



RNC NEWS RELEASE

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NICHOLSON DECRIES CLINTON/GORE TAXPAYER-FUNDED POLITICAL PAYOFF

WASHINGTON (April 22) – Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson today called Vice President Gore's efforts to ship federal construction contracts to unionized companies a "taxpayer-funded political payoff to the big labor bosses."

The vice president today said the Clinton/Gore administration will "aggressively pursue" union construction firms for federal construction contracts.

"The best way to ensure cost-effective service for the taxpayer is certainly not to ship government business to your political cronies," Nicholson said. "With union political campaign contributions going almost exclusively to the Democrat Party, it's not difficult to find the vice president's motivation for trying to funnel taxpayer dollars back to the union bosses."

By building a pipeline between the U.S. Treasury and the union coffers, Al Gore is cheating taxpayers, consumers and millions of workers. Taxpayers should not have to foot the bill for a political payoff."

Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater has also written to all DOT agencies to stress that the use of union firms for federal construction projects can avoid costly and disruptive labor disputes, a move Nicholson likened to "paying protection money to the union bosses."

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