

# *Bad News For The Brotherhood*

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Douglas McCarron (Far right) pictured with President George Bush at the Southwest Regional Council training facility

*It's a tough time to be in the UBC when employment is so hard to find, health care and benefits are falling away from us, and it is so difficult to make the changes needed to bring strength back to our membership. All around our Council, good carpenters are sitting at home counting their hours and hoping to get a phone call from a job that can take them and their families into the next quarter. What is especially difficult during these times is when we have to see the General President of our union campaigning for the well-established destroyer of jobs and unions, George W. Bush.*

On March 26 of this year the Arizona Republic newspaper informed us that this is exactly what was occurring at our Southwest Regional Council. Douglas McCarron, head of our union, opened up the training facility to the commander and chief for a political rally featuring labor and employers alike. His message was that George Bush is creating the jobs and means for greater home ownership. He exchanged jokes, applauded Mr. Bush, and even volunteered to hold the President's coat when the George W. tried his hand at driving a couple of screws into a sheet of drywall.

To most union members these things come as a shock. How would the leader of the strongest union in the building trades be supporting the same man that has eradicated millions of jobs, attacked overtime pay, overruled organized labor in new governmental departments, and even threatened to call out the Nation Guard on striking dock workers? Its sad and angering, but this is exactly what Douglas McCarron has been doing, without the knowledge of our membership, during the entire presidency of George Bush. For two of the last three Labor Days, McCarron spent his time flying on Air Force One to various political rallies with a President that he knows on a first name basis. It matches his vision for our union and unfortunately is only a shadow of things to come for those of us swinging the hammer.

Douglas McCarron wishes to remake the union in the image of big business. He has eliminated and fought against rank and file participation at every level, stripping the vote for business agents, consolidating locals and district councils, and even expelling members striking for better contracts without his approval. Our General President has created a staff of executive salaried officials with sworn allegiance to him, as well. These leaders often make over \$200,000 per year and help McCarron move his vision for a Labor Ready work force toward realization. Chicago District Council E.S.T. Earl Oliver was one of these officials featured in the recent Sun Times article, "Chicago's Labor Elite." Mr Oliver's salary with disbursements? Over \$250,000/year, or around \$120/hour. Full employment, multiple pensions and a union car don't hurt the deal. *A big sell-out commands a big price.*

**"After I've paid all my bills and all the salaries for my staff, my profit line is at \$50 million."  
-U.B.C. President  
Douglass McCarron**