

DE #2 (substitute) – Democracy – Add Protections for Whistleblowers

Ayman Fadel (Columbia County, [REDACTED]) offers by substitute the following:

Add to the Democracy plank a 3rd and a 4th introductory paragraphs as follows:

When individuals in corporations or government at any level commit wrong, they often conceal information which could motivate demands for accountability. Without this accountability, public trust is diminished. A vital aspect of democracy is fostering an environment where whistleblowers, individuals with knowledge of these wrongs, will inform authorities and the public.

None of the reforms in this chapter can be a substitute for the more radical changes necessary to place control in the hands of the masses of people. Specifically, the United States must replace empire and militarism with cooperation among the peoples of the world and capitalism with the community-based economics advocated by our party before democracy can truly flourish.

Add to the Democracy plank paragraph 11 as follows:

11. Protect whistleblowers

The Federal and Georgia legislatures should pass measures which forbid common retaliation tactics against whistleblowers which pass as legitimate personnel actions. Intelligence and military agencies should create an independent means of due process relief for their whistleblowers who claim to have experienced retaliation. To receive relief, whistleblowers should only have to meet a fair burden of proof standard, not higher standards. Congress should afford federal whistleblowers the right to have their retaliation claims decided by a jury of their peers. Congress should add enforcement mechanisms to the Lloyd-La Follette Act to provide relief for whistleblowers who disclose directly to Congress. Congress should establish intra-agency policy dissent channels so employees can safely express dissent about agency policy decisions. Congress should extend whistleblower protections to staff of the judicial and legislative branches of government.

By executive action, the president should (1) require agency heads to provide a detailed explanation when they decline to meaningfully discipline agency supervisors who broke the law by retaliating against whistleblowers; (2) restore full operation of the Merit Systems Protection Board; (3) rescind the Granston memo, which expanded the authority of Department of Justice attorneys to seek the dismissal of *qui tam* lawsuits, that is lawsuits by private individuals against companies which defraud the government. In addition, our party urges that the President send a strong message of support to whistleblowers by (1) canceling the request to the United Kingdom to extradite Julian Assange and to direct the Department of Justice to drop its charges against him which seek to criminalize acts of journalism; (2) a full pardon for Chelsea Manning, including compensation for unjust imprisonment, particularly for Contempt of Court for refusing to testify against Assange in a grand jury; (3) a pardon for Edward Snowden and a celebration of his revelations of wrongdoing by the United States government; and (4)

commutation of the sentence of Reality Winner, whose lengthy prison sentence was meant to deter others from revealing classified information, regardless of its value to the public.