

SHAMEFUL!

STOUFFER'S IS MAKING UNCLE SAM LOOK BAD ALL OVER THE WORLD... BUT THE LABOR DEPARTMENT DOESN'T CARE!



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Hot potato

Labor Department's cafeteria is center of union controversy

WITH ALL OF THE DISGRACE SOME WASHINGTON "LEADERS" BROUGHT ON UNCLE SAM RECENTLY IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT WOULD SPIT IN THE EYE OF 22 MILLION AMERICAN UNION MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES!

This Leaflet is a Joint Publication of HOTEL-MOTEL WORKERS LOCAL 25 and AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES LOCAL 12 BOTH ARE MAJOR AFL-CIO UNIONS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Newsday

WASHINGTON — In the new building that houses the U.S. Department of Labor, top officials are bringing their lunch in brown bags. A food wagon is on the streets nearby. And a woman is distributing boycott literature.

"It's because the Labor Department, the government agency most concerned with the rights of the worker, is now served by a nonunion cafeteria."

"We're offended," said Russell Binion, president of Local 12 of the American Federation of Government Employees and an equal opportunity specialist in the Labor Department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance. "They're on our terrain and they're contaminating it as long as they are there."

The General Service Administration (GSA) selected the Stouffer Corp. to run the cafeteria on the top floor of the six-story building; the cafeteria in the old Labor Department complex was operated by the unionized Government Services, Inc.

Binion said that Labor officials pledged that they would inform the local who would be picked as the cafeteria operator before the final selection was made, but that they didn't keep their word. Although GSA

spokesmen said they did inform the Labor Department of their decision, Fred Clark, assistant secretary of labor for administration, denied receiving any word.

"It is a nonunion cafeteria," Clark said. "The Labor Department did not enter into any contract concerning the cafeteria. We are tenants in a GSA-owned building."

Does Clark eat in the cafeteria? "No, I don't," he said firmly. "I bring my lunch." He would not say whether he did this because the cafeteria was nonunion. Did he bring his lunch to his office in the old building? "I did not," Clark said.

Some Labor Department employees said, however, that they have observed the receptionists to other assistant secretaries buying lunch in the cafeteria on a carry-out basis and taking it to their bosses who are embarrassed to be seen eating there.

In front of the cafeteria for nearly every day for the past several weeks, potential patrons have been receiving flyers from Mrs. Charlene Greene, an organizer for Local 25 of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, that call for a boycott of Stouffer's.

The other day the cafeteria was half-full, and among those

moving through the line was Willie J. Usery, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, a man frequently mentioned as George Meary's successor to lead the AFL-CIO.

Usery limited himself to a cup of black coffee. Asked why the nation's top mediator was breaking the boycott, he said: "I don't know much about it. I'm just visiting here."

His companion silently showed a cardboard placard — identical to those on every cafeteria table — at the mediator. Without comment, Usery read: "We regret very much the attempts being made to get individuals to boycott our cafeteria ... We operate and manage both union and nonunion food facilities."

A GSA spokesman said that Stouffer's was picked for the five-year contract, with a yearly renewal option for 10 years, because it was the lowest of 31 bidders.

"The government cannot legally preclude nonunion firms from competing," he said.

But Binion said that unless something is done, efforts will be stepped up — such as filling the cafeteria with brown-bag lunch eaters, or buying 10-cent items with \$20 bills.

