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MEMO from COPE

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COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION, AFL-CIO
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Operation Wipe-Out

The Assault on Workers And Their Unions—1978

It has no name, but we can give it one. It could be called, accurately, "Operation Wipe-Out."

Its aim is to so undermine the institution of trade unionism in America that new organizing of workers becomes bogged down by managements trained by professionals to block it, and the contracts now protecting millions of union members are shredded—all this regardless of national labor law, changed or not.

"Wipe-Out" has no one, guiding, malevolent genius master-minding the attack. It doesn't require one. It consists of organizations and individuals already skilled at their trade, their arts honed by years of practice. They see 1978 as the year to put it all together and cripple trade unionism.

The various elements mounting the attack span the hard-shelled, anti-union spectrum from the ultras of the "old" and "new" radical right, through to the major business associations and many of the managements they represent. And of course, ever present and beavering away, the National Right to Work (for less) Committee.

The drive is both political and institutional. It intends a massive shift in Congress and in the state legislatures as a result of 1978 elections toward firmly conservative control. And given the political facts of life—off-year tradition of heavy losses by the party in control of the White House; unnaturally swollen Democratic majorities in Congress and many state legislatures; tremendous sums of corporate and right-wing political money available, plus new political sophistication and effectiveness on the right—it's no pipe dream.

Simultaneously, the onslaught confronts trade unions at the source of their strength—the contracts that protect their members and the areas of potential organizing success.

Only a determined response will nullify "Operation Wipe-Out"—from union members and officials at all levels, in the form of support for labor's political and legislative programs. It's going to take all-out effort for

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Cover page of promotional brochure for NAM's new anti-union campaign. NAM leaders say it's no such thing, but is there any other way to read "union-free" than that it means outright union-busting?

COUNCIL ON UNION-FREE ENVIRONMENT

PURPOSE The Council on Union-Free Environment is the only single purpose national organization devoted to the maintenance of a union-free environment in the United States by encouraging the establishment of strong, progressive and positive employer-employee relations. It promotes and emphasizes the factors and programs that permit an increasing number of employers to remain union-free by voluntary employee choice, as the vast majority of American workers have elected to do.