

Yankee Steve's Column

for the Week of September 15, 2011

No Apologies Expected; None Required

Mafia thugs always prequalify their remarks by saying, "Duh, I don't mean no disrespect."

Well, when it comes to Jimmy Hoffa, Jr. [1941-] General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I hope he understands that I do, in fact, disrespect him because of one of his recent comments. But he need not apologize, nor do I expect that he will. In the world he moves in, all that matters is that you get away with your misconduct.

And it looks as if he has gotten away his offense because President Barack Obama has not censured him for the way he spoke about Tea Partiers on Labor Day in Detroit.

Hoffa disparaged Tea Party members as "sons-of-a-bitches." At the same union rally, Vice President Joe Biden called the Tea Party "barbarians at the gates." This was no misspeak from the king of gaffes. Biden meant what he said. Just like Congresspersons Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid, Biden has declared war on a movement that seeks to curb government spending and would also like to put the unions in their place.

As bad as Hoffa and Biden are there is someone else on the loose who is worse.

Even more reprehensible is Richard Trumka [1949-] President of the AFL-CIO. It is one thing to call Tea Partiers S.O.B.'s in the heat of the moment; it is quite another thing for Trumka to spread misinformation about those with whom he differs. Trumka, in a carefully worded statement, is spreading lies about the character of Tea Partiers.

A long time ago a town inspector in New Jersey (a state known for its corruption) asked me - "Reverend, which commandment says you can't lie?" I was quick to answer, "Why the ninth commandment which says, "Thou shalt not bear false witness." The inspector shot back, "I want to tell you something, Reverend - there's a lot of that false witness going 'round!"

If you want to call me or anyone who likes the Tea Party an S.O.B., that's O.K. We know that our mothers were gentle and loving. Just don't call me a "Trumka." It would mean that I am a liar, and really is there anything worse?

Ever yours,

Yankee Steve Cakouros oldlineconservative.com