# 1NR---UKRR---Read

## Cap K

## Case

### Case---No Sci-Fi---1NR

#### Beach’s obfuscation of Harriet Tubman dooms their politics to reproduce liberal failures

Cherif Ba ’24, M.A in English at CCNY, “America America’s Enabler: How Colson Whitehead’ s Enabler: How Colson Whitehead’s The Under s The Underground Railroad Contributes to Racial Inertia”, 2024, <https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cc_etds_theses/1222>. DA: 9/22/25, DMurph

This is a work which presents its readers with rather difficult and brutal subject matter only to coddle them the whole way through. It allows them to celebrate the gains that have been made with a sense of finality, which in turn allows them to approach contemporary issues with a muted sense of urgency. This is a disservice, as it masks immediate, glaring issues, and in doing so, serves to further perpetuate them. The argument against Trump frequently takes on the form of an all-hands-on deck crusade against fascism, but this is only a matter of perspective. A person of Native American descent could argue quite handily, that from the indigenous perspective, the people present for its birth, thereafter continuously harassed by its everexpanding girth, and now confined to meager, infertile plots of land, America was always a fascist country. Traveling a different, albeit similar trajectory, Africans too were present in 1776. Despite complete exclusion from its citizenry, their sheer numbers and outsized role in its bourgeoning economy unequivocally designates them as indigenous inhabitants of the American nation. For effectively all non-European natives in attendance to this birth, America has never been anything but fascist.

Director of the Office of War Information, Elmer Davis once stated “The easiest way to inject a propaganda idea into most people’s minds is to let it go through the medium of an entertainment picture when they do not realize that they are being propagandized” If all the aforementioned is true, and it similarly true that liberalism seeks to promote a more just, verdant, and peaceful world this compels us to imagine what a truly post-racial world would look like, and when one tries to imagine in full detail what its economic reconfiguration, let alone social one might look like, the only conclusion that can safely be drawn is it would look remarkably different from this one. But in order to realize this, the present must be contended with, and its relationship to the past fully acknowledged. This is something which liberalism steadfastly refuses to do. It is simply not possible while lauding works in which the heroes of the day become a mystified intervention combating the very real world forces the book purports to illustrate. Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth (among others) were real people, whose efforts should be celebrated, not obfuscated. When bastion of Western hegemony and the liberal order, Barack Obama is praising a text, one has to wonder how class critical it really is. When Oprah Winfrey, who unleashed such pseudoscience bloviators as the doctors Phil and Oz on the public, sees fit to lionize a work, buyer beware. In examining the current state of affairs, it is in no way reasonable to conclude that Martin Luthor King Jr, nor any other black activist would want The National Civil Rights museum to serve in its current capacity. Black political thought writ large has always sought to erect institutions that would foster and encourage activism. King was not known to have any particular fondness or use for time capsules. It is doubtful that he would have any affinity for Whitehead’s magic trains either.

## Unions Good

### AT: Unions Bad---GOP---1NR

#### 4. Newest evidence proves they are leaning to the left and are the only way to build effective coalitions.

**Aune 25** (Astrid Aune is the former Chief of Staff to the Chair of the Senate Labor Committee in New York) “Why Trump Keeps Losing In Court to Unions and the Workers Who Power Them”, https://ballsandstrikes.org/law-politics/trump-unions-losing-in-court/, July 28, 2025, DM

In the first year of President Donald **Trump’s second term, as rural hospitals and abortion clinics close, ICE raids escalate,** and **federal worker protections get gutted** by executive order, many liberal **institutions are still trying** to figure out how **to fight back**. But one movement isn’t flailing. It’s filing.

**Organized labor has become one of the most effective legal opponents of the Trump administration’s second-term agenda—not because it wants to, but because it has to**. Take, for example, CBS’s sudden cancellation of The Late Show, which is hosted by frequent Trump critic Stephen Colbert. While fans mourned and celebrities voiced their sadness at the loss of Colbert’s spot in the late-night circuit, the Writers Guild of America issued a statement castigating CBS for “terminating a show in bad faith due to explicit or implicit political pressure”—a choice they called “dangerous and unacceptable in a democratic society.” Not content to just issue a fiery statement, the WGA asked New York Attorney General Leticia James to investigate the cancellation, and sue if necessary.

This is the kind of speed and clarity needed to cut through Trump’s noise. So far, the labor movement is proving itself to be uniquely positioned to deliver.

Already, the Trump administration has focused on weaponizing the federal bureaucracy to target workers. He ignored statutory removal protections to fire the NLRB’s Gwynne Wilcox, taking advantage of the Supreme Court’s comfort with short, unsigned opinions to chip away at checks on the executive branch in the process. He’s made workers less safe on the job, freezing a critically important pending heat safety rule and gutting the black lung prevention program at the National Institute for Occupational Health. Despite promises to work on affordability, the Trump DOL revived the subminimum wage for disabled workers, and pushed executive orders that make it harder for federal employees to organize. Meanwhile, the nominee to replace Gwynne Wilcox as chair of the NLRB is a former partner at Morgan Lewis, a law firm that has represented Amazon in high-profile union-busting efforts.

The strategy isn’t subtle: use a barrage of obscure administrative tools—midnight memos, stop-and-go rulemaking, unannounced enforcement shifts—to move faster than the opposition can react. If your enemy is delayed, procedural chaos is your friend.

That is, unless your opponent knows how to file a TRO by breakfast. **Unlike most would-be challengers to Trump’s policies, unions don’t need time to get organized. They are organized. They have in-house counsel and outside counsel on speed dial, and are used to going to court in the middle of an organizing campaign to block employer retaliation or enforce a contract**. They know **how to challenge rulemakings at DOL and NLRB because they’ve been doing it for decades.** They have members—millions of them—**who can serve as plaintiffs, witnesses, press spokespeople, and direct action organizers.** Most importantly, **they proactively train their base to know their rights and how to enforce them in the moment, making every member ready for action the moment their rights are stepped on.**

And unlike many public interest organizations that depend on the slow churn of foundation grants and fundraising emails, unions are funded by dues—meaning they can focus energy on the work, instead of on fundraising. In February 2025, days after the Department of Labor became the next target of DOGE, a coalition of **unions filed multiple lawsuits to block DOGE from accessing Social Security data and confidential case data stored at the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**. In May, when Trump issued an executive order banning strikes and demonstrations by federal workers under the pretense of national security, the American Federation of Government Employees had a federal judge enjoining it within the week.

**Labor even has responded to ICE kidnappings**. Back in March, SEIU California President David Huerta was detained and injured by ICE agents during a protest in Los Angeles, marking the fourth run-in between one of SEIU’s own and DHS since the Trump Administration escalated ICE activity. SEIU condemned the incident, staging additional protests in more than a dozen major cities within days, rustling up statements of **support from politicians and even the more Trump-friendly union leaders. This rapid response effort created enough pressure to force the LAPD to release Huerta and other detained SEIU members within days.**

Similarly, in March, **Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a sheet metal apprentice with SMART Local 100, was deported to El Salvador despite having legal protections and a court order preventing his removal. The Trump administration later admitted to an “administrative error” in deporting Garcia, even eliciting a rare rebuke from the Supreme Court ordering his return**. Although traditionally the building and construction **trade unions have a more conservative tendency, they reacted strongly to Abrego Garcia’s deportation, raising over a quarter of a million dollars from members to support his family and sending direct appeals to rank and file to contact their representatives in support of bringing “Brother Kilmar” home.**

In each of these cases, union law departments didn’t act alone. They moved in coordination—with workers, organizers, and allies on the left all rowing in the same direction. And they did not need to create this structure to prepare for Trump. It was already in place, and well practiced from years of taking on some of Trump’s biggest supporters.

**This is what movement lawyering actually looks like. Labor’s advantage isn’t just speed or legal savvy—it’s structure**. Unions don’t treat legal work as a siloed, specialist domain. Workers are plaintiffs and messengers, who show up at agency hearings, enforce contract clauses, and use the Administrative Procedure Act like a baseball bat. **And unlike constitutional impact litigation, which often happens far in both time and space from where people actually live and work, labor’s legal fights are immediate, tangible, and winnable.** The stakes aren’t abstract—they’re about enforcing a broken contract, taking care of a workplace injury, or restoring a paycheck that disappeared.

Over the past several years, and especially since Trump took office again, there has been a great deal of headscratching about how the left plans to address the right-wing takeover of the courts. But people are already recognizing and responding to the labor movement’s successes: Among a bipartisan set of voters, organized labor’s popularity and enjoyment of public trust far outpaces every other institution. There might not be a roadmap for **stopping the conservative counterrevolution**. But making it easier for workers to organize—and **training labor** lawyers to fight on their behalf—**would be a fine place to start.**

### AT: Unions Bad---Trump---1NR

4. Turns case zeroes solvency---voting AFF simply accelerates populists who recreate the structural conditions the 1AC has critiqued. That’s Dukes.

#### 8. Historically unions have been fighting against Jim Crow and for black women uniquely

McAlevey 19 (Jane McAlevey American union organizer, author, and political commentator. She was a Senior Policy Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley's Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, and a columnist at The Nation.6-5-2019, "Traditional Organizing Is Not Failing", Boston Review, <https://www.bostonreview.net/forum/sarita-gupta-stephen-lerner-joseph-mccartin-why-labor-movement-has-failed/jane-mcalevey-traditional-organizing-not-failing/> doa 9-23-25-jrimp)

Just as contemporary successes continue this tradition of worksite-based organizing, so too do they build upon, rather than invent, a legacy of organizing for the “common good.” It is in fact the entire history of progressive trade unionism. Those unions, including the 1199 that I worked for, never saw their work as separate and distinct from a broad campaign for a country and a world that would be better in every way—in their communities and politics, as well as at work. They were the unions that were fighting racism and working to integrate the Jim Crow South, factory by factory. They were the unions that demanded that black women, not just blacks, got hired in the northern factories. They were the unions that went beyond helping to re-elect FDR and strategically targeted two gubernatorial races in the 1936 elections, in Pennsylvania and Michigan, because they understood that in order to succeed in massive sit-down strikes in 1937, in the steel and auto industries, it was important that the national guard and other police forces not be called out against the workers.

#### 9. Historical and modern engagement with unions promotes black freedom struggle and wins concrete victories.

Mario Suárez 24, Associate Professor of Cultural Studies in the School of Teacher Education and Leadership at Utah State University; Equity & Excellence in Education; “Union Membership, Retention, and Perceived Safety for PK-12 Trans School Workers of Color,” vol. 57, 2024, https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10665684.2024.2394904#abstract

American unions historically have had an uneven and complicated relationship to racial inclusion and integration (Clawson, Citation2003). Many early unions enacted racist and discriminatory practices aimed at Black and immigrant workers (Frymer & Grumbach, Citation2021; Mink, Citation1986), and early labor laws intentionally excluded sectors, such as farm and domestic work, that employed large numbers of Black workers (Katznelson, Citation2006). However, as early as the 1930s and 1940s, some segments of the industrial union movement focused explicitly on cross-racial organizing (Sugrue, Citation2008) and unions played a pivotal role in the social movements of the 1960s by partnering with civil rights leaders and other progressive leaders to mobilize Black workers (Lichtenstein, Citation2001). Since the 1970s, Black workers have enjoyed higher union rates compared to other workers, even following decades of union decline (Bureau of Labor Statistics [BLS], Citation2022). Thus, this complex association between unions and workers of Color has, over time, improved working conditions for those who are minoritized.

The benefits of unionization for workers, including workers of Color, are well-documented. Unions are associated with expansion of formal grievance procedures and greater transparency in pay and promotion outcomes (Rosenfeld, Citation2014), which result in greater workplace protections and pay equity (Kerrissey & Meyers, Citation2022). While all union workers experience wage and benefit premiums, these benefits are particularly significant for Black, Latinx, Native American, and Asian workers compared to white workers (Bucknor, Citation2016; Waite, Citation2021). In fact, unions are associated with reduced racial resentment and bias among white workers, a reduced racial wage gap, and significant reductions in racial discrimination (Frymer & Grumbach, Citation2021; Rosenfeld & Kleykamp, Citation2012; Will, Citation2022). Unions are also associated with greater rates of upward mobility, particularly in low-income communities (Freeman et al., Citation2015). Racial and ethnic union benefits are greatest in public sector unions, where Kerrissey and Meyers (Citation2022) have documented an “intersectional union premium” (p. 1216) in which earnings and benefits for women of Color workers are greatly expanded. This suggests that unions benefit for all workers, and more so for those who are most vulnerable.

#### 10. Only unions can stop the existential threat of Project 2025 and Trumpian fascism.

Gibb 25 [Euan is regional secretary for Inter-America at Public Services International. With Ethan T. Young is Sub-regional Secretary, North America, at Public Services International. "Unions Rise as America's Defiant Shield Against Trump's Authoritarianism," March 25 2025 <https://publicservices.international/resources/news/unions-rise-as-americas-defiant-shield-against-trumps-authoritarianism?id=15733&lang=en> NL]

As it becomes increasingly clear what a second Trump presidency means, America's labor movement has positioned itself as democracy's strongest, most important and best organized line of defense against a sweeping authoritarian agenda. The unions forming our workforce's backbone—from teachers to nurses, service workers to government employees—have transformed from worker advocates into the vanguard defenders of democracy, confronting the existential threat of Project 2025's plan to dismantle America's most important institutions.

This coordinated assault targets democracy's foundations through three interlocking strategies: gutting the federal workforce using executive actions, privatizing essential social programs like Social Security and Medicare, and auctioning off critical services including the U.S. Postal Service to corporate interests. These moves represent more than policy changes—they constitute a wholesale transfer of public goods into private hands, deliberately eroding worker protection while restructuring government to serve elite interests.

In response, PSI’s affiliates have launched unprecedented multi-front resistance in the streets, the workplace, the media and in the courts. The [American Federation of Teachers](https://www.aft.org/vouchers)is mobilizing against school voucher schemes that defund public education. [National Nurses United](https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/press/union-nurses-joining-save-our-health-care-march-in-washington-dc) is fighting to defend Medicare from privatization through patient advocacy campaigns. [AFSCME](https://www.afscme.org/press/releases/2025/coalition-of-unions-small-businesses-veterans-and-conservation-organizations-seek-injunction-to-prevent-unlawful-firings) members are deploying emergency response plans for mass firings of civil servants. The [Service Employees International Union](https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/seiu-haitian-clergy-group-sue-trump-over-terminated-protections)has partnered with civil rights organizations to combat voter suppression tactics targeting working-class communities.

The movement's strength lies in its proven ability to win battles across multiple arenas. The [American Federation of Government Employees](https://www.afge.org/article/afge-wins-judge-orders-trump-to-rehire-fired-probationary-employees-stop-planned-rifs/#:~:text=In%20a%20major%20victory%20for,the%20authority%20to%20order%20it.)demonstrated this last week when they secured a landmark legal victory against Trump's illegal termination of federal workers. Federal Judge William Alsup's blistering ruling exposed how the administration fabricated performance claims to justify firings, ordering immediate reinstatement of thousands of workers while declaring that the terminations "based on a lie." This victory proved unions could successfully challenge authoritarian overreach through the courts—a lesson being institutionalized through new initiatives like Democracy 2025, which pre-positions legal teams to file challenges within hours of unconstitutional actions.

Legislatively, labour's allies have reintroduced the PRO (Protecting the Right to Organize) Act to strengthen union organizing and collective bargaining rights. The strategic reintroduction of railroad worker safety legislation—following the preventable disasters—demonstrates how unions are forcing accountability for anti-worker policies.

What makes this resistance unique is its comprehensive nature. The United Auto Workers' historic strike strategy—simultaneously targeting the three biggest automakers—has inspired similar coordinated actions across sectors. Teachers’ unions now pair strike actions with political education about school privatization threats. Postal worker protests highlight both workplace issues and the danger of privatization.

April Verrett, SEIU President, remembers that unions will not stay and still. “Working people are not going to stand idly by while this administration destroys public education and other services, we all rely on—just to give tax breaks to corporations and the ultra-wealthy. Education workers—from food service workers, janitors, and bus drivers to higher education workers, teachers, special education support staff, and administrators—stand united in this moment to protect the interests of the students and communities they serve.”

The stakes transcend traditional labor issues. Should Project 2025 succeed, we'd see not just eroded worker protections but the dismantling of social safety nets that have sustained generations. Public education could become a patchwork of privatized systems answerable to corporate boards rather than communities. Essential services could be transformed into private equity profit centers. The professional civil service could be replaced by political loyalists, replicating the corrupt patronage systems of the Gilded Age.

“The message is really clear and simple: It’s not okay to rob students of the education they need and deserve in order to give big tax cuts to the wealthy. What you’re seeing on the ground across America are people—parents and teachers, together—saying our kids need these services. We cannot cut them”, said Randi Weingarten from AFT.

In this fight, organized labor's resistance represents more than unionism—it's become a defense of the social contract itself. As unions deploy their organizational might through strikes, lawsuits, legislative pushes, and voter mobilization drives, they're fighting not just for contracts and benefits, but for the fundamental character of democracy. Their victories—from courtroom triumphs to workplace organizing wins—provide guidance and inspiration for the broader fights to defend democracy in the US and globally.