



## MEET MARY KAY HENRY

*[New Boss](#) Just As Radical As Old One?*

### MARY KAY HENRY DEFENDED VIOLENCE BY SEIU MEMBERS

**In 2008, SEIU Members & Staff Disrupted Conference Where Dissident SEIU Local Union Members Were In Attendance.** “Leaders of the Service Employees International Union launched what appeared to be a carefully crafted plan on April 12 to disrupt parts of the Labor Notes conference, where contingents from a dissident SEIU local, a new reform caucus within SEIU, and a competing union were in attendance. On the second day of the conference a number of SEIU staffers-some of whom had registered with false names-interrupted four workshops by heckling and attempting to shout down speakers from the California Nurses Association and its affiliate the National Nurses Organizing Committee.” (Chris Kotalik & Mischa Gaus, “SEIU’s Disruption Draws Wide Criticism From Union Leaders And Members,” Labor Notes, May 2008)

**SEIU Brought Hundreds Of Protestors To Event In Buses.** “As the banquet was beginning, 200-300 chanting SEIU members and staffers rushed through a double set of exterior hotel doors. The locked doors were opened from the inside by SEIU staffers attending the conference. Most of the demonstrators wore the signature SEIU purple T-shirts; some carried signs denouncing the CNA. CAN’s executive director, Rose Ann DeMoro, had been scheduled since November to address the banquet on single-payer health care, although her cancellation had been announced earlier in the day ... Hotel security and Dearborn police eventually made their presence felt. After chanting ‘we’ll be back,’ the protesters returned to their six buses, some of which had come from Ohio.” (Chris Kotalik & Mischa Gaus, “SEIU’s Disruption Draws Wide Criticism From Union Leaders And Members,” Labor Notes, May 2008)

**UAW Retiree & Others Were Injured By SEIU Attacks.** “Former Labor Notes office manager Dianne Feeley, a United Auto Workers retiree from American Axle, was knocked over by one protester and fell, cutting her head. She was treated at an emergency room. Several conference-goers who had their arms linked on the line received minor injuries from blows by protesters attempting to force open the banquet doors.” (Chris Kotalik & Mischa Gaus, “SEIU’s Disruption Draws Wide Criticism From Union Leaders And Members,” Labor Notes, May 2008)

**Mary Kay Henry Praised Demonstrators.** “Shortly after the protesters left, SEIU’s national leadership issued a press release titled, ‘SEIU Members Stand Up For The Future Of The Labor Movement And The Interests of All Workers.’ Five subsequent press releases from the union’s

leadership gave conflicting accounts of what happened, ultimately blaming conference-goers themselves for the violence.” (Chris Kutalik & Mischa Gaus, “SEIU’s Disruption Draws Wide Criticism From Union Leaders And Members,” Labor Notes, May 2008)

- **Henry Statement:** “Hundreds of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) members from across the country joined in protest tonight, renouncing recent actions by the California Nurses Association (CNA) to interfere in other unions’ organizing efforts. SEIU members made their voices heard during the Labor Notes Conference in Dearborn, Michigan, where CNA Executive Director Rose Ann DeMoro was scheduled to speak but cancelled at the last minute, anticipating the scrutiny her actions were expected to receive. Below is a statement from SEIU Executive Vice President Mary Kay Henry: ‘Tonight, SEIU members stood up for the future of the labor movement and called on the California Nurses Association to stop fighting with other unions and start helping us build a stronger labor movement to help all workers reclaim the American Dream.’” (Release, “SEIU Members Stand Up For The Future Of The Labor Movement And The Interests Of All Workers,” PR Newswire, 4/13/08)

**AFL-CIO President John Sweeney – In Direct Contrast To Henry – Condemned SEIU Action.** “‘There is no justification-none-for the violent attack orchestrated by SEIU at the Labor Notes conference,’ said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney April 15. As the former president of SEIU, he called on a lesson from the union’s history, stating: ‘No union should understand the corrosive effect of violence better than SEIU, which was founded by courageous janitors in the face of employer violence in the 1920s and 1930s. I call on the leaders of SEIU to condemn what happened in Detroit.’” (Chris Kutalik & Mischa Gaus, “SEIU’s Disruption Draws Wide Criticism From Union Leaders And Members,” Labor Notes, May 2008)

**Other Union Leaders Criticized SEIU Action.** “Canadian Auto Workers President Buzz Hargrove also called on SEIU President Andy Stern to condemn the attack, in an open letter. Another letter was circulated by members of the SEIU reform group, SMART, who were present at the conference. ‘We believe it was precisely open debate and discussion that were the target of this hostile attack,’ it said.” (Chris Kutalik & Mischa Gaus, “SEIU’s Disruption Draws Wide Criticism From Union Leaders And Members,” Labor Notes, May 2008)

## WHO IS MARY KAY HENRY?

**Mary Kay Henry Is Detroit Native.** “Henry grew up in suburban Detroit and graduated from Michigan State University. She became an organizer for the S.E.I.U. in 1979 and has played a major role in some of its biggest organizing drives, at Beverly Enterprises, Catholic Health Care West, Tenet and HCA.” (Steven Greenhouse, “Grass-Roots Choice Leads Race For Top Union Post,” *The New York Times*, 4/27/10)

**Michigan: “Impressed Early In Life By The Heavily Unionized Automobile Industry.”** “Raised Roman Catholic outside Detroit, the 49-year-old Henry was impressed early in life by the heavily unionized automotive industry. The third oldest of 10 children, Henry got a glimpse of the healthcare business as she earned money for high school in a nearby hospital. In college at Michigan State University, she majored in urban studies and labor relations, and she lobbied for a grass-roots advocacy group alongside union activists. She graduated in 1979 intent on working with a healthcare union; she landed a research job with the SEIU within a year. Roughly 25 years later, Henry is the public face and a behind-the-scenes force for the SEIU’s ambitious effort to

organize the nation's largely nonunion hospitals and health systems. By 2015, the union aims to recruit an additional 1 million nurses to the roughly 84,000 already among its members.” (Melanie Evans, “United She Stands; SEIU’s Henry, Called ‘A New Breed Of Labor Leader,’ Hopes To Consolidate Unions Across Industries,” *Modern Healthcare*, 11/27/06)

**California: “Lessons Learned In California Have Become Henry’s Organizing Gospel.”**

“The lessons learned in California have become Henry’s organizing gospel ... Organizing victories at CHW [Catholic Healthwest] sparked campaigns elsewhere in California, Henry says. Elections at Tenet Healthcare Corp. and HCA hospitals in 2002 and 2003 added another 5,300 members to the SEIU’s rolls. Such momentum can be gained by strategic victories across the U.S., Henry says.” (Melanie Evans, “United She Stands; SEIU’s Henry, Called ‘A New Breed Of Labor Leader,’ Hopes To Consolidate Unions Across Industries,” *Modern Healthcare*, 11/27/06)

**Henry Claims That “More Central Power Is Needed” & Unions Need “To Move Beyond Voluntarism” & Reach Agreement On “What Is Best For Working People.”**

“That’s not good enough given the crisis labor faces, said SEIU’s Henry, a member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ health care subcommittee. Much of the current split results from ‘a difference in whether the [AFL-CIO] was a voluntary coalition of unions or whether it was a place in the U.S. labor movement where we could come to the same table and agree on common strategies for how to tackle healthcare, poverty and other key issues for American workers.’

More central power is needed, said Henry. ‘We believe the American labor movement needs to move beyond voluntarism and reach agreement on what is best for working people.’” (Joe Feuerherd, “Split Poses Dilemma For Labor’s Allies: Religious Activists Urge Reconciliation, Focus On Workplace Rights,” *National Catholic Reporter*, 8/12/05)

**Henry Has Never Headed Local Union.** “An SEIU staffer for more than 30 years who has never headed a local, Henry would become the SEIU’s first female president and the top woman in the U.S. labor movement.” (Patrick J. McDonnell, “Path Cleared For New SEIU Chief,” *Los Angeles Times*, 4/29/10)

## WHAT IS MARY KAY HENRY’S AGENDA?

**Mary Kay Henry Says She Wants Local Unions To Set Agenda Instead Of Washington.**

“Ms. Henry, head of the union’s health care division, has reportedly told the board she shares the opinion of members who want local unions to set the SEIU agenda, not the leadership in Washington. ‘Our local unions and divisions should drive our national priorities, not the other way around,’ she wrote in a campaign memo to SEIU leaders.” (Joseph Webber, “Union Leadership Election May Signal Shift In Strategy,” *The Washington Times*, 4/30/10)

**Four Vice Presidents Of SEIU Backed Henry Saying They Wanted To Take New Direction.**

“Four of the union’s most influential vice presidents had backed Henry last week, saying they wanted the union to take a new direction. Their endorsement of Henry over Burger was widely viewed as a surprising rejection of Stern. His top-down management style has created friction and led leaders of a major SEIU local in Northern California to form a rival union.” (Sam Hananel, “Powerful Union Closer To Picking New Leader,” *The Associated Press*, 4/29/10)

**Key New York Local Union 1199 Supported Henry Over Burger.** “A giant New York-based local union is poised to vote to support California labor leader Mary Kay Henry for the presidency of America’s largest union today, three sources familiar with the union said, dealing a

stunning rebuff to Service Employees International Union President Andy Stern and his handpicked successor, Anna Burger. With some 300,000 members – about 15% of SEIU’s total membership – 1199 is the largest of the constituents of SEIU whose local leaders are now voting in an election that pits Burger’s promise to continue SEIU’s high profile role as powerhouse of Democratic Washington politics and Henry, whose backers hope that she’ll defuse tensions between SEIU and other unions and return it to a more traditional role of organizing and representing members.” (Ben Smith, “Key Local To Back Henry, Likely Foiling Stern Succession Plans,” *Politico*, 4/23/10)

- **1199 Is The Same Union Raiding Membership Of New York State Nurses Association.** “After staging an ambush at Peninsula Hospital in Queens in May, 1199 SEIU operatives moved on to attempt to decertify the Nurses Association at three hospitals in the North Shore/LIJ system: Plainview, Syosset, and Franklin. It was literally a race against the clock as nurses’ committees negotiated a new contract while 1199 SEIU members roamed the halls urging RNs to sign petitions and cards. The new contracts were ratified, but not before 1199 SEIU members arrived in carloads in an effort to disrupt the vote.” (“New York State Nurses Association; NYSNA to SEIU: Stop Raiding Our Bargaining Units,” *Hospital Law Weekly*, 6/19/08)
- **Henry Defended Local 1199 Against Complaints By Nurses Association.** “In a statement released by SEIU on June 4, the union’s Executive Vice President Mary Kay Henry was quoted as saying, ‘Nurse unions should work together to win a fair process for the 85% of registered nurses in America who don’t have a union – instead of fighting over the 15% who already do.’” (“New York State Nurses Association; NYSNA to SEIU: Stop Raiding Our Bargaining Units,” *Hospital Law Weekly*, 6/19/08)
- **Director Of New York Nurses Collective Bargaining Program Complained About SEIU Raids.** “SEIU pays lip service to cooperation in the labor movement while its members are telling our nurses, ‘we’re going to take you over,’ said Lorraine Seidel, RN, director of the NYSNA collective bargaining program. ‘If they really want an end to raiding, they should immediately stop their attacks on our bargaining units ... This is old-style, brass-knuckle union politics, not the enlightened, progressive image SEIU likes to show the public,’ Seidel said. ‘It’s just one more reason why professional nurses belong in a professional nurses union.’” (“New York State Nurses Association; NYSNA to SEIU: Stop Raiding Our Bargaining Units,” *Hospital Law Weekly*, 6/19/08)
- **Nurses Association Notes Hypocrisy Of Henry’s SEIU Policy.** “It is ironic that delegates at the Services Employees International Union (SEIU) convention are calling for a national ‘no raid’ agreement among nurses’ unions while its affiliate, 1199 SEIU, is actively raiding New York State Nurses Association bargaining units.” (“New York State Nurses Association; NYSNA to SEIU: Stop Raiding Our Bargaining Units,” *Hospital Law Weekly*, 6/19/08)

**Henry Is Creature Of SEIU Headquarters.** “Over the years, Henry has been involved in much headquarters strategizing about and regional coordination of SEIU health care organizing. She has also dealt with several major employers about organizing rights agreements and labor-management partnering. But longtime SEIU co-workers say she has had very little direct involvement in actual collective bargaining (as in personally chairing any large elected union negotiating committees confronting management across the table). She’s reportedly much better

at conducting staff conference calls than understanding or supporting workplace struggles. And, these critics note, SEIU's healthcare division membership achieved far greater growth under her predecessor, Larry Fox, who was pushed aside by Stern to make way for an up-and-coming Mary Kay." (Steve Early, "SEIU's Mary Kay Henry And Smoke Signals From The Purple Vatican, Labor Notes, 4/29/10)

**SEIU's Anna Burger Says Henry Won't Bring Shift In SEIU Priorities & Henry Shares "Same Goals."** "But Burger, in a statement, rejected any suggestions that the contest represented a shift in SEIU's priorities or 'rejection of the Stern/Burger agenda' ... 'We women have a special knack for putting our egos aside and keeping our eye on the bigger picture and the common good,' Burger said. She called Henry an ally who shares 'the same goals for our union and for the larger labor movement.'" (Sam Hananel, "Powerful Union Closer to Picking New Leader," The Associated Press, 4/29/10)

- **Henry Joined Former SEIU President Andy Stern In Quelling Revolts By Local California Unions.** "Still, Mr. Vernuccio said Ms. Henry should not be perceived as purely a grass-roots leader, considering she helped Mr. Stern quell revolts by local unions in Northern California. 'It's not as if she's completely detached from the national agenda,' he said." (Joseph Webber, "Union Leadership Election May Signal Shift In Strategy," *The Washington Times*, 4/30/10)
- **Former SEIU Colleague & Head Of National Union Of Healthcare Workers Says Henry Has Been Tarred With The Same Ethics Scandals & Failed Policies Of Stern.** "Stern's departure would leave SEIU with a crisis of leadership. His likely successors, Mary Kay Henry and Anna Burger, have been tarred by the same ethics scandals and failed policies that marred his tenure. Stern's legacy is that SEIU has become a rogue union, undemocratic, unable to pay its bills, and unwilling to defend its members at the national level." (Release, "Statement By NUHW Interim President Sal Rosselli," States News Service, 4/13/10)

**SEIU & Stern Associated With Scandal Plagued ACORN.** "Stern landed the union in its share of scandals during his tenure, including his cozy relationship with the disgraced activist group ACORN, which had SEIU as its single biggest source of funds." (John Fund, "Stern Lesson," *The Wall Street Journal*, 4/26/10)

**Disgraced ACORN Leader, Wade Rathke Praises His "Old Friend" Mary Kay Henry.** "For a week I had been hearing that Mary Kay Henry, an old friend and currently one of several SEIU Executive Vice Presidents, was a dark horse candidate as the new SEIU International President to succeed the suddenly resigned Andy Stern. Certainly, Mary Kay would be an [sic] fantastic choice, but it was hard to believe that the current and long time Stern partner and Secretary-Treasurer Anna Burger did not have her ducks in a row before the resignation." (Wade Rathke, "Mary Kay Henry: Surprise SEIU Leader," Wade Rathke: Chief Organizer Blog, 4/24/10)

## **MARY KAY HENRY & HEALTH CARE REFORM**

**In 2009, Mary Kay Henry Arranged "Friendly" Events For Lawmakers To Speak Out About Health Care Reform.** "Two weeks earlier, Rep. James R. Langevin had been shouted down and called a liar during a two-hour town hall meeting packed with opponents of the health-care overhaul moving through Congress. Wednesday afternoon, he sat in the air-conditioned lobby of Women & Infants Hospital, surrounded by a sympathetic group of doctors and nurses

who applauded politely after the five-term lawmaker said he's never been more optimistic than I am right now that we are finally going to change health care in America. It's nice to be in a room full of strong supporters of health-care reform, Langevin told the smiling crowd. This is a refreshing change. The event, organized by the Service Employees International Union, offered a glimpse into the coalition of labor unions, medical professionals and advocacy groups working to counter an aggressive opposition campaign that has largely dominated national news coverage in recent weeks." (Steve Peoples, "A Warmer Reception On Health Care," *Providence Journal-Bulletin*, 9/3/09)

**In 1994, Henry Advocated Proposition 186 In California For Single Payer System.** "The battle to enact health care reform began shifting to California on Thursday as the American Assn. of Retired Persons and two major labor unions promised extensive volunteer and financial backing for Proposition 186, which would create a single-payer medical system in the state. A 'decisive vote' for a government-operated health program in California 'will provide an irreversible boost to eventual national health care reform,' Mary Kay Henry, health care division director for the Service Employees International Union, told a news conference." (Robert A. Rosenblatt, "Battle Over Health Care Shifts To States," *Los Angeles Times*, 9/9/94)

**Proposition 186 – The Original "Government Option" Included Income Tax Increases, Payroll Tax Increases & Cigarette Tax.** "Under Proposition 186, a state-run insurance program would be offered as an alternative to private health insurance. As envisioned, instead of the premiums now paid by individuals, corporations and their workers, the state would collect a 2.5% surtax on all taxable income, up to \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for families. The tax would be 5% at incomes above those levels. Corporations would pay a payroll tax of 4.4% to 8.9%, depending on the number of workers. A \$1-a-pack cigarette tax would be imposed. Added to this would be the revenues now spent in various federal and state programs, including Medicare, for people over 65 and the disabled, and MediCal for the poor." (Robert A. Rosenblatt, "Battle Over Health Care Shifts To States," *Los Angeles Times*, 9/9/94)

**Unions Contributed Hundreds Of Thousands To Proposition 186.** "The National Education Assn. announced a contribution of \$350,000 to the campaign from the national union and its state affiliate, the California Teachers Assn. The Service Employees International Union is contributing at least \$200,000, half in cash and half in the donated time of union staff members, according to Henry." (Robert A. Rosenblatt, "Battle Over Health Care Shifts To States," *Los Angeles Times*, 9/9/94)

- **In 1994, Proposition 186 For Single Payer Was Soundly Defeated By Almost 75% In California.** "Proposition 186 got the support of only 26.6% of those who cast ballots on the measure, according to final unofficial results. That means it went down even more decisively than the last effort at sweeping health reform in California – Proposition 166, a California Medical Assn.-backed plan that lost by a 2-1 margin two years ago. The defeat of Proposition 186 left supporters reeling even as it had opponents hoping the lopsided defeat would discourage future efforts at imposing a similar kind of plan based on taxes and employer mandates." (Douglas P. Shuit, "California Elections; Proposition 186; Defeat May Prove Fatal For Large Scale Health Reforms," *Los Angeles Times*, 11/10/94)
- **Henry Committed To "A Whole Series Of Battles" To Win Single Payer.** "Mary Kay Henry, director of the health care division of the Service Employees International Union,

which contributed \$200,000 toward the initiative's passage, said the union will not back away from health reform because it believes the nation's health care problems will only get worse. 'Proposition 186 was just one battle,' Henry said. 'Now we are trying to figure out how to win the war, which may mean a whole series of battles in the future.'" (Douglas P. Shuit, "California Elections; Proposition 186; Defeat May Prove Fatal For Large Scale Health Reforms," *Los Angeles Times*, 11/10/94)

## **SEIU/STERN/HENRY SHAKE DOWN HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY**

**SEIU Attacks Hospitals To Intimidate Them Into Capitulating To Unions.** "Instead of a traditional grassroots drive to recruit members, a union in Illinois launched a series of very public attacks to discredit and embarrass a hospital. The goal: to pressure hospital executives to stay out of the way as the union signed up nurses and other employees. The strategy – known as a corporate campaign – is now the linchpin of union organizing drives at hospitals around the US. The US' 6 million to 7 million health care workers hold an obvious allure for unions whose membership is plummeting as manufacturing jobs move overseas and younger American workers appear less inclined to join. One area where unions think hospitals are especially vulnerable is in billing and collections. Labor experts say unions are getting more aggressive partly because they are engaged in an all-out battle with each other in the health care arena. The fight is especially intense when it comes to nurses." (Richard Haugh, "The New Union Strategy: Turning The Community Against You," *Hospitals & Health Networks*, May 2006)

**SEIU Most Aggressive Union In Battle For Health Care Workers.** "Perhaps the most aggressive union in this battle for health care workers has been the Service Employees International Union." (Richard Haugh, "The New Union Strategy: Turning The Community Against You," *Hospitals & Health Networks*, May 2006)

**Mary Kay Henry Defends Aggressive Union Campaigns & Warns Hospital Employers About Making A "Different Choice."** Henry: "When employers make a different choice and decide to waste precious health care dollars on fighting workers' decision to form a union, we just use all the relationships necessary to convince them to take the other path." (Richard Haugh, "The New Union Strategy: Turning The Community Against You," *Hospitals & Health Networks*, May 2006)

**SEIU Pitted National Conference Of Catholic Bishops Against Nine Orders Of Nuns That Operated Catholic Healthcare West.** "The strategy became clear in 1999, Manheim says, when SEIU managed to pit the National Conference of Catholic Bishops against the nine orders of nuns that operate Catholic Healthcare West, a 40-hospital system based in San Francisco. SEIU accused CHW of blocking workers from joining a union, which, it charged, violated church doctrine calling for 'socially just workplaces.' SEIU made two demands common in corporate campaigns: a neutrality agreement to prevent hospital leaders from taking any stand on unionizing efforts, and a so called card-check election. Card-check elections circumvent the standard election process in which workers interested in joining a union petition the National Labor Relations Board, which then oversees a blind vote of employees. Instead, workers can simply sign union pledge cards and, if a majority do so, the employer agrees to recognize the union. The nuns agreed that every worker should be given the opportunity to join a union, but that they should be allowed to hear all sides-including managements before deciding." (Richard Haugh, "The New Union Strategy: Turning The Community Against You," *Hospitals & Health Networks*, May 2006)

- **Henry Cites Catholic Healthcare West As Major Accomplishment.** “Her vision and leadership has helped pave the way to groundbreaking agreements between SEIU and hospital chains such as Beverly Enterprises, Catholic Healthcare West, Tenet, and HCA, and to the national Labor-Management Partnership at Kaiser Permanente, the nation's largest HMO.” (Website, Biography Of Mary Kay Henry, [www.SEIU.org](http://www.SEIU.org), Accessed 5/3/10)

**SEIU Delayed Building Of Cancer Center To Force Card Check On Yale-New Haven Hospital.** “On another front, the SEIU in the last two years rallied community groups, local clergy, pro-union politicians and the New Haven mayor to hold up construction of a \$430 million cancer center on the Yale-New Haven campus. SEIU said it was concerned that the hospital wasn't doing enough to resolve neighborhood concerns over traffic, parking and a shortage of affordable housing. Critics said the union's true intent was to force the hospital to submit to a neutrality agreement and card-check election.” (Richard Haugh, “The New Union Strategy: Turning The Community Against You,” Hospitals & Health Networks, May 2006)

**In 2006, Henry Says SEIU Is “Thinking More Boldly” About Its Organizing Efforts At Hospitals.** “Henry of SEIU's hospital division says the union is ‘thinking more boldly about its organizing efforts.’ Whether that means the SEIU will employ the same aggressive corporate campaign tactics remains to be seen. During a teleconference announcing the new union, SEIU President Andrew Stern hinted at a harder edge to nurse organizing in the future. ‘This is really about launching the first ever national campaign for nurses in the same vein that we've done in so many other industries, which have changed them fundamentally,’ Stern said.” (Richard Haugh, “The New Union Strategy: Turning The Community Against You,” Hospitals & Health Networks, May 2006)

**Henry Says “We Are Not Going To Walk Away” From Winning A Union.** “SEIU says it's not going away. ‘The message SEIU has sent to the industry, based on how we hung in there with Yale-New Haven (Conn., Hospital), how we've been hanging in there at Advocate, is simple,’ Henry says. ‘We are not going to walk away from our commitment to the workers to win a union.’” (Richard Haugh, “The New Union Strategy: Turning The Community Against You,” Hospitals & Health Networks, May 2006)

## **MARY KAY HENRY PROMISES SEIU WILL STAY ACTIVE IN POLITICS**

**Mary Kay Henry Committed To Expanding The SEIU'S Political Efforts In 2010.** “Henry described herself as ‘enormously proud’ of the union's political successes, including among them the election of President Barack Obama and the passage of health care reform legislation. Henry also promised she would, in fact, ‘expand’ the union's political efforts in 2010.” (Ben Smith, “Henry: SEIU Will Stay In Politics, But With More Local Control,” *Politico*, 4/26/10)

**Henry Says Unions Have To Both Organize & Stay Politically Active.** “‘While most – if not all – of you share my conviction that we need to renew our commitment to organizing and rebuild our organizing capacity, it was never an “either-or” situation,’ Henry writes. ‘We need to both organizing and political action to pave the way to a better future for our members and make our economy work better for working families.’” (Ben Smith, “Henry: SEIU Will Stay In Politics, But With More Local Control,” *Politico*, 4/27/10)

**SEIU Has Done Little Organizing & A Lot Of Political Campaigning & Fighting With Fellow Unions.** “SEIU’s problems are real. Over the past two years, SEIU’s much-vaunted organizing efforts have dwindled as the union threw itself into the 2008 presidential election and the battle for health-care reform. There have also been the very bitter battles with the former leaders of a 150,000-member California local whom it ousted, and with UNITE-HERE, whose seceding garment workers it welcomed into its ranks. In part, organizing has suffered because so much of SEIU’s staff has been diverted to these other struggles.” (Harold Meyerson, “SEIU Without Andy,” *The American Prospect*, 4/21/10)

**SEIU Gains Were Based On Unionizing Home Care & Child Care Workers In States With Friendly Governors.** “But SEIU’s biggest organizing gains of the past decade – chiefly, of home-care workers and child-care workers in states in which friendly governors issued executive orders permitting those workers to unionize – are no longer easily replicable.” (Harold Meyerson, “SEIU Without Andy,” *The American Prospect*, 4/21/10)

**More Than Half Of SEIU’s Membership In Cash-Strapped States Of California & New York.** “Worse yet, the union has found itself embroiled in an existential struggle to defend its public-employee members in an age of cutbacks. More than half of SEIU’s members, a majority of whom work for state and local government, are located in two states, California and New York, facing major budget constraints. Even if their jobs can be saved, their pension benefits are under attack – and it’s not at all clear that a substantially de-unionized private-sector work force will be willing, particularly in the midst of a protracted recession, to go on paying for the benefits of a unionized public sector.” (Harold Meyerson, “SEIU Without Andy,” *The American Prospect*, 4/21/10)

**SEIU’s Costly Internal Battle With Competing Union \$10 Million.** “Steve Early, a former national representative with an unrelated union who frequently writes about labor issues for publications, including the 2009 book *Embedded with Organized Labor*,’ said the costly feud in California could leave lingering resentment for the SEIU even without Stern. The SEIU spent as estimated \$10 million in legal fees in the past year to win a \$738,000 court judgment this month against Rosselli and several NUHW officials for plotting to undermine SEIU while still on the union’s payroll, Early said.” (Joe Carlson, “A Stern Farewell,” *Modern Healthcare*, 4/19/10)

**Internal Battles Spent Millions That Could Have Gone To Workers Instead.** “Literally tens of millions of dollars that could have been spent to help workers gain representation rights have been squandered, by the NUHW battle and other union conflicts, Early said. [Stern’s] legacy is mixed at best, and I think the effectiveness of SEIU healthcare organizing in recent years has been severely undermined by the internal and intra-union conflicts that Stern either personally instigated or greatly aggravated.” (Joe Carlson, “A Stern Farewell,” *Modern Healthcare*, 4/19/10)

## **MARY KAY HENRY INHERITS FINANCIALLY TROUBLED UNION**

**SEIU Has Seen Its Liabilities Skyrocket During Past Decade.** “The union’s liabilities totaled \$7,625,832 in 2000. By 2009, they had increased almost by a factor of 16, to \$120,893,259. Meanwhile, SEIU’s assets barely tripled, growing from \$66,632,631 in 2000 to \$187,664,763 in 2009. A significant portion of SEIU’s current assets are from IOUs from hard-up locals.” (F. Vincent Vernuccio, “Andy Stern’s Debts,” *The Washington Times*, 4/23/10)

**SEIU Is \$85 Million In Debt.** “SEIU is \$85 million in debt, down from its 2008 high of \$102 million, and has been forced to lay off employees. Mr. Stern has led protests against Bank of America, calling for the firing of Chief Executive Ken Lewis. Yet the union owes \$80 million to Bank of America and \$5 million to Amalgamated Bank, which is owned by the rival union Unite-Here.” (F. Vincent Vernuccio, “Andy Stern’s Debts,” *The Washington Times*, 4/23/10)

**SEIU’s Pensions Are Going Bankrupt.** “Both of SEIU’s two national pension plans, the SEIU National Industry Pension Fund and the Pension Plan for Employees of the SEIU, issued critical-status letters last year. The Pension Protection Act requires any pension fund that is funded below 65 percent of what it needs to pay its obligations to inform its beneficiaries of the deficit. Many SEIU local pension plans are in as bad a shape as the national plans – if not worse. In 2007, well before the financial meltdown, the SEIU Local 32BJ Building Maintenance Contractors Association Pension Plan was funded at an anemic 41 percent, the SEIU 1199 Greater New York Pension Fund at 58 percent, the 32BJ District Building Operators Pension Trust Fund at 56 percent, and the Service Employees 32BJ North Pension Fund at 68 percent.” (F. Vincent Vernuccio, “Andy Stern’s Debts,” *The Washington Times*, 4/23/10)

**Stern & High Ranking SEIU Officials Like Henry Have Fully-Funded Pensions.** “Do not worry about Mr. Stern and other high-ranking SEIU officials, though. At age 59, he has 37 years of service in the SEIU and is entitled to a full pension and lifetime health benefits. Unlike SEIU’s pension plans for rank-and-file members and union employees, SEIU’s officer pension plan, the SEIU Affiliates Officers and Employees Pension Plan, was funded at 102 percent in 2007.” (F. Vincent Vernuccio, “Andy Stern’s Debts,” *The Washington Times*, 4/23/10)

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