AOB NEWS
The Newsletter of the Association of Objectivist Businessmen
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Writers: Please contact *AOB News* Editor Ken West for information on our current needs, as well as ideas you may have for future articles. News items are always welcome, including recently published Letters to the Editor and Op-Ed pieces. Poets: *AOB News* may occasionally publish short poems.

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cisms of the Reagan and Bush presidencies. However, these years did see labor effectively "shut out" of the political process. Walter Mondale, a rabidly pro-union presidential candidate, was crushed in 1984, as was Michael Dukakis in 1988. Bill Clinton's 1992 victory was as a "New Democrat"—the Arkansas Governor ran away from traditional liberal constituencies, including labor. Clinton's support of NAFTA over union objections underscored this policy. And of course the 1994 GOP [Republican] Congressional victories dealt another severe political blow to labor. The rank-and-file of the labor movement contributed heavily to their bosses' political reversal of fortune—since the 1980s, over 30% of union members have voted Republican; in 1994, 40% of New York's union voters rejected Governor Cuomo in favor of George Pataki. 2

Over the past two years, there has been a sharp polarization of political rhetoric. While the GOP's "Contract with America" has been unable to effect real change, it *has* succeeded in reigniting the labor movement. In October 1995, the AFL-CIO elected John J. Sweeney as its new president. Sweeney has vowed to usher in a new era of "militant" and "aggressive" union activism. His handpicked lieutenant, Richard Bensinger, has warned business that the labor movement will be "at your doorstep, in your face, and on your conscience." 3 The AFL-CIO's new secretary-treasurer, Richard Trumka, announced at the union's April convention that "Something historic's about to happen....You are about to see corporate America's worst nightmare come true." 4 Thus, while the GOP's "revolution" rhetoric has so far yielded minimal results, Sweeney is working feverishly to back up his words with actions. Are Sweeney's threats of a "new era" credible? If one is to judge based upon (1) Sweeney's access to resources and (2) his philosophical consistency, the answer is a resounding *yes.*

The AFL-CIO is filling its coffers at a breakneck pace. In April, Sweeney won approval for an across-the-board "assessment" of union members to create a $35 million war chest for the November 1996 elections. 5 This represents a sevenfold increase in the unions' normal spending. The money will be used to "target" some 75 GOP House freshmen. Of these, 63 were former businessmen who came to Congress with an accurate, if philosophically inchoate, sense that government was too big, too intrusive, and needed to be drastically limited. The $35 million figure breaks down to over $450,000 in additional spending per targeted district—nearly double the $240,000 per district spent by candidates in the 1994 elections! Sweeney intends to deploy 100 union activists and

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- - AOB Newswire - -

West Interviews U.S. Senate Candidate From Wyoming

CASPER, Wyoming — *AOB News* Editor in Chief Ken West recently interviewed Dr. John Barrasso, candidate for the U.S. Senate. Barrasso, 43 years old, is an orthopedic surgeon now running for the senate seat of the retiring Republican senator, Alan Simpson. The following report is based on West's telephone interview with John Barrasso and quotes taken from Barrasso's campaign literature.

"Despite all that I've been able to do as a doctor, as a father, and as a concerned citizen," states Barrasso, "I am troubled by our nation's health, and, to be more blunt, the sickness that I see coming out of Washington. For my entire adult life, I have watched our elected officials and the bureaucrats in Washington take away, little by little, our individual freedoms, rights, and ability to make decisions for ourselves. To be sure, they've done it all on the pretext that they are helping us. But make no mistake about it, it has resulted in a loss of our precious freedoms and a dependence as bad as any addiction I've ever seen. . ."

Following are Barrasso's responses to questions posed by *AOB News* on various topics.

Business, Regulation, and Taxes: "There is too much regulation, which is more harmful to small businesses because they don't have the resources of larger companies. Most [small] businesses are one lawsuit away from bankruptcy." Barrasso thinks it is absurd that businesses are having to hire full-time "compliance officers" just to keep up with the barrage of regulations coming out of Washington. "We need to break the federal chains," states Barrasso, "that hold back Wyoming ranchers, farmers, and business owners."

The biggest issue with Wyoming voters, according to Barrasso, is the economy. He would work for a balanced federal budget, lower capital gains, and lower taxes. "Almost nothing could be worse than the present tax system. We need a fair, understandable system that encourages growth and allows people to keep more of what they earn. I'll work for a *new* system."

Welfare: "[Before welfare] there was an individual connection between the giver of charity and the receiver. Our current system severs this connection." Barrasso thinks that this is creating a lot of resentment. "Today, high school students and young people look at their paychecks with all the taxes taken out—and feel resentment at those getting welfare."

Crime: "You fight crime by targeting criminals, not by attacking the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens," said Barrasso.

Health care: Barrasso says he is for "free-market health care." He is also for Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs). Government's job, states the candidate, should be to "keep us free and safe."

Immigration: Barrasso says he believes in the value of [legal] immigration. "The U. S. was built on immigration."

Environmental regulation: "A family that has managed a ranch for four generations knows more about their land than the government does," says Barrasso. He believes also in the multiple use of land for timbering, exploration, mining, grazing, and recreation. When asked what he would do if elected to the U.S. Senate, Barrasso says he would push for the federal government to "give back the land to Wyoming which the federal government 'owns.'" He pointed out that the federal government controls about 50% of the land in Wyoming, as well as many other Western states.

Abortion: He is for a women's right to choose an abortion, but not at taxpayer's expense.

Term limits: He is for them as long as they are established nationwide.

Education: "The best decisions about educations," says Mr. Bassasso, "are the ones made closest to home. . . .Parents should be in charge of raising their children, not U.S. bureaucrats or U.N. diplomats."

Heroes: When *AOB News* asked who his heroes were Barrasso had this to say: "Abraham Lincoln, a man who fought adversity all his life and never gave up—like the heroes in *Atlas Shrugged.*"

(To contact the Barrasso for U.S. Senate headquarters, call (307) 265-1996.)

Reader's Digest Quotes ART President

NEW YORK — The following news item was reported in the spring issue *Art Ideas:* "A quote excerpted from Alexandra York's 1992 Hillsdale College address (published in *Vital Speeches of the Day* in 1993) will be

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