

# Freightliner to Close Portland Plant

Daimler Trucks of North America, formerly known as Freightliner, announced Tuesday that about 1,000 jobs will be eliminated when its closes its Portland manufacturing plant in June 2010.

The end of production at the 39-year-old Portland plant,

will not affect the location or operation of the company's headquarters on Swan Island, where about 2,200 people work, company officials said.

But the move comes nearly a year after Daimler announced it was moving hundreds of white-collar jobs

out of Portland headquarters to new offices in South Carolina.

Daimler said that its North American truck division will drop its Sterling brand and end truck production at plants in Portland and Ontario, Canada as it moves to deal with de-

pressed demand.

The company said Western Star production will be assigned to a plant in Santiago, Mexico, while Freightliner-brand military vehicles will be produced at one of its facilities in the Carolinas by mid-2010.

# ACORN Defends Voter Registration Drives

## After GOP complaints of fraud

(AP)—An activist organization on Tuesday defended its voter registration practices amid new allegations of voter fraud and a call from Republican lawmakers to investigate irregularities.

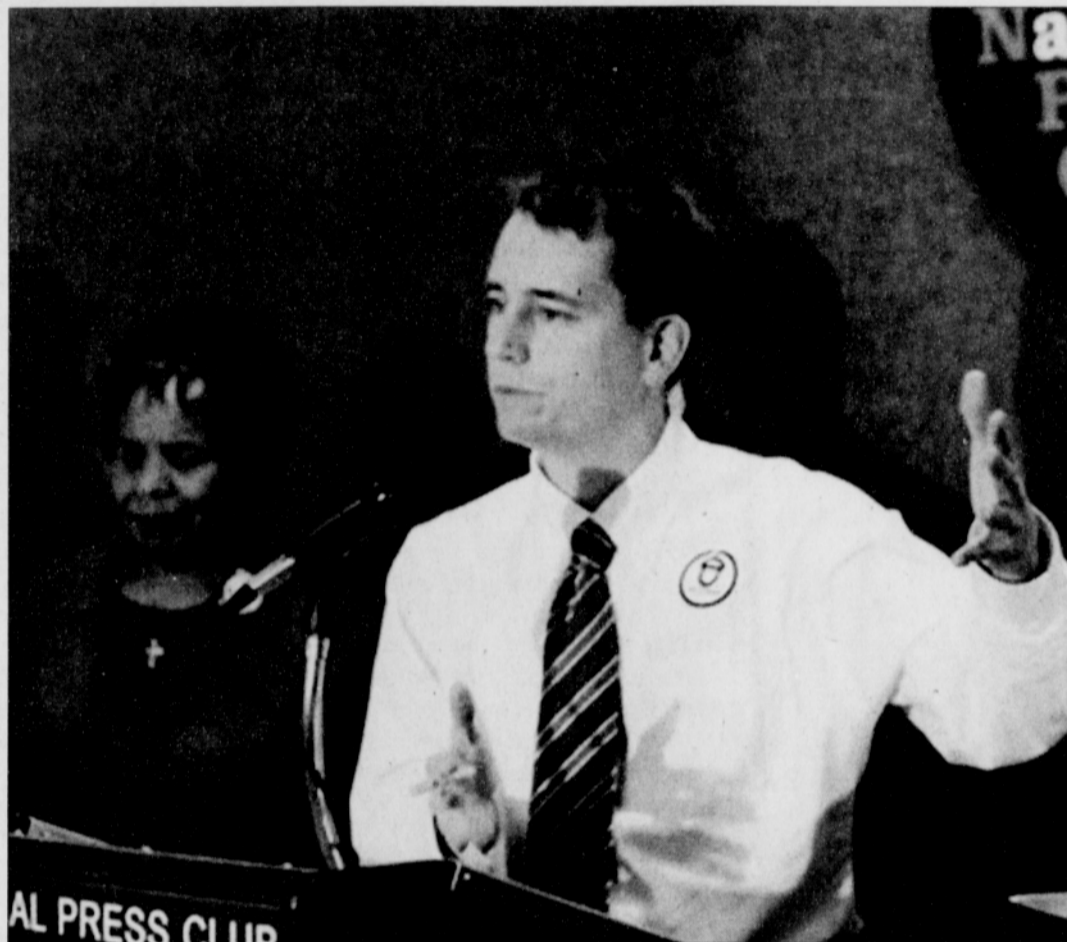
In Ohio, Democrat Barack Obama told reporters that the group's registration problems should not be used by the GOP as an excuse to keep voters from turning out on Election Day.

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, known as ACORN, has registered 1.3 million young people, minorities and poor and working-class voters, the group says.

Some of those registration cards have become the focus of fraud investigations in Nevada, Connecticut, Missouri and at least five other states. Election officials in Ohio and North Carolina also recently questioned the group's voter forms.

More than 13,000 workers in 21 states recruited less-fortunate voters, who tend to be Democrats.

"The vast, vast majority were dedicated workers," ACORN spokesman Kevin Whelan said at a news conference on Tuesday. "They did something remarkable in bringing all these new voters."



ACORN spokesperson Kevin Whelan speaks Tuesday at a press conference in Washington, D.C. Behind him is Maryland ACORN president, Rev. Gloria Swierenga. (AP Photo/)

House Republicans have also renewed their push for the Justice Department to investigate the group. ACORN has been drawn into a back-and-forth between the presidential campaigns.

Republican John McCain's campaign on Tuesday said Obama should rein in ACORN's efforts in order to fight voter

fraud. The campaign accuses the Democratic presidential candidate of having close ties to the group.

Obama and two other lawyers in 1995 represented ACORN in a lawsuit against the state of Illinois to make voter registration easier. During this year's primary, Obama hired a firm with ties to

the group for a massive get-out-the-vote effort.

Obama told reporters on Tuesday that ACORN was not advising his campaign on voter registration.

"This is another one of those distractions that get stirred up during the campaign," Obama said.



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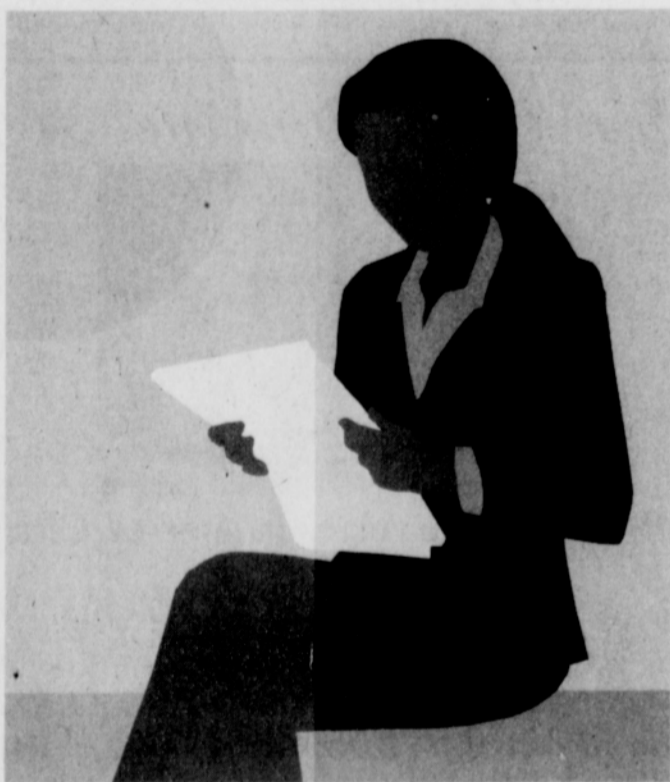
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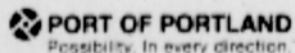
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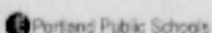
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