

May 25, 2010

Andy Ford, President  
FEA  
213 South Adams Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear President Ford:

I am distressed with my union president, and the embarrassment she is causing to the local labor movement.

I am a 21 year veteran of the Miami-Dade County public school system-United Teachers of Dade union member from day one. I have served for 15 years as a building steward, and 8 years as an officer for the South Florida AFL-CIO.

Karen Aronowitz, President of UTD, has done nothing but fragment the relationship between UTD and the other school unions, as well as damage our relationship with the unions of the Central Labor Council.

She is engaged in back-door political dealings that are damaging to the labor movement, and has gone so far as to lie to get her way, as well as attempt roll-call measures to bully her position. She is not alone, as I understand members of the legislature and AFL-CIO are involved in these dealings. When she has not gotten her way, she has resorted to vindictive, retaliatory measures. I have been on the receiving end of these, as well as other building stewards who have crossed her.

I also hold accountable the labor attorney representing my union.

Union members in attendance at the convention described her behavior as inexcusable. We, South Florida, have finally reached the pinnacle of labor work with the unanimous endorsement of Luis Meurice for CD 25. He is the embodiment of all we represent-but she had her agenda. Oddly enough, as CLC political reports will show, she has been conspicuously absent from all activity conducted through the CLC. She has filed against her own council and accused it of being dysfunctional. Yet, curiously, the UTD vice president was present at last evening's monthly meeting, concerned only with the upcoming CLC elections. Is UTD planning a hostile takeover?

I'll have to admit, I let him have it, and for good cause. Besides the labor issues, he wasn't even aware that my specific school site had to cut its budget by \$800,000! Well, he does have 365 schools under him and a lot of meetings to attend.

I am not alone in my dissatisfaction with UTD. There is a groundswell of folks just as fed-up as me, who feel that we have no where to turn and no one to trust, other than ourselves. Quite frankly, I expect better for the \$40 I pay every two weeks. For the record, I feel that she is personally undermining the labor movement in South Florida through her political activities/agendas and threats of per-capita holdback.

I await your response, as do the many people who will receive a copy of this mailing.

Sincerely,

Christina Brownlow,  
UTD Steward, SFAFL-CIO Treasurer  
(305) 302-7047

Cc: Randi Weingarten, President AFT  
Richard Trumka, President AFL-CIO  
Michael Williams, President FLAFL-CIO