

August 8, 2007

TEAM 150 NEWS

DUGAN UNDER FBI INVESTIGATION

fact:

Dugan admits to using union resources as his own "there's nothing wrong with that" Dugan quotes!

Will FBI roast union boss over corn?

FBI PROBE | Did he use union resources to truck corn to his farm in Maryland?

BY CHRIS FUSCO

Staff Reporter/cfusco@suntimes.com

Authorities are investigating if a politically connected union boss illegally used union resources to truck corn from the Chicago area to his buffalo farm in Maryland, the Chicago Sun-Times has learned.

Operating Engineers Local 150 chief William E. Dugan has been the focus of questions from FBI and U.S. Labor Department agents in recent weeks, according to several sources.

Dugan — who denied any wrongdoing — is a former Republican appointee to government boards that oversee Illinois casinos, the CTA and the state's tollway system.

Dugan said he has used a semitrailer from the Operating Engineers' training program to haul about two loads of corn a year to Hancock, Md. There's nothing wrong with that, he said, because he reimbursed the program for the trips and paid a driver. "I paid for the truck, I paid for the gas and I paid for the tolls," he said.

But investigators want to know when Dugan made those payments and how much they totaled. They also want to know if the corn was grown on union property and — if that's the case — whether Dugan reimbursed Local 150 for it.

Dugan insisted "the corn came from a farm or farms unrelated to the union." But investigators have information that shows otherwise, sources said.

Dugan said he has chosen to truck corn through several states rather than buy it out East because he has "better connections" in the Midwest. "There's a lot more corn in Illinois than there is in Maryland," he said.

Dugan is in a re-election



Union leader William Dugan has denied any wrongdoing.
KEITH HALE/SUN-TIMES

battle with Local 150 Treasurer Joseph P. Ward. Both have held their union posts since the mid-1980s.

Local 150 represents about 22,000 heavy-equipment operators. Members will decide between Dugan and Ward this month, with ballots to be counted Aug. 25.

A former Local 150 business agent who is supporting Ward, Terry Waldron; Ward's former executive secretary, Linda Soris; and a former executive assistant for the training program, Lori Close, said they've been interviewed by FBI agent Lisa LoCasio about Dugan and the corn. Four other people who asked they not be identified said they've been interviewed, too.

LoCasio declined to comment, as did a U.S. attorney's spokesman.

Dugan and Ward have heaped malfeasance allegations on each other. Local 150, for example, sued Ward in July, claiming Ward used training-program equipment on personal projects. Ward denied wrongdoing.

Contributing: Robert Herguth

Well Brothers and Sisters it looks like the chickens have finally come home to roost.

Dugan would have you believe that it's perfectly fine to use members' time, equipment and services for his personal use. In fact he says "... there's nothing wrong with that." I challenge every member to go down to the training center and try to rent whatever piece of equipment you want to use and see if it flies. Brothers and sisters, it won't. Because you're not Bill Dugan.

Dugan claims he paid for all these services, yea right. Only after the FBI was on his tail did he write a check to the training site for over 6 figures to cover the charges. Try that at your bank sometime. Using the Dugan logic you can steal for 15 years then when you get caught you just write a check. Dugan claims it was cheaper and easier to pay operating engineers wages and benefits, drive over 30,000 miles and 340 hours, wear and tear on members equipment than to call the local grain elevator and order his corn that only fluctuated .30 cents a bushel over 15 years between Illinois and Maryland.

Dugan claims it was Joe who was under FBI investigation all this time when he really knew it was himself, but that's a matter of trust, right!

CONCRETE

ARON'S BATH
THE BEFINISHING

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August 9, 2007

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