

JAN 10, 2017

Governor Haley,

I'm enclosing a news article I have kept since 2012. Since you will soon be leaving office, I felt the need to let you know how I feel about it now.

I will begin by letting you know how extremely PROUD I am of my Union Husband. He is retired now, but in his working years he has worked on, and ran work on, many schools, hospitals and hi-rise buildings in our home state of Florida. Also in Florida and all around the country he worked on several nuclear power plants, semiconductor plants, medical research buildings and refineries. Many times he was away from home for months at a time. He went thru 5 years of union apprenticeship schooling, plus on the job training.

Union workers in this country are one of the best trained workers, and the most qualified, so to say they "are not needed or wanted in South Carolina" is an insult to any retired or working union people.

I don't expect there will ever be many union workers in South Carolina, but I do expect them to have the same right to work and support their families as anyone else in this state. They should be judged by their knowledge and abilities, and not locked out because they are union. I wish you could have remembered that you were elected to serve all people in South Carolina — Union families live here!

Sincerely,


CAPITAL REPORT

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THE BUZZ

A sometimes irreverent look at S.C. politics

After a rough patch, it's only fair to note that Gov. **Hicki Haley** had a good week last week.

In fact, a really good week – even if she just was minimizing self-inflicted wounds and preaching to the choir, at points.

No. 1. A House committee cleared her of ethics charges after – only minutes earlier – unanimously deciding there was good reason to look further into the charges. The committee's chairman said – ah, hmm – the case against Haley couldn't be prosecuted further because of vagueness – ah, hmm – in state law over what constitutes illegal lobbying.

What The Buzz liked best, however, was Haley's defense. Having run on a platform of openness, transparency and cleaning up Columbia, that defense roughly translated into: You guys really don't wanna go there 'cause you've been at the trough, too.

Officially, Haley's lawyer told the committee that failure to dismiss the complaint against the governor would risk opening a Pandora's Box, casting allegations on other legislators' jobs outside the State House, since Haley's "business activities and conduct are commonplace in the Legislature. ..."

(Now, that's roxie.)

No. 2. That same day, the S.C. House approved a

new version of a bill to eliminate the state Budget and Control Board and transfer more than 80 percent of its employees to a new Cabinet-level Department of Administration that would be under Haley's control.

True, the bill now goes back to the state Senate, which has passed a different version of the restructuring bill. And, true, the final version may not be exactly what Haley wanted.

But it looks like she is going to get a bill that abolishes the budget board – a priority – and increases her clout, enough to break out **Joan Jett** and declare victory.

No. 3. A day later, a federal appeals court agreed with a lower court's previous dismissal of a lawsuit against Haley by the International Association of Machinists and AFL-CIO.

The two had teamed up to sue Haley after she vowed last year: "We are going to fight the unions..."

The unions wanted Haley ordered to remain neutral in union matters. However, last August, a federal judge dismissed the suit, ruling labor laws don't prohibit "the expression of political animosity toward unions."

The appeals court judges agreed, saying – in effect – Haley had done nothing but pander, offering political red meat to voters in one of the least unionized, most-labor-hostile states in the country.

The three-judge panel said Haley's anti-union

comments contained "nothing that we could plausibly interpret as indicating imminence" and "do not reference action at all" and are "broad and nebulous."

Translation: She might as well have been vowing to repel Attila the Hun and his horde – a more likely threat, given the relevance of organized labor in the Palmetto State – at the North Carolina border.

Haley's response to the federal appeals court ruling?

(Thank you AFL-CIO, for the chance to dish some more red meat.)

"The efforts of union bosses to silence our free speech and stop us from standing up for our workers and businesses have failed – and we're going to continue to make it very clear: Unions are not needed, not wanted and not welcome in South Carolina."

(For the record: Haley also will not tolerate opponents of her beloved Clemson Tigers recruiting wizards from Hogwarts to play football. No way, no how, no time! Take that, Duke!)

No. 4. She didn't pen another memoir, calling anyone – who she may have to work with in the future, including the speaker of the House, the lieutenant governor and various House committee chairmen – corrupt, a sycophant, old or male.

(Note to file, governor: Sometimes doing nothing is the best thing to do of all.)