in Boston exist in terms of resources and staff. I will recommend that we are ready to begin as soon as he gives the sayso. I will fix that date as anytime from January 1st, onward.

That is all the leadership has asked me to report. Were I asked why I also believe with them that this is a proper course for ACORN, I would list the priority reasons that I found compelling as:

1. Consolidation of the union/community organization model in Boston.
2. Unification of the total ACORN staff and program throughout the country.
3. Involvement of Massachusetts as a key northeastern state in our regional development
4. Involvement of membership in Boston in ACORN 80 and the New York experience, which I believe is a watershed for ACORN and potentially for lower income people throughout the country.
5. Reaffirming our goals of organizing the unorganized within our constituency wherever they live whenever we can.

There are some of us who hope that ACORN 80 and New York will galvanize a potential mass movement of lower income people for a fight to win their fundamental place in our society and political system. ACORN organizationally has been constructed as a handmaiden to that larger movement and as a vehicle which can help articulate, build, and secure the victories that such a movement could make possible. Our move to organize our constituency in Massachusetts is part and parcel of building a strong ACORN and setting the pieces together for a movement that could fire change throughout the country. That concern for me dwarfs other external considerations.

Mark Splain, at the only point he spoke during the head organizers meeting, called the final determination on Boston, whatever it might be, "a close call, but regardless it is an important discussion and an important decision."

It is a close call. And, when we are looking at shades this way and shadows the other, there are many points on all sides that are correct and right, but finally have to be weighed. In the final balance I have come down in favor of organizing in Boston. I think it is the right decision, but nonetheless the discussion was as important as the decision and fulfilled its potential. Luckily in organizing, even when we err, hard work can still secure the victory, and make us appear correct, even when we might have been mistaken. I don't say that as consolation, but simply for your security. Now that we are moving towards this task in the streets of Boston, I have no doubts. Neither do I have any doubt that when the leadership makes a final determination on this issue that the