

Email from Jody Chase to Ike Leggett Reference Ike's Email Asking Voters to Vote Against Police Officers

From: Jody Chase
Sent: Sunday, October 28, 2012 09:04 AM Central Standard Time
To: ikeleggett@verizon.net <ikeleggett@verizon.net>
Cc: Lanny J. Davis
Subject: Re: Vote FOR question B

Dear Mr. Leggett, I am devastated that the Democrats I value most, those of Montgomery County, would vote against Labor at all, and in this year especially. Have none of you heard of Scott Walker? If so, are you not ashamed of being on his side against Labor?

While it has been a heart-breaking discovery that Democrats I value so highly could turn on Labor, please be assured that I will never do so. I will continue to vote as a Democrat, as I have for almost forty years, but I can no longer believe I share the values of the Montgomery County leaders I have worked so hard for and been so proud of.

The stance of the Democrats on the Montgomery County Council against Labor is unfathomable to me. Instead of taking away rights from our wonderful policemen and -women, why aren't you all working to extend those rights to other public service employees?

I am a Union steward, a precinct official, and a life-long Democrat. I have sat outside my polling place for hours in cold and sleet, walked all over MoCo and NoVA handing out literature, and volunteered for the Dems after eleven-hour work days. There is almost nothing the County Council could have done that would hurt me more than the stance you all took against Labor.

Mr. Leggett, I will be voting AGAINST Question B. I urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,
Jody Chase, Ph.D.
Disheartened Democrat

RESPONSE FROM LANNY DAVIS TO MR. CHASE:

Dear Mr. Chase --

Re your note below to County Exec Ike Leggett:

Please note that my longstanding friend Ike Leggett has allowed the following to be done, in addition to his support for Question B, which I respect even though I disagree:

- 1) Substantial expenditures of county taxpayer funds in a campaign for Question B;
- 2) Placing paid ads on County Ride-On buses while initially refusing to allow paid Police union ads to be so placed - which the ACLU declared to be unconstitutional speech discrimination.

Then when confronted by the ACLU, Ike said he would make an "exception" and allow Police paid signs to be posted on Ride On buses -- an "exception" to an unconstitutional policy of speech discrimination?

And then it turns out that the county contractor for placing such signs said in writing that it would take

10-14 days to place the police ads in the buses that have the technical specifications required - ie, after the election.

Yet the County buses won't accept the police anti-B posters already printed and ready to be posted immediately before election day.

And my friend Ike has allowed all this to happen on his watch.

3) Most shocking and sad (for me) of all - my progressive Democratic friend Ike Leggett has allowed the county pro-B campaign to reuse one of the most famous anti-union-collective bargaining slogans in US history, dating back to the union bashing days of goons beating up pickets in front of Chicago and NYC sweatshops -- in effect (not quoting directly) -- "don't let the union run the police department." We all know that unions were formed to force management to discuss worker issues - through collective bargaining - not to "run" the department.

4. In fact, the slogan, apart from being shamefully anti-union, is also indisputably false -- and I must reluctantly conclude that Ike knows it is false. There is a word for an intentional misstatement of fact.

The plain language of the "effects bargaining" statute Q B seeks to repeal after 30 years on the books has explicit strict time limits in the words of the law--ie, allowing the Chief to IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENT ALL police management decisions that have any significant public safety issues and no more than 50 days for non-public safety issues.

I have challenged my friend Ike to confirm the truth of what I just described as the plain language of the statute he and the Council have sought to overturn - and he has not done so.

Nor has Council President Berliner and other Democratic members of the Council. Indeed Mr. Berliner has refused to show up for debates that I asked him to engage in to discuss this issue and tell me if I am wrong in what the statute explicitly says and in my assertion that he and the Council and Ike Leggett are misrepresenting the truth.

Please feel free to circulate this email to you - including posting on the Internet.

I am disappointed beyond words in the conduct and policies of my old and dear friend, Ike Leggett, and especially for his silence.

Regards,

Lanny Davis