

Labor boss Bill Dugan retires amid investigation

June 28, 2008

BY **CHRIS FUSCO**

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Staff Reporter

Longtime Chicago area labor boss Bill Dugan retired Friday amid a criminal investigation into whether he's misused union resources.

Dugan, 74, president of Operating Engineers Local 150, said he is stepping down because his 77-year-old wife, Dottie, has cancer. "I need to be with my wife right now," Dugan said in a statement.

The couple has a house in Hancock, Md., where they operate a buffalo farm and tavern/sporting goods store. Federal agents on May 30 raided both properties as part of their investigation, which includes whether Dugan illegally used union equipment to truck corn to the farm.

Dugan, who earned about \$230,000 a year, has denied any wrongdoing and has not been charged with any crimes.

"He's not worried about the investigation. He's worried about Dottie," said Jim Sweeney, who was elevated from union vice president to president. Sweeney will serve until the union's next election in September 2010.

Jim McNally, formerly assistant to the president, will take Sweeney's job.

Dugan, who became Local 150's president in 1986, is a former Republican appointee to government boards that oversee Illinois casinos, the CTA and the state's tollway system.

His union, comprised of more than 23,000 heavy equipment operators, runs a political action committee that has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to political candidates in both parties.

• **Feds far-reaching in Sweeney probe**

From NYPolitics.com New Yorks Political Resource

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From THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

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READER COMMENTS:

local150country wrote:

What is the Maryland connection?<http://www.team150.net/PDF%20Files/Dugan%20FBI.pdf>
And
this.....<http://www.team150.net/PDF%20Files/Pending%20Disater.pdf>
Should help you understand....You don't steal from a union for 15 years,illegally transport an agricultural across state lines without paying for it some 20 times,and expect to stay out of prison.We should get Fitzgerald involved you say? He is...<http://www.team150.net/PDF%20Files/Elaine%20L.%20Chao%20And here.....><http://www.team150.net/PDF%20Files/Elaine%20L.%20Chao>
There is an investigation currently to determine if a new election should be run due to improprieties during last years election.....the union is refusing to turn over documents relating to this...I wonder why.....

6/28/2008 1:47 PM CDT on [suntimes.com](#)

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slainte08 wrote:

President Sweeney will undoubtedly continue where Dugan left off by organizing the unorganized and improving the standards of its hardworking, dues paying members.The standards Local 150 has set for its members have set the bar in the construction trades not only in its jurisdiction but around the country.The future for Local 150 and its members is promising.

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billy buoy wrote:

What is the Maryland connection here? A Buffalo Farm, a Sporting Good Store, a Tavern? Huh? Did the union pay the transportation to and from, and the construction costs all these years for this family and their businesses? I always heard this was a dirty run union, but something sure seems fishy here. I hope Patrick Fitzgerald is on this one from the Feds---if he got Ryan he can get this bum if he's dirty.


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forward wrote:

We've felt for a long time that Dugan is crooked. One crook should not be able to take over from another. 150 should have another election, and this time make it honest, if that's possible. It's time to give the members a fair shake.

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the shadow wrote:

I feel sorry for any man that will not face the reality of being a fraud by using the excuse of their wife's illness as a cheap way to exit the den of thieves. How empty living will be with the loss of a wife and then the loneliness of a prison cell.



6/28/2008 8:51 AM CDT on [suntimes.com](#)

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the shadow wrote:

Last week I watched a Dugan BA slide a black oiler out of a job at Arrow so his apprentice nephew could get the job. The whole bunch are using the members of 150 to take care of themselves. I hope the Feds give us a new election. Then we can get Sweeny Todd the cut throat barber away from our money.

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local150country wrote:

By the way, maybe Local 150 should keep your pension money to help pay for the millions in legal fees you have cost OUR union.

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the shadow wrote:

How do you run a Union doing what he was doing in Maryland? Have another thief sitting in Hillside filling his pockets. The Training Center is a cash cow for the insiders. Now a sweetheart deal for a caretakers house by paying off Wilmington for a permit so the illegit son can continue to make a quarter million a year living there free as a caretaker. I hope the Feds read this and investigate this scan too.

6/28/2008 8:39 AM CDT on [suntimes.com](#)

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local150country wrote:

Let's not forget how much attention Local 150 has from the Feds now thanks to Bill and his crooked staff. Whose country is it now Bill? Your ego and greed got the best of you and now hard working operators will watch this mess unfold even more in the future. How in the world could you be so stupid....



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johnadams wrote:

He is your atypical union boss ! He only cares about himself and not the people he represents ! In my opinion they are GREEDY ! It is not a union it is there Union and theres to do with what they want no matter what ! The rules do not apply to union bosses. Then bleed them of there money. Some of them act like it is there PIGGY BANK ! This practice is wrong and the Feds should indict !

6/28/2008 7:16 AM CDT on [suntimes.com](#)

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