

# CONTRACT WATCHDOG

## VOTE NO to IBT/UAL Concessions – Teamcare and Veba

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### Corruption at the Michigan Conference of Teamsters Health and Welfare Fund

After Jim Hoffa, Jr., was dropped as legal counsel at Local 283, he and his small law firm of two partners-- began a three-year stint representing the Michigan Conference of Teamsters Health and Welfare Fund a \$101 million trust fund that provides health, welfare, and disability benefits to approximately 19,000 Teamster members in Michigan. **In many respects, the Fund served as a slush fund for Hoffa Jr.'s longtime political associates and allies.**

**In 1986, a trustee, Richard Fitzsimmons (son of Frank Fitzsimmons, former head of the Teamsters), and the executive director of the Fund, Charles Collins, were convicted of steering health care contracts to their business cronies in return for kickbacks, trips, entertainment, and promises of future employment**

According to court documents, Allen Dorfman-- a mobster with whom Hoffa Jr. had entered into an earlier business partnership acted as a key middleman in the rip off scheme: "Dorfman and Schwartz [a Dorfman associate] were highly influential with Fund officials and their approval was a prerequisite for doing business with the Fund. **Demanding a cut from the businesses seeking contracts from the Fund, was common practice.**

**Dorfman and his associate were recorded by the FBI discussing the "staggering" amount of money to be made at the Fund, noting that there "won't be enough hours...or enough places to hide the money."** Dorfman was assassinated in a mob hit before he could be convicted of crimes involving the Fund.

**It was in this context of corruption that Jim Hoffa, Jr., and his law firm began their work for the Fund in 1991 In 1993 The Funds Executive Director Wiedyk was indicted for taking \$460,000 in illegal kickbacks from a medical laboratory that did business with the Fund.**

**According to court records, the services provided by the laboratory were substandard, endangering the lives of Teamster members.," Wiedyk was convicted of the charges.** Wiedyk was receiving these kickbacks while Hoffa Jr. was working for the Fund, **a fund that prosecutors described in court as a "den of iniquity."**

**In 1994, the Fund was once again facing legal action.** The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) forced the Trustees of the Fund to pay \$725,000 in restitution for excessive meal, entertainment, travel and administrative expenses, **including golf outings, adult entertainment, and new automobiles.**

These excessive expenses occurred between 1989 and 1994, when Hoffa Jr. was defending the Fund against Teamster members seeking to collect health and disability benefits. **Do you want your union to hire attorneys to deny your family Healthcare Benefits?**

**Read Page 12** of Hoffa Jr's Connections with corrupt elements in Labor Movement – History Facts and Footnotes available at the end of the document. [Read the entire document on Page 12 Here](#)

**[Sign the Petition today](#) to STOP the Teamster takeover of United Mechanics Family Healthcare**

**Hey Teamsters Keep Your Hands off Our Family Healthcare.**